



This spectrum of life symbolizes topics to be discussed in the St. Thomas the Apostle series which opens March 2.

Talk, Film Series Set

The growing concern over the selective restriction of human life will be reflected in a four part lecture and film series at St. Thomas the Apostle parish hall in Irondequoit.

Series moderator, Margaret Finucane, will begin the program on March 2 with Pat Dykstra of the Rochester Speakers Bureau. Mrs. Dykstra will talk about the anti-life forces of "The World of the Unborn".

Attorney William Polito and Pat Amato of the Northwest Human Development Committee will present the abortion issue with its controversial legal aspects and possibilities of change on March 9.

Euthanasia will be the topic of the third segment with Jeanne Sweeney, R.N., and Dr. Nino Trunfio, a Rochester internist. The film, "Who Shall Survive", will be shown.

The final week of the series will bring Rev. Thaddeus Wojcik, rector of St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church. Rev. Wojcik will speak on the American mentality of selective survival. "Somebody Waiting", a film on human potential, will also be viewed.

The series will be held on Sunday evenings at 7:30 through the month of March. All lectures and films are open to the public and are free of charge.

Life, Liberty and Law



Nancy Murphy

An ancient city on the banks of the River Neeth 25 miles southeast of Ahtwerp, Belgium, Gheel, unafraid of its heritage and unencumbered by intellectual fallout, has been since the 13th Century a haven for those with mental handicaps. It is in Gheel that St. Dymphna the patroness of the mentally ill is entombed. After six hundred years the citizens, having learned through tradition, experience and common sense that mental disease is neither fearful nor amusing, have become skilled in the humane art of caring for the mentally ill.

In 1430 to accommodate the growing numbers of mental patients making the pilgrimage to the cathedral in Gheel, the Church built an infirmary onto the holy structure. The number of patients continued to increase and the infirmary proved too small. The Church then turned in her need to the townsfolk, and the patients were housed with selected families therein. The community thus became accustomed to mental illnesses.

To this day all types of mental handicaps and diseases are represented and cared for in Gheel. People enter the infirmary voluntarily or on the recommendations of physicians. They are evaluated there by doctors and, unless they are totally unmanageable, placed in certified homes in town, free to come and go to help or be helped. This certification has been a matter of the highest importance to generations of Gheel families, as only those with no moral or legal transgressions are certified. The selection as one who will be allowed to perform this valuable service has always been a mark of honor, and families strive to meet the standards of this living and demanding form of Christianity. It is not viewed as a sacrifice. It is not seen as an economic burden. And there is no material profit.

The good people of Gheel do

not strike down the handicapped as "unwanted" or "inferior" or "undignified." They do not spend years closeted in university cubbyholes to study new ways to define and justify the destruction of humanity. They do not box people into precise little plastic cells away from the glories of God. Their unique contribution to mankind, not a fleeting fad replacing the care and feeding of seals and wildlife to be itself replaced the following season by some other spurt of morality, had endured. There is no clamor for the "prevention of birth defects" no measured call in the name of religious freedom to eliminate those who cannot respond "meaningfully." To the many tortured families of this world who for one reason or another cannot embrace those members who may suffer a handicap, the people of Gheel have simply and quietly offered their own families as substitutes. They view the deliberate destruction of humanity as an unacceptable application of the gifts of knowledge.

I pray that the insidious philosophy packaged so attractively in the plastic phrases "quality of life" and "self-fulfillment" will stop short of the banks of the River Neeth. I pray that a merciful Lord will not grant to the growing cacophony within some American medical and theological circles an echo in that peaceful and picturesque city of tiled roofs, and handsome masonry walls.

What harmony! What simple grace! Though at the same time, I cannot help but wonder if these Belgians receive, or if they themselves must instigate by demand, the necessary spiritual leadership from the churchmen in their midst.

In all probability, such an experience could not survive in the United States. No community here could resist the suction of apathy, the permissive pulpits and the lures of a Gallup poll. And where could we find the farmland which would consistently share its splendid bounty year after year, century after century, to nourish a non-profitable American Gheel? Or what river sufficiently unpolluted have we to offer for the clear reflection of a truly humane humanity?

No I do not offer in this column a suggested solution to any of the deep maladies present in America. I share it as a vision of hope and a message of encouragement.

I wish I could visit in Gheel.

HEM to Help Rally Seniors

By PEGGY PEASE
Hornell Area Correspondent
324-3353

Hornell — The senior citizens of the area are going to have their own coalition in the near future. Hornell Ecumenical Ministries (HEM) has voted to sponsor projects of a Corning area church group in aiding organization of senior citizens throughout Steuben County.

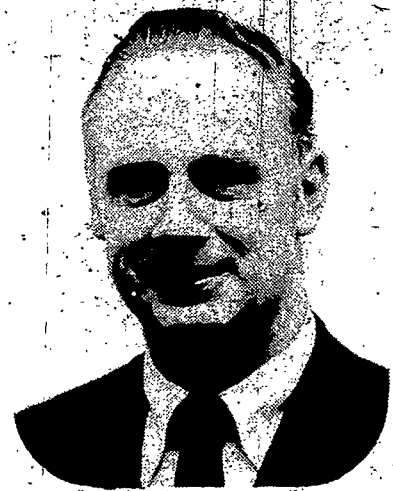
Basic problems of senior citizens, which the groups hope to meet, are poverty, transportation, nursing care facilities and nutritional needs. HEM has agreed to aid The Loving Congregation (TLC) which is a core group of Corning-Painted Post Area residents, to pull together senior citizens and

senior citizens groups into a permanent coalition.

A founding convention for the senior organization is planned for May but before that, HEM will be looking for senior citizen representatives to help guide the convention in forming committees on by-laws, issues, nominations and the ultimate organization.

Each church or senior organization in the Hornell area is asked to submit names of two senior citizens for planning committees in the very near future.

The suggested names and any further information may be submitted and obtained by contacting H. R. Fillmore at the Hornell Housing Authority, 71 Church St.



LAWRENCE OBERLIES

Aquinas Alumni Seek \$55,000

Lawrence Oberlies, a vice president in the trust department of Marine Midland Bank, will direct the Aquinas Institute alumni appeal for the school's 50th anniversary year. The drive for \$55,000 begins March 7.

Oberlies is a member of the Class of 1953. His assistant chairmen are Al Steinwachs, Class of 1928; Emmett Muldoon, 1935; Ed Klinger, 1938; Wendel Kleehammer, 1940; Tom Hickey, 1949; Dick Calabrese, 1952; Bill Faraone, 1953; John Toscano, 1961; Bob Schwab, 1963; Lou Spiotti, 1964, and Steve Centron, 1970.

Chant Choir Slates Masses

The Gregorian Chant Choir of the Eastman School of Music will sing Latin High Masses on March 2 and April 13 at the Cenacle Chapel. The Mass on March 2, marking the third Sunday of Lent, will be celebrated by Father Giovanni Montanari. Both the proper and the common of the High Mass will be sung in the traditional plainchant. In addition, there will be a 13th century polyphonic setting of a hymn in honor of the Cross.

The Gregorian Chant Choir, now in its sixth year, is directed by Dr. Erich Schwandt of the Eastman School. The Mass on March 2 is set for 4 p.m. and is open to the public.

Sister to Be Speaker At Aglow March 3

The Rochester Chapter of Women's Aglow Fellowship International, an interdenominational, non-profit, world-wide fellowship designed to promote the whole gospel of Jesus Christ to all women, is holding its third monthly dinner meeting at Valle's Steak House, 1335 Ridge Road East, on Monday, March 3 at 6:30 p.m.

The guest speaker will be Sister Annette Marsnik, a Catholic nun and teacher of Greek and Scripture at Elim Bible Institute in Lima. Prior to this, she taught philosophy at St. Scholastics College in Duluth, Minn. and also was director of a prayer and retreat center, House of Peace, in northern Minnesota.

Sister Annette's ministry challenges her audience to an awareness of the importance of the Word in their daily lives as she explores with them the riches of a life directed by the Holy Spirit. Her message is vibrant and endures in the hearts of many a

greater desire to attain the fullness of the inheritance provided for them in Jesus.

Aglow is a counter part but distinct from the Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship International whose Rochester chapter sponsors breakfast speakers monthly. Aglow takes its name from Romans 12:11, "Be aglow and burning with the spirit."

All interested women and men are welcome. For reservations, write or phone Mrs. Peg Wrisley, 2145 Imperial Drive, Webster, N.Y. 14580, 872-1386.

DIACONATE PROGRAM

Oakland, Calif. [RNS] — The Roman Catholic Diocese of Oakland will launch a permanent diaconate program for married and single men and has set a June 15 deadline for applications. Bishop Floyd Begin has announced. A six-month orientation program for candidates and families will begin Oct. 4, he said.

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