

## Mount Carmel To Be Reopened

## By PAT PETRASKE

With the receipt of a \$135,000 grant from the Marie C, and Joseph C. Wilson Foundation, the executive committee of the Council of Inner City Parishes (CICP) voted last Thursday night to adopt a four-school plan for September. This will reopen Our Lady of Mount Carmel school.

The plan alters an earlier decision by the CICP to operate a three-school program and close Mt. Carmel and St. Bridget's and convert St. Michael's Junior High into an elementary school.

CICP has opted for four K-six grade schools which include Holy Redeemer and Immaculate Conception in addition to Mt. Carmel and St. Michael's. Father Raymond Booth, CICP president, stated that the plan was approved after a consideration of "how we can best serve the greatest number of students with the dollars we have while maintaining the concept of neighborhood schools."

Mt. Carmel was chosen as the school to reopen because of its larger student population, according, to Father Booth. Enrollment at Mt. Carmel is 190 and St. Bridget's is 125. The priest indicated that the housing situation at St. Bridget's, which is in the midst of urban renewal, was also a factor in the decision.

There are tew students in the immediate locale of St. Bridget's. Many are in the St. Michael's area and can be served by that school," Father Booth said

The Wilson Foundation was established by the family of the late Joseph C. Wilson, former president of Xerox Corp. Father Booth emphasized that the twoyear grant from the foundation should not be interpreted as a "reaction to a crisis."

He explained that the foundation had been contacted by the CICP when its \$1.5 million endowment plan was about to be launched. To avoid conflicts, the CICP fund drive was later incorporated into the development campaign slated for the diocese. "We think the foundation had planned to make the gift all along." Father Booth said. be enabled to continue to serve the Puerto Rican community."

Mt. Carmel is 60 per cent Puerto Rican and 30 per cent black.

Expressing appreciation for the gift, Father Booth commented, "They have placed in the hands of the poor an option to closing. They have made it possible for CICP to serve many of the children we would have been forced to turn away for lack of funds."

The decision by the CICP was announced from church pulpits on Sunday. Sister Julia Norton who had planned to visit the Mt. Carnel families to explain the school's closing will be asked to visit each family and explain the decision. No principal has been secured for next year.

Father Booth believes there will be few problems with changing registrations. "Many had a hope that the original plan would be reversed and had not registered their children." Father Booth said.

The original plan resulted when the financial plight of the innercity schools became evident in a June 11 CICP report projecting a deficit of more than \$80,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30.

Bishop Hogan met with involved pastors on June 14 and mandated that they develop a plan to (a) cover the \$80,000 deficit, and (b) show how they plan to operate within a balanced budget for 1974-75.

The Bishop also suggested quick action by the pastors and that "because of the seriousness of the situation and time-frame, a smaller group might be more effective to develop plans."

During the week of June 17 to 22, the pastors and Father Daniel Brent, diocesan superintendent of schools, met to formulate plans. Many were discussed but were narrowed down to A1, the threeschool plan at first accepted and B1 the four-school now to be effected: Waterloo — Fifteen adults more from this area received four traged sacraments as they joined the seekin Catholic Church in ceremonies at. St. Marys, Church here Sunday. of th

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan celebrated the Mass and administered Confirmation.

The seeds of Christian commitment were nurtured in the adult Inquiry Class initiated during Lent by Father Albert Shamon, pastor. Commenting on the fruits of these Jabors, Father Shamon observed, "Modern man today is seeking God perhaps more than ever before, but the tragedy is that he is too often seeking God outside the Church. The reason for this is the concept of the Church has been so distorted and misrepresented. When presented properly, people will respond with an act of faith and commitment."

The adults, mostly young and partners in mixed marriage, have shown exceptional enthusiasm and commitment according to Father Shamon. A formation meeting was held Monday evening for the new converts and their spouses to form the nucleus for a Legion of Mary in the parish. The legion will provide opportunity for the couples to expand their commitment and further strengthen the community life of the parish as they help with liturgy and other parish activities.

Photo by Susan McKinney

Although new directives permit the pastor to administer confirmation following as soon as possible adult baptisms, Bishop Hogan was asked to administer confirmation because of the numbers and enthusiasm of the class.

## 15 Adults Baptized in Waterloo

Summer Fun

Patty McLaughlin knows how to enjoy a hot Summer day — find the nearest pool, get an inner tube and jump in! She's one of about 300 youngsters enrolled in the Sisters of St. Joseph Day Camp held from July 8-Aug. 2 at the Motherhouse grounds on East Ave. The staff of Sisters is augmented by junior counselors. There are two junior counselors and a Sister for each group of children who range in age from 4-13. The program is run by Sister Maria Hoffman and her co-director, Sister Pat Carroll. The day runs from 8:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the campers participate in a planned series of activities including swimming, other sports, art classes and nature study. This is the second year the camp has been held.

J Richard Wilson, a member of the Board of Managers and a Monroe County legislator, explained the grant: "We have a strong commitment to education on all levels. CICP has demonstrated to us that it is providing a vitally needed educational system for the poor of all religions in Rochester's inner City. We are pleased that the grant will enable CICP to maintain its system on the broadest possible basis and in particular, that it will At that time, Father Brent said, "We would have preferred Plan B1 but under the present conditions we thought A1 was the best plan-that we could afford."

The Wilson Foundation grant, at least for the time being, has solved the financial problems; inherent in Plan B1.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan was extremely pleased with the gift and praised the Wilson Foundation for their assisting in the "fight for the poor in the Inner City."



Photo by Dave Witbeck

1

Fifteen people were baptized into the Faith last Sunday at St. Mary's Church, Waterloo. In the photo above, Fred Van Nostrand is baptized by Father Albert J. Shamon, pastor, as Bishop Joseph L. Hogan and Father James C. O'Connell, pastor emeritus of the church, look on.