

Academy Juniors Attend School by Appointment

By SHARON DARNIEDER

Going to school can be just a matter of making an appointment — provided you're enrolled in Nazareth Academy's education by appointment program.

Open only to juniors now, it allows students to work individually at their own rate of speed. An initial contact is made with the teacher to discuss the material and thereafter the teacher and student meet by appointment when the girl is ready to report on a unit of work covered. Tests are also taken on this basis.

Directed by Sister Ann Xavier, SSJ, head of the Mathematics Department, the program started out last year only in math and science. This year, it has been expanded to include English, theology and social studies.

"I emphasize to the girls that this program is not independent

study," said Sister Ann Xavier. "It differs in many ways, one of which is the fact that the girls are working entirely on their own. They are completely responsible for learning the material."

She said she didn't think the 32 girls enrolled in the program missed a classroom structure.

"That was one of my concerns when the program was set up," she confided, "but when they work with one another in groups, as they do in this program, they seem to feel they have even more contact than they would in a classroom situation. They also feel the contact is a little more real than in a classroom where, for example, a faculty member might always be present."

Tracy Mitrano said she thought the program was beneficial because she realized she could "go ahead"

"I have a better feeling about

doing the work myself, at my own pace, rather than being told," she said. "I used to go home and do an hour, an hour and a half of homework a night and say forget it after that, now I do, about seven hours a night."

Mary Bopp admitted she was "afraid about the program in the beginning, but now I wouldn't go back to classes for anything."

Mary Rose Stevenson said she liked it so far and was "getting used to it. I think I'd like to go into the program next year too if it was offered to seniors."

"Education by appointment grew out of some of the individualized programs in some departments," said Sister Ann Xavier, "and when it started in math and science the girls worked at their own rate of speed."

"However, we felt that we needed to make time more variable. Even though each worked on her own, we still found ourselves saying that a certain section had to be done by a certain time."

She feels the program is off to a good start and notes that out of a junior class of 195, 70 responses were received from interested girls. This was trimmed to 32 after discussions with parents, students and faculty. Most of the girls in the program still have one or two scheduled classes, but the rest are by appointment.

Sister thinks the Nazareth program is unique and that it answers an important need.

"I love to teach," she said, "but by the end of the first couple of



Photo by Susan McKinney

Mary Bopp struggles with a Bunsen burner.

months each year there would be some girls in class who were bored to death because they were way beyond me, and others who were constantly struggling to keep up. It seemed unfair to both groups, and I found myself getting frustrated over the situation.

"I started the program in Math 9 because it's a freshman algebra class and the girls in that class were from so many different backgrounds that I felt it would work well."

From there, her idea went to a faculty committee and then was presented to the principal, Sister Mary Jean.

According to Sister Ann Xavier the program requires a tremendous amount of self-discipline and motivation and it isn't for everybody.

"It's not a matter of intelligence, but whether they're motivated to work alone or not," she said. "I really feel that this isn't for all students, that there are some who would miss the social and structured atmosphere

of the classroom and would be unable to work or learn without it."

"The program is good preparation for college in the sense that the girls are given a taste of what it'll be like," she added. "On the other hand, they're not as totally free as they would be there because the teachers here realize the program is new and will check up on them to make sure everything is going all right."

AQ BANDSMAN MAKES ALL-STATE

Brian W. Stotz, a senior at Aquinas Institute has been accepted as a member of the 1974 All-State Band that will perform at the New York State School Music Association Conference at Kiamesha Lake, Dec. 1-4. Brian has been a member of the Aquinas Marching and Concert Band for three years. While he is completing his course at Aquinas, he is a music major and preparatory student in percussion at the Eastman School of Music. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Stotz of Gebhardt Road, Penfield.



Photo by Susan McKinney

Sister Ann Xavier goes over the results of a math test with Mary Rose Stevenson.

TOWARD TOMORROW

Father Henry Abuell

Bishop Kearney once stated, "Slow justice is no justice." I think it can also be said, "Swift justice is no justice."

Jesuit Father Joseph O'Rourke was bounced out of the Jesuit order in less than two weeks for conducting an unauthorized baptism.

It's taken New York State over three years to begin the first trials for the Attica Prison riots, and that tragic episode cost 43 lives. But Jesuits are much more efficient — like the lynch mobs in the good old days of the wild west.

Some people may say what the Jesuits do with their own members is nobody else's business. Not true! As Commonweal magazine recently pointed out: "They run international networks of schools, universities, missions and parishes supported by the benefices of the rich and the coins of the generous poor." An example of this is McQuaid Jesuit High School in Rochester, where Father O'Rourke taught English and Greek in 1967 and 1968 while he was a scholastic, prior to his ordination.

His pupils remember him even then as an exciting teacher, charming, brilliant, even if at times irritating and even imprudent.

He was one of the participants in a dramatic protest against the Vietnam war in which he wrecked the offices of the Dow Chemical Co. in Washington. At his ordination, he began to protest Cardinal Terence Cooke's tolerance of the war, but his microphone was cut off. He

nonetheless extended his peace greeting to the Cardinal who accepted him warmly. Just recently he performed an unauthorized marriage for a life-prisoner in Sing Sing, and continues to serve as a director for a group called Catholics for a Free Choice, an organization which thinks Catholics ought not to try to enforce their moral opinions against abortion by law onto other people — which is in complete accord with the publicly stated thinking of the late Cardinal Richard Cushing of Boston.

Now Father O'Rourke is an outcast for baptizing a child whose mother made the mistake of agreeing with a dead Cardinal.

I realize it's been over twenty five years since I've been in seminary but I've never heard it announced that henceforth a parish priest must scrutinize the dogmatic or moral opinions of parents before baptizing their infants. Again as Commonweal comments: "This might be a good idea — if the church also teaches from the pulpit as well as in the seminary why baptism is not really necessary and if the parishes also refuse to baptize the children of mafia leaders, slum landlords, racists and war-mongers."

I grieve for the Jesuits who must be ashamed of what their order has done to one of their own. But we all must share their shame if the rest of us pretend this is no concern of ours. Father O'Rourke was told by no less a personage than Cardinal Cooke himself that a priest is ordained to baptize. He is now being punished for doing so and that is unjust. We have no right to let him bear that burden alone.

'Pure Polish' American Delights in 'Homeland'

By PAT PETRASKE

Teresa (Terri) Stenclik, 54 Van Olinda St., is a student who gets around — Poland, Russia, Italy, Hungary, Austria, Czechoslovakia and Greece.

But the highlight of the summer for the Nazareth College senior was a six-week course in Cracow, Poland, one of Rochester's sister cities.

Terri, who is "pure Polish" likes to talk about Poland. "So many people don't realize what's there," she said, as she excitedly described the scenery from the beautiful mountains of Tatras to the resorts on the Baltic Sea.

Polish jokes were prevalent among the friends Terri met while traveling and studying, but the students just "shrug them off."

A clipping in a Polish newspaper alerted Terri to the Jagiellonian University Summer School of language and culture and the trip sponsored by the Kosciusko Foundation. She tacked this excursion on to her junior-year-abroad studies in Vienna. In between was a 10-day bus tour of Russia and a short stay in Greece "to recuperate from Russia."

While Terri praised the Russian people as "very friendly," she believes the government "has a lot to learn about tourism."

In Poland Terri mingled with the "intelligensia" or upper class, anti-communist youths who were "very aware of the United States. In fact, many of them know more about our country than many Americans." Terri said Americans were highly respected. She recounted how she and some visiting relatives were ushered to the head of a line when the

security guard discovered that they were from the United States.

A visit to the churches of Poland surprisingly showed that many teenagers and young children often stop in for a quick prayer during the day. The Polish churches are always open, she said. "The government doesn't hassle the old people about religion anymore. They're just too strong in their faith."

Terri believes the government uses subtle techniques such as scheduling a civic free day off from schools on a Church holy day to undermine the Church's influence on the young.

Tradition is strong in Poland and nationalistic pride is encouraged. Celebrations are held annually honoring Polish heroes like Thaddeus Kosciusko, who served in the American Revolutionary War, and Nicholas Copernicus, the 16th Century astronomer. This year Cracow was plastered with pro-socialism posters and notices of the 30th anniversary of the takeover of Poland by the Communists.

"The kids joked that a lot of people left the city when they had the celebration," Terri recalled.

The influence of the Communist Party is apparent, she said, in that "shopkeepers tend to be abrupt. There is no private enterprise and so the shopkeepers have very little interest in their business." It was a strange experience for the American students to walk down the city streets and "it would be so quiet that it was like watching a television with the sound off."

Polish people also "tend to stare a lot" and were amazed at the American students who



TERESA STENCLIK

laughed and joked freely on the streets.

During her course in Cracow, Terri received formal instruction in literature, culture, economics, education and history. "But it's the small things that give you the true picture of the country and the people," she said. For example, the Polish people would offer them rides to their farms and a hearty meal when they arrived. Terri learned to appreciate items like ice cubes and American products such as Pepsi-Cola, blue jeans and gum which are coveted by Polish teenagers.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Catholic students intending to enter Catholic colleges next Fall are eligible to compete for Knights of Columbus scholarships worth as much as \$600 a year. Application blanks may be obtained from local high schools or by writing to the state chairman, Frank J. Gibney, Box 282, Fort Montgomery, N.Y. 10922. Filing deadline is Oct. 31. Three scholarships will be awarded in each of 12 districts in the state, the chairman's announcement said. Two others will be awarded on a statewide basis.