

OHD . . . a New Year's Baby Now 8 Years Old

By BONITA BALDWIN

On New Year's Day, 1967 the newly appointed Bishop Fulton J. Sheen toured three of Rochester's inner-city parishes. "My soul is so anguished by this dehumanization of our humanity," the Bishop groaned and immediately sought solutions to the poverty that had moved him.

Just two days later, Jan. 3, 1967, Bishop Sheen created a new diocesan "cabinet post" called vicar of urban ministry. Father P. David Finks, then assistant pastor of Immaculate Conception was appointed to the position, the first of its kind in the nation. With this appointment the cornerstone of the Office of Human Development was laid.

In June of the same year, the foundation was expanded through three more Bishop Sheen appointments. Father John Hempel became the director of the Secular Mission, heading a team including Father John Gormley and Father Timothy Weider within Tompkins, Tioga, Steuben, Yates, and Seneca counties. Father George Wiant was later assigned to the Secular Mission in Wayne County.

Both Fathers Finks and Hempel conducted their work ecumenically. Father Finks initially worked out of his Immaculate Conception office, but soon he joined forces with the Rev. Herbert White, then head of the Board of Urban Ministry for the Rochester Area Council of Churches, a Protestant organization. They established a storefront office at 657 W. Main St.

This joint office resulted in several social efforts. A summer college seminar on urban issues involving 30 students was held in 1968. An urban problem seminar for laymen, co-sponsored by the Jewish Community Council, was conducted the following year. Several youth ministries, including the coffee houses such as "The Place" in the Dewey Avenue Presbyterian Church, "The Cellar," at St. Anthony's, and the "Hang-up" at South Avenue Baptist Church were set up to help youngsters solve drug and other problems.

Father Finks also established close ties with community groups. He was one of the few whites ever belong to FIGHT. Father Finks also was on the executive council of Metro-Act. On the national level, he was a member of the board of directors of National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice and on the advisory board for the National Task Force on urban problems for U.S. Catholic Bishops.

Knights Note 40 Years For Veterans' Program

For the 40th consecutive year, the Rochester Council #178 Knights of Columbus will present gifts and entertainment to the veterans at the V.A. Center in Bath.

The council's excursion will be held Sunday, Jan. 12. Veterans will be given lifesavers, gum and PX coupons. Two shows, under the direction of Mrs. Alfred

Vatican Receives Polish Envoy

Vatican City [RNS] — Cardinal Jean Villot, Vatican secretary of state, received Dr. Kazimierz Szablewski, new head of a Polish government delegation for "a permanent working contact" with the Holy See. Dr. Szablewski presented a document naming him a counsellor with the rank of "Minister Plenipotentiary," signed by Polish Foreign Minister Stefan Olszowski. Earlier, the Vatican announced that Ar-

In December, 1969 Father Finks was named director of information and training for the task force on urban problems for the U.S. Catholic Conference.

During Father Finks' term as vicar of urban ministry, the work of the Secular Mission had been developing in the rural sections of the diocese. Father Hempel, a former military man who had won a Bronze Star for his heroism in World War II, had organized a three-phase program against rural poverty.

Father Weider conducted the Physical Poverty Center and with the help of VISTA volunteers organized a health clinic and day care center for migrant workers in the Perkinsville area. The Rushville clinic Father Weider helped to organize still operates.

Working with the poor in Yates and Seneca counties, Father Hempel joined forces with seven Protestant churches. "Houses of Concern" were established in Pann Yan and Seneca Falls. These people could purchase used clothing, receive hygiene instruction, and learn about job opportunities. The House of Concern in Pann Yan still serves its community.

Father Hempel also became involved in a project to provide an employment agency for teenagers seeking summer work.

In June 1969 Bishop Sheen sought a successor for Father Finks. He chose Father Hempel whose work, although in a different field, had paralleled Father Finks'. Bishop Sheen eliminated the urban ministry vicariate, however, and created the Office of Human Concern in its stead. This new office was responsible for both the rural and urban poverty missions. Its name was inspired by the Houses of Concern in the Secular Mission. Father Hempel was appointed the diocesan director of the office.

In the early part of his administration, Father Hempel worked out of the storefront with a Presbyterian minister, the Rev. Perry Fuller. They continued existing programs: supporting FIGHT, working for school integration, trying to relate to urban problems in different wards in the city.

The Office of Human Concern also worked to strengthen the Bishop Sheen Housing Foundation. Bosco House in front of the Pastoral Center was used as a warehouse for clothes, food, and furniture for emergency needs in another project.

In November, 1969 the Office of Human Concern moved to the second floor of the St. Monica school. Just one year later the Rochester Area Council of

Leopold and her daughter, Mrs. Douglas Wilke, will feature the music of Bud White and his orchestra.

The program is under the chairmanship of Ray Nary and Vincent Hannon.

Most Precious Blood Council #5147 of Bath will host the Rochester group at a buffet supper to note the anniversary.

chbishop Luigi Poggi, "Apostolic Nuncio with special portfolio," had been named by Pope Paul to head the Holy See's delegation for a permanent working contact with the "Polish People's Republic."

COURIER DEADLINE

The Courier-Journal deadline is noon Thursday for articles intended for the following Wednesday edition.

Churches that had worked with the Office of Human Concern dissolved. The Genesee Ecumenical Ministries, was established in its place. At that time GEM dissolved the urban ministry and OHC lost its Protestant partner. OHD has continued to maintain an open stance and works willingly with community and denominational groups with shared goals.

In November of the same year, 1970, the first collection for the national Campaign for Human Development was taken, and the Office of Human Concern became known as the Office of Human Development. This diocese was one of the few places where OHD was born nearly full-grown.

Father Hempel says that there was no radical change in the office when the switch came. He and Father Robert Kreckel, then pastor of Immaculate Conception, carried the first proposals to Washington, D.C., themselves.

Just half a year after the first human development campaign, Father Hempel was assigned as rector to Becket Hall. He had expected to go to school to do further study in sociology. He recalls his four years in Secular Mission and the Office of Human Concern as the best of his life.

Father Charles Mulligan came to the OHD from studies at Cornell University in June 1971. During the 3 1/2 years of Father Mulligan's administration the Office of Human Development has built on its foundation. Both Father Gauthier and Father Wiant, veterans from the Secular Mission, are still working in Livingston and Wayne counties, respectively. Father Wiant recently helped to build a community center. Sister Alice McLaughlin, operating in Yates County principally with public health, arrived in the Human Concern days. In Steuben County Sister Mary Kruckow is a more recent arrival working with emergency needs.

All four workers outside of Monroe County work in their area to make the Office of Human Development known and to help establish parish Human Development committees. They also serve as liaisons for OHD with community groups.

In the main Office of Human Development, now at 750 W. Main in the former St. Peter and Paul convent near its storefront beginnings, a staff works on several main areas of concern. Sister Judy Reger, with the office for two years now, heads the Elderly Ministry Task Force, working to involve lay people in nursing home communication and research.

Sister Grace Miller's history with the office stretches back to the days of Father Finks when he approached the superior of each Sisters' community in Rochester and requested one Sister to work with him. Sister Grace, a Sister of Mercy, is the urban ministry person at OHD and serves as a liaison with FIGHT, the Coalition of Inner-City Parishes, the Spanish Apostolate, and the black community in general.

World hunger is the primary issue for Father Daniel Torney and Sister Mary Ann Weiland, both newcomers to OHD. Last summer they worked with an ecumenical committee to produce a packet on world hunger. This committee is developing into a clearinghouse in the city for groups concerned with the hunger problem.

Father Mulligan works with the various jail ministries: the Rochester-Attica Coalition, the Rochester Interfaith Jail Ministries, the Judicial Process Commission, and Bridge, Inc.



Sister Frances Sweeney SSI, one of the original group, deals with the intricacies of the political structure. Currently she is compiling a profile of county legislators.

Ms. Judy Wehrin joined the staff last summer to coordinate communications, public relations, and the Fall collection. She works to educate the churches about poverty. Seven county task forces stimulate proposals for the Fall collection funds.

Human Development is basically community-based and issue-oriented. The basic strength of the human development program is the parish group. In the Rochester Diocese, 103 of the 165 parishes have human development committees. Dr. Joe

Torma seeks to get the parish groups functioning as a body.

Programs that receive funds through OHD must be self-help projects that offer something other than bandaid solutions. Seventy-five per cent of all money collected each Sunday before Thanksgiving goes to the national headquarters, twenty-five per cent remains for local use. Rochester has a good rate of return on the national. In 1971-72 and 1972-73 the Rochester Diocese received more money from headquarters that it donated.

As Bishop Sheen visited the inner-city parishes of Rochester eight years ago today he probably did not envision the work that would grow out of his "soul's anguish" over "this dehumanization of our humanity."

Holy Spirit: Presence and Power in Christian Life Today

Professor: Rev. (Semester course -
Francesco Turvasi, S.T.D. 2 credit hours)
Cost: \$110 - 2 credits, Time: Jan. 23-May 8.
\$55 - audit Thurs., 7:30-9:30 P.M.

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The Holy Spirit and the manifestation of God's love for mankind in the Old and New Testament. His presence and action in the individual and in the Mystical Body of Jesus Christ. Nature and effects of God's love upon the person. Faith as an answer to the revelation of God's love. The psychological conception of virtues and the dynamic principle of agape as an infused gift and as participation in divine life.

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