

Marriage Encounter Sets Statewide Meeting Feb. 15 in Auburn

Auburn — Auburn will host the New York State Unit 111 Marriage Encounter convention on Saturday, Feb. 15, at Auburn Community College.

The one-day convention will start at 9 a.m., ending at 9 p.m., with several hundred couples from the dioceses of Rochester, Syracuse, and Albany attending. A buffet will be served at 5:45 p.m. in the ACC cafeteria.

The highlight of the convention will be the celebration of the Eucharist by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan at 4:30 p.m.

Several committees from the Auburn community of Marriage Encounter are working on the affair coordinated by Mr. and

Mrs. Leo A. Pickney. Reservations are being handled by Mr. and Mrs. James Barker and Mr. and Mrs. John Scanlon.

Other committee co-chairmen are Mr. and Mrs. Edward Kolo, posters; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lynch, facilities; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Laird, refreshments; Mr. and Mrs. Ardie Dandino, presentations; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hoffman, liturgy, and Mr. and Mrs. Al Fadden, registration.

The Unit 111 area comprises the Capitol District, Syracuse, Utica, Rochester, Southern Tier and Buffalo. There will also be representatives from Canada and Massachusetts. Many of the groups plan to come by charter buses. Others will arrive the night before the convention.

Marriage Encounter Explained at Meeting

Elmira — A special Information Night to explain the goals and aims of Marriage Encounter will be held at 7:30 p.m. Sunday at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 1100 W. Church St. in West Elmira.

The program will be held in the audio-visual room of Our Lady of Lourdes School, which is behind the church.

One of the aims of Marriage Encounter is to make good marriages great marriages. A chief goal is the renewal of the couple, as well as, their spiritual renewal.

IRONDEQUOIT PARISH SETS LENTEN SERIES

What ever happened to the Baltimore Catechism? Can the Church's teachings change? These questions, and others, will be springboards for discussion during the adult education series at St. Margaret Mary parish on five consecutive Wednesday evenings of Lent. The first meeting is Feb. 19 at 8, following 7:30 church service.

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Norton of Van Etten will lead the discussion on providing more information about Marriage Encounter. They will be assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Schutt of Elmira, along with other couples from the Southern Tier who have become involved in the Marriage Encounter movement.

PHOTOGRAPHY MEMORABILIA

An exhibition of books, manuscripts and photographs from the earliest days of photography, many of which were once part of the famous collections of Sir Thomas Phillipps, will be on display at the University of Rochester through Feb. 28. The materials are from the period between 1839 and the 1860s. The exhibition will be open to the public, free of charge, in the Rare Book Department of the University's Rush Rhees Library during regular library hours, Mondays through Fridays.

Noon Service Set For Downtowners

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan will speak this noontime at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh, during the Ash Wednesday service arranged by the Genesee Ecumenical Ministries.

The Rev. Bruce Hanson, rector, and Father Charles Latus, director of the diocesan office of ecumenical and inter-religious affairs, will conduct the half-hour service, which begins at 12:05. Ashes will be distributed.

On the Tuesdays of Lent, St. Luke's will offer the Episcopal Holy Communion service, and on Thursdays, the Catholic Mass, at 12:05 p.m.

Dentistry Badge For Scouts

Dentistry is a brand new merit badge that will soon be available to Scouts in the Otetiana Council, Boy Scouts of America, according to Joseph Bourcy, council advancement chairman.

The new merit badge was prepared as a joint project of the Boy Scouts of America and the American Dental Association and was introduced in connection with National Children's Dental Health Week, Feb. 2-8, and the BSA's 65th Anniversary on Feb. 8.

Dr. Bernard Tofany, dental society president, explained the types of requirements that the Scouts would have to meet in order to earn the badge: "Among the things the Scout will be called upon to learn will be the nutritional requirements and the role of fluorides in maintaining good oral health, the techniques of plaque control, first aid for oral injuries and the role the dentist plays in overall health care."

Each Scout will work with a dentist-counselor to meet the requirements for the badge.

Bourcy explained that the merit badge program is an elective, educational plan that provides broad insights into many fields of skill and knowledge. There are more than 100 merit badges available, each with a strong potential as a career or hobby.

from the parish council members and teachers in attendance only 12 questions were asked.

After the vote, the executive committee issued a statement declaring that it "stands firm with the commitment to continue to come and work together in serving the people of our neighborhoods." Echoing a fear running through the meeting it said, "School closings for economical reasons could easily lead to parish closings for the same reasons. We commit ourselves to work toward a continued solid presence of the Church in the Inner City."

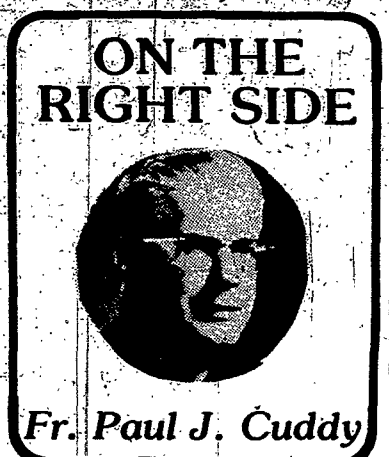
It asked all parish councils "to draw up statements affirming this same purpose."

It also asked "the diocese to continue its subsidy of \$200,000" and said "we are committed to seeing that this subsidy is wisely and justly spent."

Confronting the rejection of the diocesan plan, Father Douglas Hoffmann of the bishop's committee said privately that the diocese will probably have to re-examine boundaries of inner city parishes and perhaps expand both to the east and west in considering new plans.

He said meetings with the orders of Sisters involved, Mercy, Notre Dame and St. Joseph, as well as parish representatives will be necessary to map future plans.

He, along with Father Mulligan, stressed that the diocesan commitment in the form of the \$200,000 subsidy is firm and that the diocese in no way plans to abandon its inner city ministry.



Stephen M. is a friend of mine. He is scholarly, traveled, devout. Recently he wrote to me: "With apologies to Cardinal Newman...

Lead, kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom:

*of frenzied efforts to fashion for the Church a future of feigned freedom based on popular, ephemeral ideas of today rather than on the rock foundation of the Church's teaching and tradition;

*of continuing decline of Christian moral standards where sin is seldom mentioned and hell is an illusion of past generations;

*of a liturgy that has achieved lifeless simplicity, and whose music has the refrain of a song from a juke box;

*of the uncertainty in determining personal culpability.

Lead, kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom: while we pray for God's Holy Church and for all those who walk in the shadows of confusion and uncertainty. I do not ask to see the distant scene. One step enough for me.

Now for my reply . . .

Your meditation awaited my return from a small, intimate pizza shop in Webster, where I am a frequent habitue: a habitue, not because of the superior pizzas, but in order to assuage the distress of the proprietor who, like yourself, agonizes that so many of the Church's devotions and traditions have gone down the drain.

While at the pizza shop I met a man who was visiting the area. He said directly: "Father, my wife and I went to Mass at St. X

Church a couple Sundays ago. A woman in a very mini-skirt read the epistle, showing off her thighs as she read. The music was clap-trap. The next Sunday we went to Mass at St. Y's, where there were both reverence and modesty." (I thought to myself: Thirty years ago earthy men used to go to burlesque shows to watch what they now watch in some sanctuaries.)

"Father, what is happening in the Church? When we moved to Florida the Chamber of Commerce welcomed us. The Welcome Wagon gave us information. Within a week we were visited by Mormons, Witnesses of Jehovah and Southern Baptists — all inviting us to their services. No one called from the Catholic Church.

"At first we neglected to get to Mass because we were getting settled. Then because of friendship with a fine couple we went to the Baptist church. The minister was nice. His sermons were good. But after a few months I said: 'This isn't for me.' I went to confession. The priest was very kind, and we have gone to Mass regularly ever since. But Father, what happened to the Church?"

Stephen, Frank Sheed's book, "The Church and I" helped you to understand the problems, if not to appreciate them. Now read "Three Popes and a Cardinal" by Malachi Martin. It is tough reading. Martin was a confere of Cardinal Bea, and involved in the deliberations of Vatican II. He holds a doctorate in Semetic languages. He was an Irish Jesuit, but he quit the Jesuits and the priesthood, and has married — but in the Church.

He remains an articulate believing Catholic. I saw him on W. F. Buckley's Firing Line TV program last December, and was in awe of his learning. Despite his contempt, acidly expressed, for much of the Church's bureaucracy, he regards the Church for what it is: Christ's Living Mystical Body. His prognosis of the future is not very cheering, but he accepts the confusion and concludes like yourself: "one step enough for me. Only God knows the future."

If misery loves company you need not be lonely. But be of good heart. Our Lord said He would be with the Church always. And indeed He is. Deo gratias!

CICP Schools Close

Continued from Page 1

of the CICP after due consultation with our parish councils and staff of member groups (Office of Human Development and Spanish Apostolate) hereby terminate the CICP School System June 30, 1975.

Father Anthony Valenti, chairman of the CICP executive committee, said it rejected the diocesan plan because of the contingencies included in it. The diocese said that a \$30,000 commitment from member parishes must be made in writing before its own \$200,000 annual subsidy would be made. A required split of CICP resources between schools and other ministries on a 75-25 basis and the question of Wilson Foundation funding also were cited.

At Sunday night's meeting, various diocesan officials, including Father Daniel Brent, superintendent of schools; Sister James Lynch, coordinator of educational services; and Father Charles Mulligan, of the special bishop's committee, made strong pleas to continue one school.

Following their presentation was a question period during which Sister Boniface gave the results of a special survey taken by the CICP interim board of education. It showed that 96 per cent of parents surveyed believed their school was important, that they thought the schools important because "children receive a good education" (88 per cent), "children are taught self-discipline" (84 per cent), "children are taught about God and Christian values" (83 per cent), and "children are instilled

with a sense of responsibility" (84 per cent).

Each parish then went into caucus for a half-hour then returned to vote.

The historic end came in dramatic, though calm, fashion. Sister John Bosco called the role Mount Carmel, whose staff had fought valiantly to keep the schools open, voted "yes," to terminate the system, and that signaled the finish. St. Bridget's, St. Michael's, St. Francis Xavier and Immaculate Conception also voted yes. Holy Redeemer and St. Lucy's voted against the motion. The two member agencies, Human Development and Spanish Apostolate, asked to vote after the parishes and then both voted yes, but it was academic by then. The official count is 12-4 because the votes are weighted with two for each parish and one for each agency.

The yes votes were reluctantly given in face of overwhelming financial difficulties. Sentiment also existed that the diocese is not doing its share despite the \$200,000 subsidy. Cited was the fact that inflation has reduced the value of the annual subsidy and that its being tied to a financial commitment by the "broke" parishes made it unattainable. The one-school plan also was seen by some as tokenism.

The financial handwriting on the wall apparently had made the course evident, and, although there were some tears shed the meeting by and large was tense but cool.

During the time for questioning

Health Festival To Feature Cosby

Comedian Bill Cosby will headline a free afternoon health festival at the Dome Arena this Sunday, Feb. 16, 2-6 p.m. Sponsoring the public event is RHN Plan, a prepaid health maintenance organization with centers throughout the Rochester area.

Free tickets, available at various places, will be required until 2:30 p.m., after which admission will be open on a first-come, first-served basis. Tickets can be picked up between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. today at Midtown Plaza Mall, Long Ridge Mall and Central Branch YMCA, 100 Gibbs St. Tickets will be given also at the Dome Arena until 5 p.m. today and at the following RHN centers until 4: Anthony L. Jordan Center, 82 Holland; Westside Health Services Fight Square Center, 288 Troup; Brown Square Center, 266 Lyell Ave., and Millbank Center, 30 Millbank.

The Central YMCA will provide the Sunday show with a kung fu demonstration and belly-dancing instruction, both of which involve exercises that can lead to better physical fitness. GeVa's Bill



BILL COSBY

VandeSande will give juggling lessons, and the Heart Association will test blood pressure. Ski and bike films will be shown throughout the afternoon.

Square dancing with a professional caller will precede Cosby's one-hour appearance, and everyone will be invited to join. Clowns will be on hand and a "Moonwalk" air bubble will be set up for children.

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