



The St. Catherine's choir. Organist Polly Hixon on left, Msgr. William Roche, and director Mary Cooke, at far right.

## Ithaca: Something To Sing About

By MARGARET D. KERR

Ithaca — St. Catherine of Siena is rejoicing with its new and spirited choir, after several years without one. In early Fall Mary Cooke agreed to form and direct a choir and the response was immediate and enthusiastic.

A group high in esprit de corps quickly grew, and developed a repertoire which draws heavily on classic church composers. They include Tallis, Palestrina, Bach, Mozart, Schubert, Remondi, Montani and Handel.

The congregation has responded with love. One Sunday afternoon a woman appeared at Mary's door with a steaming apple pie. "I never thought I'd hear that kind of music in church again," she said, "and I had to go home and bake you a pie!"

St. Catherine's pastor, Msgr. William M. Roche, says: "The music of the choir makes the liturgy come alive. It provides a prayerful spirit which helps the entire congregation to enter into the fullest sense of participation."

Choir members speak affectionately of their director: "Mary is a devotional person... she is an excellent musician... has a sense of humor... she is in touch with the spirit of the

music, and communicates its warmth." Mary received her B.A. in Music from Trinity College in Washington D.C., and had directed several college choirs and school choruses. She taught vocal music in the elementary and junior high grades in Immaculate Conception School in Ithaca for four years.

Accompanying the choir is Polly Hixon, who has been parish organist for almost two years. She received her B.A. in Music from Ithaca College and has been a vocal and organ soloist in several Ithaca churches. She is also a private teacher of organ and piano. Pat Webster is St. Catherine's substitute organist.

Choir members are Pat Ackley, Barbara Appel, Jean Babcock, Chuck Benson, Mike Billing, Jack Burris, Mary Ella Christie, Will Cooke, Lena Faben, Terri Fox, June Leagans, Carolyn Lucas, Joan Lucas, Betty Matyas, Lynne Michael, Don Myers, Albert Nedd, Gay Oliver, Dick Salerno, Mary Lou Starr, Joan Turcotte, Pat Webster.

Jack Burns and Will Cooke also sing in local opera companies, and Terri Fox and Lynne Michael are part of a madrigal group. The bass voice of Father Andy Buchele, student resident at St. Catherine's, is welcome when he is not the celebrant.

## OAR Gets OHD Cash

Auburn — A \$3,600 grant was voted for the Cayuga County Offender Aid and Restoration Program by representatives of the regional Human Development task forces meeting in Rochester to consider proposals submitted from throughout the diocese, according to a spokesman for the Cayuga County Task Force.

All proposals were reviewed by the regional task force representatives who voted the final selection. In this instance, following repeated tie voting, \$3,600 was awarded to the OAR

proposal and \$2,400 went for a house repair project submitted by Steuben County. The money was divided based on a percentage of the total amount requested by the project proposal.

Each task force in the diocese was asked to submit one proposal from those requesting funding in compliance with the criteria set by the Office of Human Development. Some \$6,000 was available through the office.

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## Capitol Letters

The issue of social justice for the unborn is a thorny one for some politicians and avid proponents of the Equal Rights Amendment. Both dodge the issue by saying "We are against abortion but believe the woman should have the right to choose." This, of course, precludes the Human Life Amendment which would restore legal protection to the unborn and prevent other innocent unwanted people from being defined as "not capable of meaningful existence."

Let us examine the conclusions of the Supreme Court Decision on abortion to understand the necessity of a Human Life Amendment:

"(a) For the stage prior to approximately the end of the first trimester the abortion decision and its effectuation must be left to the medical judgment of the pregnant woman's attending physician." (Note that this does not read "between a woman and her doctor.")

"(b) For the stage subsequent to approximately the end of the first trimester, the state, in promoting its interest in the health of the mother, may, if it chooses, regulate the abortion procedure in ways that are reasonably related to maternal health."

"(c) For the stage subsequent to viability, the state, in promoting its interest in the potentiality of human life, may, if it chooses,

regulate, and even proscribe, abortion except where it is necessary, in appropriate medical judgment, for the preservation of the life or health of the mother."

The court then defined health: "We agree... that the medical judgment may be exercised in the light of all factors — physical, emotional, psychological, familial, and the woman's age — relevant to the well-being of the patient. All these factors may relate to health."

Because of the practically unlimited definition of health (of the mother only), the unborn child from fertilization until birth is essentially considered valueless under the decision which is now the law of our land.

Members of the Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Amendments to make recommendations to the Senate on the proposed Human Life Amendments are: Senators Birch Bayh (D-Ind.) chairman, James Eastland (D-Miss.), Quentin N. Burdick (D-N.D.), James Abourezk (D-S.D.), Philip A. Hart (D-Mich.), Hiram L. Fong (R-Hawaii), Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.), William L. Scott (R-Va.) and Charles Mathias (R-Md.). Address: U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510. Please take time to write them, urging support of a Human Life Amendment.

[Compiled by Jeannette D. Sweeney]