

# Adequate Defense for Inmates Subject of Appeal by GEM

An appeal for adequate legal defense specifically for the 60 inmates indicted after the 1971 Attica uprising and generally for all indigent defendants was launched through a meeting last week sponsored by the Genesee Ecumenical Ministries who made its appeal to various churches, community groups and media.

Father Charles Mulligan, director of the diocesan Office of Human Development who spoke at the Pastoral Center, believes the issue of Attica has produced the two major aspects of legal defense and the role of the Church. "The role of the Church as educator must attempt to use the media," he said.

"The religious community is not just interested in talking to itself. Who has the responsibility of creating this kind of climate for solutions?" asked the Rev. Robert R. Spears, bishop of the Episcopal diocese. He joined Father Mulligan in asking representatives from the media to make "a concentrated effort to reach the public" on the issue of criminal justice.

## GEM Plans Center For Education Research

The second annual meeting for the Urban Education Team of the Genesee Ecumenical Ministries last week learned that the Richard and Elaine Wilson Foundation has given \$10,000 to plan a "Center for Research and Community Action for Public Education."

The foundation is named for the children of Joseph C. Wilson, former Xerox head.

The center, in the eyes of the education team, will "explore and evaluate educational programs, and identify learning resources in the community."

The team expects the center to "research concepts, trends and issues in education and disseminate the information to parent and community groups; gather information on effective volunteer programs in schools locally and in other areas and offer training to other volunteers to enhance their effectiveness; research parental values and expectations for schools and help to interpret these interests to educators at all levels of the

system; assist the City School District in defining problems for research which are of importance to parents, students and other community interests; keep parents and community groups informed of pending state and federal legislation and help evaluate its usefulness to the local schools."

The GEM team proposes to hire a research and development specialist to explore both the idea of such a center and public reaction to it.

The GEM Urban Education Team expects to "enhance the quality of human interaction between individuals and the various segments of school communities and to open channels of communication to provide accurate information about issues in public education to the largest possible audience."

The team, it also was noted, is looking for both volunteers and area of need. For further information the group contact: GEM Urban Education Team, 50 N. Plymouth Ave. Rochester, N.Y. 14614.

**CHRISTMAS MASS**  
Penn Yan — St. Michael's and St. Andrew's Christmas Mass schedule is as follows: family Masses on Christmas Eve for St. Andrew's at 7 p.m., St. Michael's at 7:30 p.m.; midnight Mass at St. Michael's; Christmas Day Masses for St. Michael's at 7 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m., St. Andrew's at 9 a.m.

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Eight radio and television tapes produced by GEM and members of the Monroe County Bar Association were played for the media. Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, in one of the "spots" which will be aired beginning next week, stated that "justice and mercy are the foundations of our nation. Is what we say taken seriously? Are we open-minded enough for true justice or will we wait for others?"

Members of GEM urged the media to do more than "just cover stories and air these sports."



## TOWARD TOMORROW Fr. Henry Atwell

Catholics have struggled valiantly for one hundred years to establish and preserve our American parochial schools, a system of education unique in the world. No other nation has a system quite like ours. Our strategies to preserve our schools have not always been the best even if our ideals and goals have been.

In our efforts to conduct our own schools, we have, in large measure, surrendered public education to other Americans.

Today, both public and parochial schools face mounting and mountainous problems. I think it is time that those who are concerned for one system or the other must realize that neither system can be truly strong alone. It is simply a fact that we shall either be strong together or weak together.

I recently heard Commissioner Elect Brenda Fraser of the Rochester Board of Education ask questions more of us need to ask if we are to have the kind of education we want for the young Americans, the citizens of tomorrow.

She cited the famous three Americans — Thomas Jefferson, Horace Mann and John Dewey — who so significantly shaped the present American school

picture. Most of the rest of us, however, have simply turned the children over to professional educators while we who are parents and citizens have done little or nothing to determine the type of education to be given these children. Even Catholic parents, at least until recently, have by and large been just those who pay the bills but have no voice in school policy or program.

The Church from way back has insisted that parents are the first and best of teachers but this beautiful and also very realistic philosophy has often been contradicted in practice. Our older generation recalls the infallible and uncontradictable force of a statement that begins, "Sister says..."

Mrs. Fraser spoke at the annual meeting of the Urban Education Team of Genesee Ecumenical Ministries, an agency which seeks to restore parents and citizens to their rightful role in the education of children. Even suburban and rural schools are these days "urban" in their outlook, their subjects, their activities. The little country school is merely a memory.

One program the GEM Education Team has developed is a two-session seminar titled "Why Schools?" Parishes, whether they have their own schools or not, would invest their time very effectively if they had the Team conduct this seminar for those parishioners and concerned citizens of the community who feel all schools, public or parochial, need more help than just more money. If you want more information on this seminar, contact either Sister Gratia L'Esperance at the diocesan Pastoral Center, 328-3210, or the GEM Team's coordinator, Rev. Larry Witmer, 328-4827.

### CHRISTMAS SHOW

A scripture and carol presentation, The Festival of the Nine Lessons, will be given Sunday, Dec. 23, 4 p.m. at Holy Ghost Church, 220 Coldwater Rd. Local choirs and a folk group will provide the entertainment. A "fellowship hour" will follow. The show is sponsored by Our Neighborhood Ecumenical (ONE) Council.

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