

# An Ecumenical Dialog Marks 'Unity Week'

By PEGGY PEASE  
Hornell Area Correspondent

Hornell — A wide-ranging televised dialog among several faiths was the highlight of the area's observance of Christian Unity Week. Father Lewis Brown, associate pastor at St. Ann's Church moderated a discussion, sponsored by Hornell Ecumenical Ministries (HEM), participated in by Kellus VanOver, Salvation Army; Rev. Douglas Carroll, Christ Episcopal Church; Rev. Dr. Richard Hasler, First Presbyterian Church and Father William Cosgrove, chaplain, St. James Mercy Hospital.

Father Brown: Speaking of the ecumenical movement, what do you think it's purpose is?

Lt. VanOver: The bringing together or the reuniting of the Body of Christ. Cooperation and understanding. Common agreement is what the movement is. The hand is not the same as the foot, but we are all joined to do the same thing, to bring man to understanding areas where we have common goals we should set about reaching and still retain our own identity.

Father Cosgrove: In the past we have been prejudiced and are now willing to work with one another. There is a spiritual motive behind our existence and realizing it, we are now giving more witness much more effectively.

Dr. Hasler: Let us not equate unity with uniformity. More importantly, unity and diversity - expression. It is a real strength. I'm happy to see this spirit emerging.

Rev. Carroll: I see as meaningful, the international texts established among the denominations. Although we worship differently, we see it expressed on the annual basis of the lectionary. A gatheredness yet individuality.

Dr. Hasler: We are not so much borrowing from each other but we are going back to the written word of God which is the primary source in finding unity.

Father Cosgrove: We have

achieved an emphasis of biblicalism thus overlooking such things as dogma and things that would make us adhere strictly to separate worship.

Lt. VanOver: Most people find a version of the bible that appeals to them. We have the "reach-out" version that particularly appeals to the younger people. I find scripture, bible study in small groups as a growing thing and it is encouraging. More dialogue and inter-action.

Rev. Carroll: The Christian faith ought not to be locked into the Book. Take advantage of various pocket editions available. Media and communication regarding the Bible has a multiplicity of service. Also, contemporary music is very valuable to the church.

Father Brown: Just what is the role of the laity?

Father Cosgrove: As worshippers and witnesses a layman can reach places the ordained cannot reach. And in conflict with the Anglican Church the one problem I see is the emergence of

the woman within the Church. She wants a more active role and unfortunately, she cannot share in the ordained priesthood.

Rev. Carroll: True, they in the Anglican communion have been ordained into the Diaconate. The total laity has been involved in the continuing theological study. The nature of ministry cannot be interpreted in sexual terms. Decision here will be made when the Episcopal Church meets in 1976.

Dr. Hasler: The United Presbyterian Church has had 200 women ordained in the last 25 years. Since the Reformation, Presbyterians have always placed emphasis upon the role of the laity, they play an important part. Much service to us has been provided by the teenagers who serve as deacons in the Hornell Presbyterian Church.

Lt. VanOver: Traditional barriers have been broken down and we now begin to see the laity emerging into different branches, different functions. The laity can work outside the boundaries of the church area. There are not the

many ordained available as in the past and so we must look to the laity.

Rev. Carroll: The future is here. We're beyond the old arguments and are finding identity in trying to deal with the issues of today. People in community are not denominational. They find unity in working side by side with each other in social action.

Dr. Hasler: We're at a new stage of development and the emphasis will be on the Evangelical person and the total concept of Renewal.

Father Cosgrove: There is a certain opening up of discussion of ministries in the Church. Perhaps acceptance of each others sacraments will be forthcoming such as baptism and marriage now and we'll still be able to maintain our own traditions.

Father Brown concluded this discussion reflecting on the adage "A house divided cannot stand" and invoked the spirit of unity with the final words, "Father, may they be one."

Next week some laymen at the discussion will give their views.



## Knights Hold Open House

More than 150 persons attended the recent open house of the Pope Pius XII Council of the Knights of Columbus. Above the Grand Knight, Timothy B. Halpin, displays trophies the council has won to John Reeder and Father Albert Delmonte, prospective candidates for the organization. Looking on are Joseph Cascinai, district deputy of district 104, and John F. Brown, the chairman of the Irondequoit open house.

**THE OPEN WINDOW**



Fr. Louis Hohman

Dear Father,

A non-Catholic friend of mine recently asked me a question which I not only find difficult to explain, but I was also a little bit embarrassed by it. She wants to know if there is any animosity between orders of priesthood. She went on to explain that several times when she is in the company of Catholic friends, facetious remarks are passed about one order or another and she suspects ill-feeling there. Is there, as she suggested to me, a "competition" between orders?

B.A.

Dear B.A.,

As background, keep in mind the following: 1.—religious orders as well as diocesan clergy

are made up of human beings who could say unpleasant or uncharitable things about individuals or other groups; 2.—because orders involve males, there probably will be found some kind or degree of competitiveness among them.

But: 1.—I know of no serious differences between orders of priests at the present time; 2.—whatever competition is involved among them is ordered toward the same goal, the cause of Jesus Christ. There may be individual quarrels along the way but these are hardly important except to the people involved.

Tell your friend not to mistake good-natured bantering and ribbing for bitterness or rivalry. I know I kid about Jesuits occasionally, especially if there are McQuaid parents around, but I never dreamed it would be taken seriously. It seems too evident that they are doing an exceptional job in the field of education. I wouldn't want you to get me in the bag of saying, "Why, some of my best friends are Jesuits!"

Seriously, though, I would like your friend to understand that, allowing room for occasional human weaknesses, we all get along fine, enjoy each other's company and rejoice in each other's part in building up the body of Christ of which we are all members.

# Genesis III... A Beginning

By Mary Ann Ginnerty  
Auburn Area Correspondent

Auburn — "People are what makes the Church. It is the way people act together," said a high school junior at the Genesis III program held at St. Alphonsus Parish here. "The people don't always act together and there are times when they do, but most of the time everybody is in it for himself. During Genesis III we realize everybody has different ideas and we try to figure out what would make the church better."

Genesis III, a diocesan sponsored program aimed at juniors and seniors in high school, has as its main purpose helping the teenagers begin the transition from a traditional stance to a scriptural one. It is an experience in building community during the two day program going from noon to evening one day and morning to mid-afternoon the next.

Genesis III is staffed by teenagers who have an idea of scripture and the ability to relate with other teens. A priest acts as liaison person and celebrant of the Eucharist and penance.

The six teens recently working with the St. Alphonsus group are from Rochester. They led the discussions and talked with the participants on their own terms.

## COMMUNION BREAKFAST

Elmira — The Knights of Columbus will receive communion at the 7:30 a.m. Mass at St. Casimir's Church Sunday, Feb. 16, and during Mass will present the American and Papal flags to the church. Breakfast will be served in the school, at \$2.50 per person. Reservations must be made by Feb. 10 with Clifford C. Benedict, 732-2210, or Robert L. Pautz, 733-3554.

## LENT PROGRAM

Hornell — A Lenten program has been prepared at St. Ann's on the theme of reconciliation. On Fridays of Lent following Stations of the Cross, parishioners are invited to special programs. Feb. 14, Bible Service (Liturgy Committee); Feb. 21, "The Person" (Religious Ed. Committee); Feb. 28, "The Family" (Mothers Club); Mar. 7, "The Community" (Hornell Area Right to Life); Mar. 14, "The Nation" (Human Development Committee); Mar. 21, "The World" (Adult Ed. Committee).

One of the leaders pointed out how the youths didn't want to cooperate at first, but the Mass got them involved and aware of each other.

"Getting up around the altar makes you feel good. You begin to feel the more you learn, the more you share with others."

One of the initial exercises was considering an incident in the Gospel and relating it to daily life.

"The person of Christ, told about in the Gospel, becomes a living person as we apply the person of Jesus in our own lives and see his real humanity and divinity and make the references across into our lives," explained Father Robert Hammond, coordinating priest for the Genesis programs. "This emphasis, flowing from family to family of the Church, to the presence of God's word and understanding of Jesus, to the understanding and participation in liturgical acts makes up the Genesis III program."

The youths seem to concur that as the two days progressed "little by little more kept coming out everytime I answered a question. You open up and come to understand others have their own opinions and realize they won't cut you down."

"The thing that stands out most

# County Approves Voter 'Outreach'

The Monroe County ways and means and personnel committees recorded their support for the outreach voter registration program at a joint meeting Jan. 28. They passed a resolution authorizing the creation of a citizen advisory committee and two Board of Elections positions. The Monroe County Coalition for Voter Registration, which initiated a volunteer outreach program two years ago, submitted the proposals last September.

The citizen group will meet with the Board of Elections to help implement the program. It is the goal of the MCCVR that the citizens committee help in the recruitment of minority registrars and provide community rapport and feedback. They also will present a yearly evaluation of the program to the county legislature, according to Father Charles Mulligan, head of the Coalition for Voter Registration.

The committee will serve

in my mind is that everyone feels a sense of unity. The thing I like best is the communication. No matter who you are you can talk to anyone and everyone is willing to listen."

"While tradition is important, we found the Bible had little place in our lives," explained Father Hammond. "This is why Genesis III was started. The basic concept is to attempt to take the tradition of the Church and build it up on the scriptural base. The scripture is the word of God and works itself out in tradition."

"The end result of Genesis III is to help the participants understand that the body of Christ needs people who are aware of God's love and who bring part of God with them into their everyday lives," said Father Hammond. "We try to bring scripture alive and help them see it as a vital part of everyday experiences, first by exposing them to the gospels, and to begin thinking of scripture as relevant today as in any age."

"We ask them to take the scripture they hear in weekly Mass and apply it in their own lives. They get into the practice of this kind of thinking through the Genesis program, but Genesis III is not meant to be a self-contained experience, but rather an exposure to a way of thinking. It is a beginning."

without pay. The resolution stipulates that its membership be "politically balanced and broadly representative of all aspects of the Monroe County community."

With its proposal for outreach registration personnel within the Board of Elections, the Coalition submitted job descriptions for the positions, detailing year-around activities including site planning, registrar recruitment and training, publicity and evaluation. Republican Commissioner V. James Chiavaroli said new job descriptions would be prepared by the Board of Elections. He said also that he is uncertain what the hiring procedure will be. Since the jobs will be federally funded it will be necessary to comply with any federal guidelines established for the use of the money.

Father Mulligan claimed that the job requires aggressive individuals committed to the idea of voter outreach registration.