

Education Conference

Father Daniel Brent, diocesan superintendent of schools, was the speaker at the Education Conference closed at the St. Joseph's Provincial House in Emmitsburg, Md. recently. From left are, Father Robert Wanstreet, superintendent of schools, Wheeling, W. Va.; Sister Lourdes Sheehan, RSM, superintendent of schools, Richmond, Va.; Father Brent; Sister Margaret John Kelly, president, Laboure Junior College, Boston; Father Edward Sheridan, superintendent of schools, Charlotte, N.C.; Lawrence Callahan, director, secondary education, Baltimore, and Sister Madeline Roddenberry, RSM, superintendent of schools, Atlanta, Ga. Father Brent's topic was "The Future of Catholic Schools." It was covered in the Courier, 10-30.

Parents Reminded of Roles As Teachers in Cornell Talk

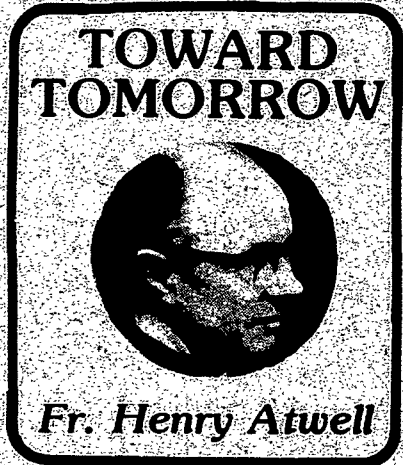
"Parents are the first book children read," according to Mary Reed Newland, speaker at the Sage Chapel Convocation Sunday, Nov. 3, at Cornell University. In a talk entitled "Parents as Revelation," Mrs. Newland said that by their actions, parents inform children about God. "We (as parents) are the translation of what they believe about God."

Mrs. Newland, chairman of the Committee on Adult and Home Education for the diocese of Albany, and author of many books on family life and religious education, cautioned that while parents concern themselves with formal religious education they should also continually wrestle with their own idea of God. At the same time as parents are telling children that God forgives

unintentional wrongdoing, they may also be in the habit of scolding their children for accidents and "telling" the child by their own behavior that they do not believe in mercy.

"Don't keep an eye on the kids; keep an eye on ourselves," is her warning. Especially for a child, "The experience of being loved is the experience of God," and experiencing the love of our parents can start as early as three months.

Father Kevin Murphy presided at the Eucharist which followed. As has been the custom in the past two years, when a person of special interest to the Cornell Catholic Community speaks at Sage Chapel, the regular Sunday 11 Mass is combined with the Sage Convocation.



Fr. Henry Atwell

In an age of surveillance satellites and secret wiretaps, it is nonetheless still difficult for people to communicate with people.

Continuing proof of this is the Middle East situation where Jews and Arabs seem to be able to do nothing together other than war against each other.

Jews and Arabs are not the only casualties. Two Catholic bishops have recently become victims. One was arrested for allegedly smuggling weapons to Arab guerilla fighters. The other, Bishop Joseph Raya of Haifa and Nazareth, has resigned because he finds himself opposed to his Patriarch's and the Vatican's position on Israel.

Bishop Raya issued an explanation for his resignation.

"I came to the Holy Land to give," he writes, "and behold I was overwhelmed by what I received. I loved the family of the Lord. His family are both the Jews and the Arabs. How I yearned to wash everyone's feet and hold them to my heart and try to weld them into one heart and one soul and show them all how they can live together and see the radiance of God in each other's face. In this endeavor I both succeeded gloriously and failed miserably."

He describes how he did not find Jews to be heartless, unyielding, immoral. And Arabs are not cruel, vengeful, lazy, backward. "In reality," he says, "how beautiful they both are in their generosity and goodness."

As he grew in personal acquaintance with Jews and Arab Muslims, he also grew to appreciate the values in their religious faith. He had come to the Holy Land with somewhat the naive notion that somehow Jews and Muslims might become all of them Christians and Catholics, but soon he realized his vocation as bishop there was not in that direction.

"As a bishop, a preacher of the gospel, I do not try to convert a Jew or an Arab Muslim to Christianity, but rather to convert them to be a better Jew, a better Muslim. My vision of a Catholic bishop is to identify with his people, with all people. Cultures, all cultures, Jewish and Christian and Muslim are all of God. People, all people, are holy, sacred and good. But people, all people, of all cultures and all religions, always need conversion. Conversion is openness, understanding, respect, even awe in the presence of each other, and forgiveness. This is the conversion preached by the Gospel."

This past Sunday, Nov. 10, marked the tenth anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's decree on Ecumenism, which tried to pull the Catholic Church out of its four centuries isolation from other Christians. The fact that the anniversary went by virtually unnoticed is evidence its message has really penetrated quite negligibly into Catholic life.

Ten years ago many of us, like Bishop Raya, were naive in expecting some massive "return" to "the one true church." I think Bishop Raya's own conversion is a clue for a true ecumenism in the decade ahead.

Legislative Process Topic Of Meeting

"How to Influence the State Legislative Process," is the topic for an open meeting at First Presbyterian Church, 101 S. Plymouth Avenue, at 1 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 16. The meeting is sponsored by Common Cause, the Judicial Process Commission, League of Women Voters and the New York Civil Liberties Union.

Speakers will be Kenneth Norwick of New York City, NYCLU lobbyist, who will discuss how bills are introduced and processed; David Beier of Albany, former legislative assistant, whose subject is the role of business, unions, citizen groups, the governor, party leaders and lobbyists in enacting legislation; Donald Ross of New York City, lobbyist for the New Public Interest Group, who will tell how to influence legislators; Thomas Laverne of Rochester, who will speak on the need for legislative reform and the role of citizen involvement; Thomas Frey of Rochester, who will explain the need for a better informed and active citizen lobbyist.

CICP Offers Grants For Alternate Ministries

The Council of Inner City Parishes, through its Alternate Ministries Funding Committee, is again offering small grants to church organizations and community groups for projects which will promote alternate ministries within Rochester's inner city or will alleviate the sufferings of the poor and deprived.

year's funded projects ranged from \$110 to \$4,000.

The inner city parishes are Holy Redeemer, Immaculate Conception, Mount Carmel, St. Bridget's, St. Francis Xavier, St. Lucy's and St. Michael's. An eighth parish, St. Patrick's, recently withdrew from the council.

Last year, for the first time, the CICP funded 15 such projects from a \$20,000 subsidy provided by the Catholic Diocese. This year the subsidy is \$10,000.

Under a larger diocesan subsidy, the CICP operates a regional school system based at Holy Redeemer, Immaculate Conception, Mount Carmel and St. Michael's.

Invitations to submit proposals have been sent to the parish councils, pastors and nuns serving the seven inner city parishes and to three major community organizations, Action for a Better Community, FIGHT and Ibero American Action League.

Application forms for the grants may be obtained from the Office of Human Development, 750 W. Main St. The deadline for filing applications is Dec. 9.

Under new guidelines, a community organization and any other grant applicant not affiliated with an inner city parish must seek the cooperation of a parish council or church pastor as a co-sponsor of its proposed project.

The funding committee also indicated that it would consider only requests for grants within the range of \$500 to \$2,000. Last

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