



Sheriff Sponable (far right) shows the group how inmates are listed on the roster.

OAR Gathers Speed

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Auburn — Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR), a volunteer program started last fall to work with inmates at Cayuga County jail, recently completed a training session for 10 volunteers who will join seven other volunteers already active in the project.

OAR is a national movement to encourage the readjustment of persons who have served time in a local jail. This readjustment to community life is accomplished by establishing a one to one relationship with an inmate and maintaining that relationship following the person's release.

Cayuga is the first county in New York State outside of New York City to initiate this program to date. The state OAR steering committee, chaired by Mrs. Sally King of Auburn, is formalizing its organizational status.

Included in the training orientation was a tour of the local jail facilities and a discussion with Sheriff Robert Sponable about jail regulations.

An all-day session included a presentation of the philosophy of OAR by Mrs. King. An ex-inmate in the correctional system shared his views of life in a jail, and a

BWM Retreat Underway At Nativity Parish

Brockport — The Better World Movement team of Father Josh McGoldrick, Sister Gemma and Anthony Keating are conducting a retreat for more than 80 families in Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish this week.

Both Father McGoldrick and Sister Gemma were members of a team last Autumn which brought Better World to St. Joseph's Parish in Penfield.

Father Robert Gaudio, priest intern at the parish, noted that the retreat has given the area families a chance to "come together as Christians, praying, and to highlight their responsibilities in the community, and to expand and define their responsibilities to grow as a community of people."

The Better World group will close the retreat tomorrow evening, April 17.

New Date Set For Legion Acies

The Legion of Mary Acies, postponed because of the weather, has been rescheduled for 3:30 p.m. Sunday, April 20. Father Clarence W. Gardner, chaplain at the Auburn Correctional Facility, will give the homily at the rededication ceremony.

series of role playing and critiques were designed to help the volunteer explore a typical situation of dealing with the incarcerated individual. A discussion of the goals and regulations of the program and a general review of the local criminal justice system familiarized volunteers with the municipal and county court systems.

The session concluded with an informal supper.

Asked about permitting OAR volunteers to work in the jail, Sheriff Sponable said any help the OAR program could provide to the inmate would be good. The sheriff's department does not want people coming back to jail either, he said, but, of course, regulations of the jail must come first.

Sheriff Sponable indicated that in the past people from the community who came to the jail came to see some specific person. The OAR program, he said, is potentially available to all the inmates. He noted that volunteers should be given credit for their involvement since they are not being paid and have been consistent in their visiting.

Assignment of an available OAR volunteer is made only on the request of an inmate. Miss Mary Monnet, a drug counselor stationed at Auburn High School, joins other OAR volunteers as interviewer who make the initial contacts with inmates at the county jail.

Miss Monnet, who holds a BS in psychology and sociology, also has completed graduate work towards an MA in psychology at SUNY in Oswego. She has been a part time psychology instructor at Auburn Community College.

"The fact I am with OAR in a volunteer capacity is a definite advantage. Many inmates are leary of professional help as they feel the worker is doing it as part of his job," Miss Monnet commented.

"I find when working with inmates at the county jail, there is a general lack of ability to trust another person. Confidentiality of the relationship with the OAR volunteer helps the inmate begin to learn the sense of a trusting relationship.

"Many of the problems faced by the inmates revolve around a vicious circle. They see themselves as down and out, and tend to associate with others who feel the same as themselves on the outside. The OAR volunteer tries to break through the cycle by developing a sense of trust and an opportunity for encouragement in the community following his release," Miss Monnet explained.

Keith Batman, chairman of the OAR steering committee noted that the "concept of OAR is social change." By meeting an inmate's

needs, he said, OAR also is focusing the attention of the community on the problems faced by people coming out of jail.

He said that OAR asks agencies to provide ways to deal with persons being released from jail. Inmates, he said, "don't need what they need because of being in jail, but are usually the people in the community who have been the most deprived in areas of jobs, housing, education and similar circumstances. As attention focuses on the problem, this process leads to change."

St. Monica Parents Unite To Raise School Funds

St. Monica parish needs \$9,000 to keep the wolf from the school door, the parish council finds.

That's \$9,000 this year, and \$9,000 next, and that is as far as the projection goes.

About 50 couples have organized under the name of Concerned Parents to start the money flowing. They propose to arrange at least one event each month, involve the school children and their parents in preparations, and "not only raise the needed money, but develop an even greater community spirit," according to Beverly Zimmerman.

She said the interracial group was planning a dance for May 17 and a jazz concert for June 8. All of the major activities will be "of general, not just parish, interest," she said.

Father Edward Zimmer, pastor, outlining the situation for the parish, pointed out that the school had "exactly a 50-50 black-white ratio," that 37.3 per cent of the pupils were from Christian denominations other than Catholic, and that the families were in various socioeconomic brackets.

"I believe education is the first step in interracial and ecumenical living," he said. "We believe education is the cornerstone of justice and peace."

"We believe we are running a school because it is different,"

Father Zimmer continued. "It does teach religious values; it does teach discipline with a spirit of love; it does give good example in the persons of beautifully dedicated men and women teaching our children."

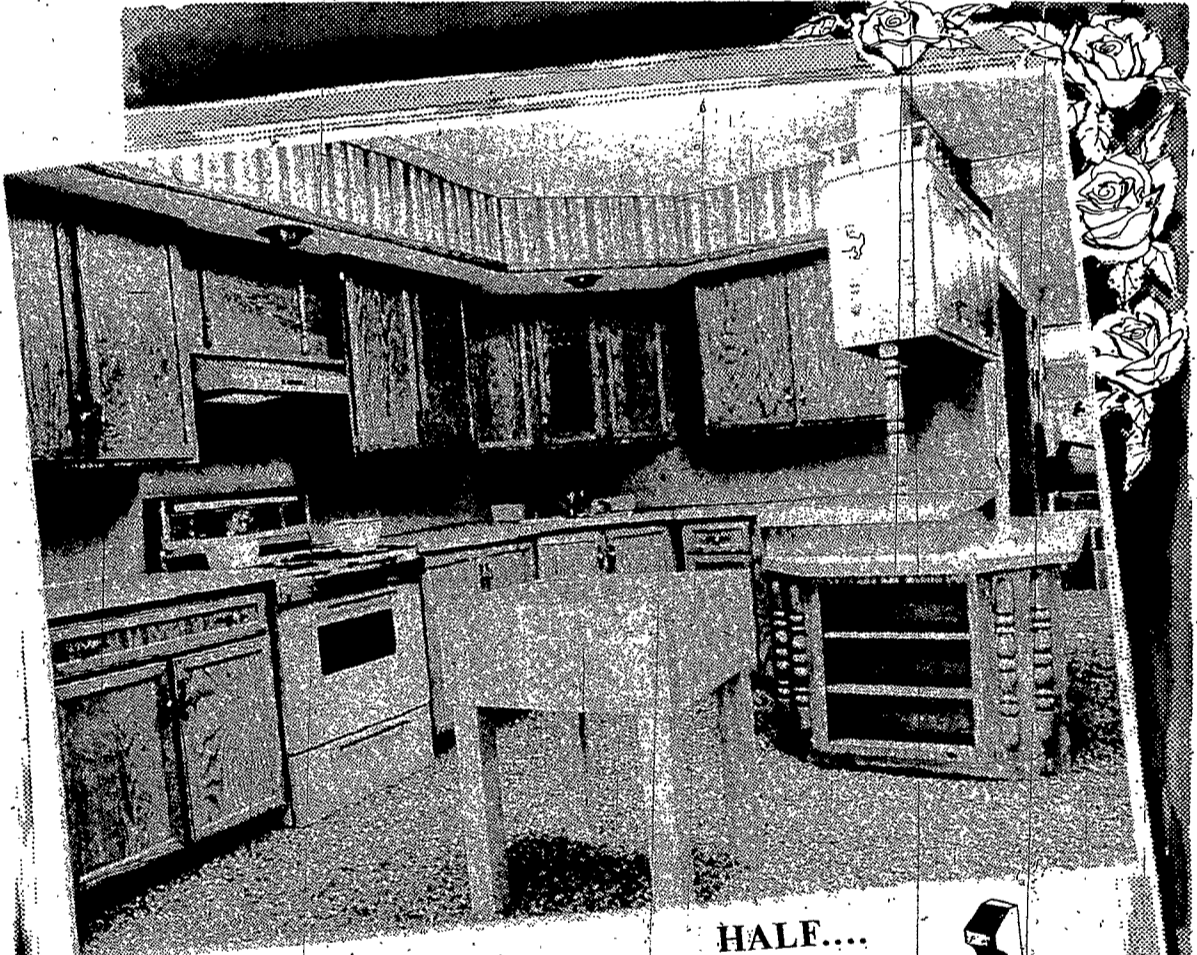
"We believe it teaches Christian values and does give extra service to the children and parents of our community. An unusual number of parents agree with us."

Noting the disintegration of the Catholic school system in the inner city, the pastor said "positive and daring steps" should be taken at St. Monica's. Otherwise, he warned, "we could be next."

Business In The Diocese

Timothy P. Baumer has been named manager, employee relations, computing business operations, and affirmative action manager for Xerox Corporation's information services division.

Baumer, who graduated from LeMoyne College with a degree in industrial relations previously held positions in labor relations, compensation, employee relations and affirmative action.



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