

'No Points of Power' for Black Catholics

Brother Joseph Davis, S.M., was the first black man in his province of the Society of Mary, and he used to feel that his brethren doubted he could help save a white soul.

But "My call came from God to me; it did not come in terms of what the community would think," Brother Davis said in an interview last week.

As executive director of the National Office of Black Catholics, he was here for a meeting of Rochester black people with Bishop Joseph L. Hogan.

His discussion of blacks and U.S. Catholicism led him to remark on Church history. Christianity was introduced to Europe from Africa, he pointed out, and "There have been three black popes." Victor I, the African pope who reigned near the end of the second century, was said by Jerome to be the first Latin writer in the church, and St. Augustine was black, Brother Davis said.

In the U.S. today, however, the one million Black Catholics have



BROTHER DAVIS

"no points of power" within the Church. "Black Catholics do not participate in the organizational structure of the Church," Brother Davis charged. As the Church becomes more suburban, it is becoming more exclusively white, he added. "What Black Catholics want is to participate fully from top to bottom."

Brother Davis cited the lack of black priests as a reason why there are so few black Catholics.

Approximately 60 blacks serve as parish priests in this country. Protestantism, on the other hand, Brother Davis stated, has flourished among blacks partly because it offered blacks an avenue for leadership.

The National Office of Black Catholics works to help blacks develop a wholesome role within the Church that allows them to be both black and Catholic. Brother Davis described its function as threefold: to motivate black Catholics to assume responsibility within the Church; to influence the use and allocation of resources; to be more forceful in dealing with racism within the Church and society.

Brother Davis's family was converted to Roman Catholicism when he was three. He attended an elementary school and high school operated by brothers of the Society of Mary and entered the society upon graduation from high school. As recently as the 1940's, the Marinists brothers debated whether or not blacks could be admitted to their order, he said. As the first black in his province, he felt that some

brothers' reaction to his entrance was, "What should we do with him?" He said too that it was probably no accident that he spent his early years of ministry in the African mission field. There are now other black Marinists in his province.

"Black Catholics often have a social and cultural orientation different from non-Catholic blacks," Brother Davis explained. They tend to be middle class, and if they attend Catholic schools, they are cut off from the experiences of blacks in the public schools.

While they share the same fundamental beliefs of all Catholics, the cultural expression of worship and the theological processes, "how we perceive God out of our experiences," may differ, he continued. Blacks can give the Church "life, spirit, joyousness, vitality, intouchness with life, freedom to celebrate," he said. "That's very serious — not being staid."

Some non-Catholics view Brother Davis as crazy, he said, because he is involved in a predominantly white religious

institution and a predominantly white religious order which requires celibacy. "Others admire my lifestyle because I am able to dedicate my whole life to liberation."

LEGAL NOTICE

SUMMONS AND NOTICE

STATE OF NEW YORK — SUPREME COURT — COUNTY OF MONROE. North Country Savings Bank (formerly St. Lawrence County Savings Bank), Plaintiff, vs. Michael G. Koban, Elizabeth Koban, Samuel Tramontana, Gloria Tramontana, Avis T. Koban, Defendants. INDEX NO. 12926-74

To the Above Named Defendants:

You Are Hereby Summoned to answer the complaint in this action, and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a notice of appearance, on the plaintiff's attorney within twenty days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service, where service is made by delivery upon you personally within the state, or within thirty days after completion of where service is made in any other manner. In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Trial to be held in the County of Monroe. The basis of the venue is the location of real property which is the subject of this action. Plaintiff's principal office and place of business is within the County of St. Lawrence, New York.

Dated: December 10, 1974

LOVE, BALDUCCI & SCACCIA Attorneys for Plaintiff 300 Wilson Building 306 South Salina Street Syracuse, New York 13202 Tel. No. (315) 474-4603

To: Elizabeth Koban and Avis T. Koban The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an order of Hon. Donald H. Mead, a justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, dated the 3rd day of February, 1975, and filed with the complaint and other papers in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Monroe at Rochester, New York.

The object of this action is for foreclosure of a mortgage of the premises described in the complaint and more particularly bounded and described as follows:

All That Certain Lot, piece or parcel of land with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the City of Rochester, County of Monroe and State of New York bounded and described as follows: Lot 168 on the Monroe Co-operative Building Lot Association Tract on file in Monroe County Clerk's Office in Liber 2 of Maps at page 30. Said lot 168 fronting on the north side of Ravine Avenue about 48 feet and 48 feet wide in rear and 121 feet deep.

Dated: February 13, 1975

LOVE, BALDUCCI & SCACCIA Attorneys for Plaintiff 300 Wilson Building 306 South Salina Street Syracuse, New York 13202 Tel. No. (315) 474-4603

19-2673-5-12-41

CONFIRMATION

Dansville — The Education Committee of St. Mary's parish is busy preparing for Confirmation on April 22 to be administered by Bishop Joseph Hogan.

The Confirmation Committee under the guidance of Meg Vennett has chosen many activities for candidates to accomplish as part of their preparation for the sacrament. Projects include, distribution of fire protection stickers; public education campaign to illustrate conditions of the Livingston County jail; instruction to pre-school Bible Classes; personal visits at the Industry Boys Home; at the Livingston County Infirmary; various services to the local Kings Daughters Home.



Catholic members of the Rochester chorale are, from left, Judith Boyd, Marlene Nascà, Valerie Fucille, Thea Lochner, Greg Smith.

'Mass' to Be Performed at Eastman

The Eastman School of Music will stage a community performance of A Family Christ Mass, a work by two local writers, at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 23 at the Eastman Theatre.

Dane Gordon and Milford Fargo are the writers and their work aims its poetry and music at people of all ages from elementary school age through teenagers to adults. It features performers from these three age groups.

The words by Dane Gordon, associate professor of philosophy at Rochester Institute of Technology, are original poetic thoughts and reactions to contemporary life set within the framework of the traditional Mass form: Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus, Agnus Dei.

The music by Milford Fargo, associate professor of music education at the Eastman School of Music, intentionally reflects many styles: Renaissance choir with brass, traditional anthem, Old English with a touch of Brahms, Charles Ives polytonal overlays, Salvation Army Band, 1940s "pop" tunes, pensive folk, early rock, Father Ian Mitchell Folk Mass, and contemporary multirhythms.

Three choirs — children's, teenagers and adults — sing individually and in various combinations. The audience participates in two modal hymns and two antiphonal chants. Four vocal soloists and various instrumental groups are featured: handbell choir, brass sextet, flute and piccolo, chimes, wind ensemble, and jazz rhythm section.

Assisting the Eastman School

from the "family" of the larger community is a handbell choir from a neighboring church, Third Presbyterian, and a greater area adult chorus, the Rochester Chorale.

The Eastman performers include the Eastman Children's Chorus, the Eastman School Chorus, and members of the Eastman Opera Theatre, Eastman Symphonic Band, Eastman Wind Ensemble, Eastman Philharmonia, and Eastman Jazz Ensemble.

Appearing as the "adults," the Rochester Chorale includes 95 semi-professional singers, church choir soloists, opera and oratorio performers and music teachers from Central-Western New York State (from Rochester, Brighton, Churchville, Fairport, Greece, Henrietta, Irondequoit, North Chili, Penfield, Pittsford, Webster, West Rush, Avon, Clyde, Geneseo, Lima, Newark, and Ontario.) It was founded by Fargo in 1966 and has appeared locally in the Eastman Theatre and the Nazareth Arts Center (for its official opening) with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and the Rochester Chamber Orchestra. It presented the world premiere of Lazar Weiner's "The Last Judgement" at Crossingers and on the national CBS television program, "Lamp unto My Feet."

The Eastman Children's Chorus

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includes 92 boys and girls in grades 5-7 from the public and private elementary schools throughout Monroe County. They have been recommended by their music teachers and chosen by yearly audition. Founded by Fargo in 1966, the group has appeared in the Eastman and Auditorium Theatres in concerts and with Eastman Opera Theatre, Opera under the Stars and Rochester Opera Theatre productions. In 1969 it presented the world premiere of Alec Wilder's "Children's Plea for Peace" and recorded it a year later for the Turnabout label of Vox Records.

Representing the "teenagers," the Eastman School Chorus has 80 students at all collegiate levels. Conducted by Robert DeCormier, it has appeared in large choral works with orchestra, opera performances, and professional recordings.

The vocal soloists from the Eastman Opera Theatre, directed by Leonard Treash, are soprano Pamela Coburn, mezzo-soprano Nadine Pelle, tenor Michael Crouse, and baritone Tonio DePaolo.

The combined community forces for A Family Christ Mass will be conducted in the 3000-seat Eastman Theatre by the composer, Milford Fargo, and is open to the public free of charge.

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