

regional news reports

Elmira

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Elmira — Many volunteers are needed to help pattern 16-year-old Ricky Carmody of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. The time involved is five minutes a week and no training or experience is necessary. Volunteers are asked to call 733-0662 or 733-1558 or 733-6089.

COUNCIL REPORT

Owego — The building and grounds committee of St. Patrick's Parish Council has issued a preliminary report on proposed rededication of the church and sanctuary. Final plans will be submitted at a later date.

Auburn

CAYUGA CONFIRMATION

Cayuga — The first confirmation ceremonies at St. Joseph's Church in its history included a class of 31 candidates who received the sacrament administered by Bishop Dennis W. Hickey on December 1.

Concelebrants of the Mass were Father Ronald Gaesser, pastor of St. Joseph's, Fathers William Flynn, David Gaesser, and Bernard Casper and Msgr. James D. Cuffney.

Prior to the confirmation ceremonies there was a dinner for the candidates, parents, sponsors, clergy and Sister Ellen Ward of CEDAR. A reception for about 300 people followed the ceremony.

Canandaigua

EAST MEETS WEST

Palmyra — A group of ninth and tenth graders studying Church History in their CCD program, recently attended Mass according to the Eastern rite. "They were most impressed," says their teacher, Mrs. Robert Daly.

The students, from St. Ann's Church, went to Sunday Mass at St. Nicholas Church, Rochester. After the service, many of the congregation stayed to talk with their visitors. The students said they found the congregation very "warm," the service very "formal," and thought it contained much "ceremony." To their surprise, they discovered the

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choir to be "magnificent, very modern and upbeat," singing songs that they could join in.

The excursion was such a success that three other CCD classes plan on making the trip and arrangements are being made for Father Athanas Hassey and the St. Nicholas choir to come to Mass at St. Anne's.

PARTY OF 300

Victor — Over 300 children attended a Christmas party sponsored by St. Patrick's parish council. The party was held Sunday Dec. 9, 2-4 p.m. in the School of Religion. All children of the parish between pre-school age and sixth grade were invited.

Hornell

ADULT EDUCATION SLATED TO START

Dansville — With the theme Life is a Vacuum Without God, St. Mary's Parish is sponsoring The Good News of Salvation with 30 lessons devoted to deepening the understanding of Catholic doctrine, Scripture and worship.

The first semester deals with a survey course in Christian doctrine and practice.

It is hoped the program will be of help in studying religion at home and a way of building a modest library of good books explaining religious topics. It will also provide guidance from professional religious educators.

Registration blanks should be filled out promptly and returned to the rectory. An organizational meeting will be held Jan. 5. Meetings to share insight and problems will also be held Feb. 2, Mar. 2, Apr. 6 and Apr. 27. All meetings will be held at the rectory on Saturdays at 10 a.m.

CHRISTMAS BOXES

Wayland — The St. Joseph's Rosary Society is once again making up Christmas boxes for the shut-ins. If anyone would like to help with donations, they will accept packages of dates, mints, canned fruit or candy bars without nuts. There will be a box in the back of the church for these items.

BOOK CENTER

Hornell — The newly opened Christian Book Center is located

This page is intended to capsule news from throughout the diocese. It will not, however, contain all the news from our area correspondents and other stories will be found throughout the paper. Our correspondents now have deadlines of Wednesday. Anyone wishing news in the Courier-Journal should keep the deadline in mind.

upstairs in the Woodbury Universalist Church, 40 Genesee St. and is stocked with books, bibles and gifts for Christmas.

ART FESTIVAL

Wayland — There will be a Religious Art Festival on the weekend of Jan. 5 and 6 in St. Joseph's School. The festival will close with an ecumenical service in Church on Sunday afternoon, Jan. 6. Art in any form with a religious theme may be entered.

CHOIR REHEARSAL

Hornell — Rehearsals are held at St. Ignatius after the 11:15 Mass on Sundays in preparation for Christmas. Any adult, in 10th grade or older is welcome to be a part of the Christmas Choir.

CAROLING

Naples — On Sunday, Dec. 23 there will be Christmas Caroling from 4 to 5:30 p.m., hot chocolate at 5:30 at the Scout House and an Ecumenical Christmas Service at St. Januarius, 8 p.m.

SANTA VISIT

Dansville — Carol Revel and the eighth grade class at St. Mary's invited parishioners to treat their preschoolers and kindergartners to a Breakfast With Santa Dec. 16 after the 10 a.m. Mass. A large crowd attended.

Ithaca

CAROLS BANNED

Ithaca — The area Public School system has decided to eliminate from its curriculum music classes all Christmas carols which "refer to a deity."

Parishioners at St. Catherine and Immaculate Conception Churches are registering their opinions on the subject through several methods.

A petition is circulating which will be presented to the Board of Education. Telephone calls are being made to the school system, and at a recent board meeting, reasons were voiced for reinstating religious Christmas music.

The reason given for eliminating the music was its "offense to atheists and Jews."

Some consider the schools' decision as "prejudicial towards Christians."

CHRISTMAS PLANS

Ithaca — Immaculate Conception parishioners are busy preparing for their Christmas celebrations. Individual family tree decorations are being made to hang on the parish family tree in the sanctuary. Banners for the church are also being made by each family. These will be brought to church on Christmas

Eve for the Family Mass at 7:30 p.m. and families will process to the altar where the banners will be leaned against the walls of the church.

GOLDEN WEDDING

Penn Yan — Mr. and Mrs. Harry Olds of Penn Yan recently celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.

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