



### Mercy Parents Plan Gala

The parents Club of Our Lady of Mercy High School is planning a dinner-dance for Jan. 25 at Oak Hill Country Club. John Grady and Mrs. Grady, at left, are general chairmen. Committee members shown are Mrs. John Blair, Mrs. William Howe and Mrs. Donald Welt.

## Bishops' Aide Hails Document

Washington, D.C. [RNS] — The executive secretary of the U.S. Catholic bishops' Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations declared here that the new Vatican document aimed at implementing the 1965 Vatican II statement on the Jews was "worth waiting for" because it "solidifies the basis for genuine dialogue between the Church and the Synagogue."

Father Edward H. Flannery said the new guidelines "may be seen as the fruit of the dialogue between Christians and Jews that has taken place since the Council."

Acknowledging that a previous draft or "working paper" of the current document existed and that "certain excisions" were made, the priest said "as regrettable as some of them may be, they should not prevent a just

evaluation of this final version on its own merits."

"The important thing now is that this implementation of the Conciliar statement (Nostra Aetate — Declaration on the Relationship of the Church to Non-Christian Religions) be fully implemented itself."

The new document, entitled "Guidelines and Suggestions for Implementing the Conciliar Declaration 'Nostra Aetate,'" was issued nine years after the Vatican II declaration. It seeks to implement and apply. Five years ago, a working paper of the new document was prematurely released in Baltimore and then held in abeyance by the Vatican.

(While Father Flannery did not mention what aspects of the working paper were excised, the original text of that working

paper made public by Cardinal Lawrence Shehan of Baltimore in 1969 included a section calling on Christians "to respect the religious significance of the state of Israel"; a sentence which read, "All intent of proselytizing and conversion is excluded"; and a section in which Catholics were urged to ask pardon of their Jewish brothers for painful exiles, persecutions and moral pressures.)

Father Flannery said the issuance of the new document "gives us much to do in the years to come and should, hopefully, give a new and strong impetus to the promotion of Catholic-Jewish understanding and cooperation in our dioceses."

He said the long-awaited document "goes well beyond" the Vatican II declaration on the Jews.

## About Time, Says GEM Leader

Father Henry Atwell, executive director of Genesee Ecumenical Ministries, (GEM), thinks the Vatican document on Jewish relations "indicates we may now do what a lot of people have been doing for a long time."

He noted last week that "1975 marks the 10th year since the Vatican Council issued its statement on Christian-Jewish relationships, so I hardly think this is a hasty implementation of that statement."

"I think of all the separations that have existed in the family of God over the years, the deepest, saddest and the longest has been between Christians and Jews; and after 20 centuries, it's high time we began to do something about this painful wound," he said.

### ND Students To Mark 'Day of Infamy'

Notre Dame, Ind. [RNS] — Students at the University of Notre Dame have invited church members of all denominations and "friends everywhere" to join them on Jan. 22, 1975, in solemn remembrance of "a day of infamy," the second anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision on abortion.

Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., president of the Roman Catholic university, will be principal concelebrant of an 8 p.m. Mass where special prayers will be offered asking that the right to life be constitutionally restored to the unborn.

pastor of St. Agnes Church, Avon, scored what he called "negligible Catholic response" to Jewish invitations to dialogue on the local level.

He cited an instance in the Spring of 1967 when Archbishop Fulton Sheen, then Bishop of Rochester, and Rabbi Marc Tannenbaum, chairman of the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultation, shared the same podium for an evening of Jewish-Christian dialogue. But shortly thereafter, "when the Six Day War erupted, the Christian community by and large did nothing to support the Jewish concern; and that, to a great extent, undid the euphoria of the evening," on the local scene, he said.

He noted some positive aspects of Christian-Jewish cooperation, most recently in the planning for the new towns of Riverton and Gananda.

The Vatican document's section on education brought his comment that "we've been woefully negligent as Christians in trying to learn our own Christian roots in Judaism. This is one of the reasons we have difficulty understanding our-

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