



Father Brent, Sister James, Sister Michael and Rosalie Reinhardt of the diocesan Division of Religious Education outline programs offered by their department as religious coordinators from parishes around the diocese listen in.



Photos by Susan McKinney

Religious Education Programs Offered to Diocesan Parishes

By PAT PETRASKE

Clarification of the role of the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) in relation to the Youth Ministry of the Department of Religious Education was asked at the monthly meeting of the Association of Religious Educators Nov. 9.

Several religious education coordinators believe that there is an "overlapping of services" provided by the two programs. A limited number of adult personnel and limited youth interest has caused several parishes to have to decide which "thrust" they are to pursue, according to Bob Weiss of Corpus Christ.

Martin Palumbos, director of youth ministry for the division of religious education, admitted to a need for further coordination between the two organizations

although he explained that the CYO was a program on the regional level while the youth ministry was diocesan-wide.

A joint presentation by the religious education staff and the CYO to the clergy conference will help to clarify the two roles according to Palumbos. Joint staff meetings are also being planned. Palumbos feels his program offers an "initial service program while the CYO would conduct ongoing training."

Sister Michael Lappetito, director of religious education, explained that there was "no competitiveness" because the CYO was not involved in the religious education program but tended to cultural and social needs of the youth.

The meeting represented 49 parishes and three high schools.

Kicking the year off was the presentation of services available through the department of education. The department is attempting to change the attitude towards education under its theme of "ministry to growth." Father Daniel Brent, superintendent of schools, said that religious education should be thought of as more than "a Saturday morning program for grades 1-6."

Sister James Lynch, coordinator of educational services, explained the frustration felt by the department in developing its programs "since every parish may not be ready to accept these services." She added that a "climate" was needed to sustain religious education and it was the role of the religious education coordinators to "give birth to this climate."

A new service directory color-coded according to educational divisions highlighted to the education coordinators the available services. Rosalie Reinhardt, director of services for parish religious education personnel, is developing a profile sheet on religious education coordinators and plans to have applications for coordinators filtered through her office. The Association of Religious Educators will also produce a monthly newsletter.

A program for those who train teachers will be directed by Dr. Charles Melchert, associate professor of education at Colgate-Rochester/Bexley Hall/Crozer, Sunday, Dec. 9 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at DeSales High School in Geneva.

Dr. Melchert will also conduct a dynamic workshop seminar entitled "Foundations of Religious Education as Ministry to Growth" Jan. 11 and 18 and Feb. 1 and 8 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. The place will be determined by the registrants.

Family Life Names Assistant

Mrs. Dorothy Charleston has been hired as assistant director of the Office of Family Life. She will work part-time and have the responsibility for research and development of the "Pre-Cana" Conference program of the diocese. She will coordinate training sessions and workshops in Pre-Cana, and training sessions for high school teachers of marriage courses.

Mrs. Charleston is a graduate of SUNY at Cortland, with a Master's degree from Canisius College.

Principals Hold Guidance Workshop

By PAT PETRASKE

Calling for a return to "relevancy" two members of the staff of the University of Dayton explained the need for guidance in the elementary school to the 80 elementary school principals gathered last week for their annual workshop.

Dr. Eugene Moulin, chairman of the department of counselor education, urged that administrators define education as "improving the quality of life" in a program that goes beyond learning "the length of the Amazon River and the capitals of Europe."

The three-day workshop, now in its 12th year, was held at Notre Dame Retreat House. It emphasized the themes of guidance and supervision through discussions and simulated role playing.

"Education has failed to come to grips with communication," Moulin began. He then cited what he called three common assumptions about education: "It is some kind of mental discipline theory that develops the mind away from the real world; it works better if it is somewhat distasteful and it occurs best when isolated behind school walls."

He believes guidance should be used not "as a high school counselor preparing students for college" but as a total school and

community program that can be a useful investment when used in the elementary schools.

The need for an effective teaching/learning cycle which includes atmosphere, activities, direction and attitude is evident in light of the high rate of divorce, mental illness and suicide. "We have to assume we have unhappy, unadjusted people who can't get along or can't communicate. And these things have nothing to do with learning the capital of Cambodia," exclaimed Dr. John O'Donnell. He is chairman of the school of administration at the University of Dayton and has conducted workshops with Moulin for six years. He believes education should relate "more to the needs of our society."

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan who celebrated an evening Mass, emphasized the need for communication and asked for the continuation of his philosophy of education which he first presented last year in his pastoral letter "To Teach as Jesus Did." Education should "communicate the gospel message, develop a sense of community among students and teach the responsibility of service," said Bishop Hogan.

Dr. Andrew Virgilio, State University College at Brockport, delved into group and individual interaction in his presentation on supervision.

Now It's Trustee Kangaroo

New Rochelle, N.Y. [RNS] — Robert Keeshan, who is known to millions of children as "Captain Kangaroo," is among five new members elected to the board of trustees of the College of New Rochelle, a Catholic school here.

A graduate of Fordham University, Keeshan began his career as a network page boy with CBS. He created the "Captain Kangaroo" program in 1955 and has starred in it since. Keeshan

and his wife, Jeanne, have three children and live in Babylon, N.Y.

FUN FAIR

Hornell — A Turkey Fun Fair is scheduled for this weekend at St. Ignatius. It will open at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 17, and at noon Sunday. Joseph Donlon, Robert Burd and Gene Harold have charge.

MEETING DATE CHANGED

The General Assembly meeting of the Northwest Regional Conference, originally scheduled for Nov. 14, has been postponed to Dec. 12 at St. Charles Borromeo. The Executive Committee meeting scheduled for Dec. 5 has been canceled.

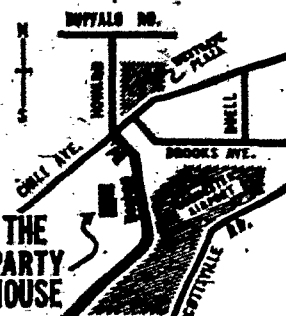
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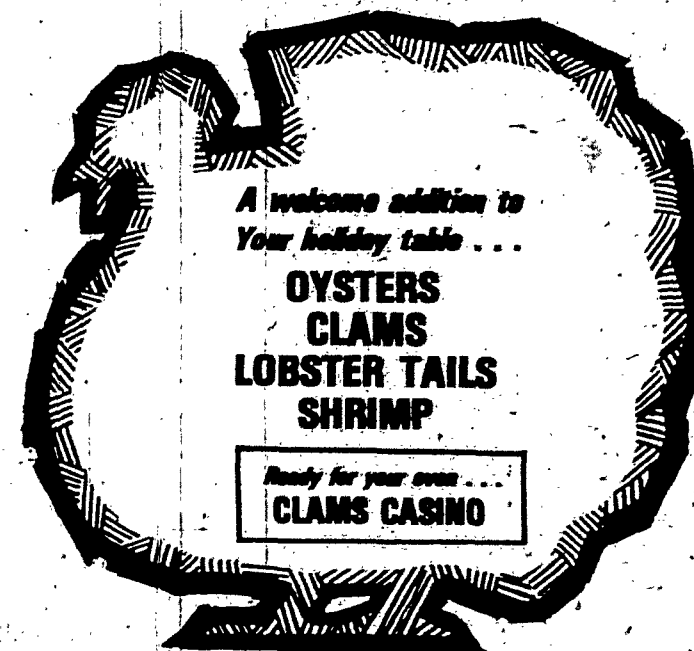
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