

# Profiles Issued On Legislators

By BONITA BALDWIN

This morning in a press conference at the Office of Human Development Sister Frances Sweeney released Profiles of the Monroe County Legislature, a collection of interviews with nearly all of the county legislators.

Similar studies have been done on the national level by Ralph Nader and on the state level by New York Public Interest Research Group. Judy Wehrin of OHD stated that it is hoped that the Monroe County study will serve as a model for other counties.

All participating legislators were interviewed late last year by volunteers from their own districts. The 29 questions asked each lawmaker were prepared by Sister Frances and a five-member lay advisory board.

Sister Frances explained that the county's importance as a

governmental unit has grown immensely over the last ten years. Mass transit, consumer protection, and metropolitan planning now have their primary focus at the county level. She added that the new kind of decision-making role that is evolving, together with relative fiscal stability, places the county in a unique position to mold areas of contemporary concern.

The Profiles report the responsibilities of the legislature, who the legislators are, how they view their roles, and what their priorities are. Information is included on their background and committee involvement, also.

This November, the county legislature will face election. Sister Frances said that she hopes the Profiles will serve as a basis for understanding trends in the legislature. During the summer a study guide of the Profiles will be made available and next fall a series of "Town Meetings" organized in conjunction with church and community groups will bring together candidates and community people for an informed discussion of neighborhood and county issues, Sister Frances projected.

Copies of the Profiles may be obtained from Sister Susan Schantz, OHD, 328-6400.

## GRADUATION

Elmira — The largest class in the 67-year history of St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing graduated in ceremonies held Sunday at St. Peter and Paul's Church. Father Cyril Guise, OCD, hospital chaplain, presented nursing diplomas to 54 students from New York and four other states.

## The Church 1975



Fr. Andrew Greeley

Some of my friends say that I should lay off the Jesuit-sponsored Center for Concern in Washington. "They are nice people," I am told, "and you hurt their feelings when you criticize them."

Heaven forbid that I should hurt the feelings of any nice person, but consider an article by Joseph Holland of the Center in a recent issue of "The Ecumenist." Our country, he tells us, is in the control of elitist managers and manipulators who run a system "forged in ecological and human destruction and manipulative mind control." The American economy is founded on waste and repetitive production of junk. American people are blinded by propaganda and forced to participate in the orgy.

The American system is a beast, every day more mechanized and "cybernetized." It produces goods and fights wars practically without people. American society refuses to support creative imagination, refuses to provide security and dignity for its workers, and instead "forces them to battle with one another and to sell their bodies and even their souls in the open labor market."

American farmers are responsible for the world's food shortage because they raise their prices (which were not forced up, apparently, because of the worldwide commodities shortage and the Russian wheat purchase).

The American system is engaged in "human sacrifice," and the American union movement is filled with "powerful corruption, racism, sexism, and narrow chauvinism."

And the American people are guilty of murder.

It is a mind-boggling indictment, totally innocent of any comprehension of the complexity of international economics and of empirical data to support the generalizations. Holland's admirers and supporters will argue, I suspect, that he is engaging in "prophetic prophecy" and not serious analysis.

That the analysis is not serious, I will freely concede, but I wonder about prophecy, about economic subjects which he manages to jam up with so many half-truths, inaccuracies and falsehoods in so few pages. What do you say to someone who accuses American trade unions of racism and chauvinism when the labor movement, more than any other single segment of American society, has worked consistently and vigorously for racial and sexual equality over the last half century (admitting the failure of some individual unions)?

What do you say to someone who has so little respect for the people of the country that he really thinks they are blinded by propaganda? What do you say to someone who tosses out accusations of human sacrifice and murder about a country that has poured hundreds of billions of dollars into foreign aid, and whose people last year gave 219 million dollars in private foreign economic aid? What do you say to someone who pictures the American people selling their souls in the labor market? What do you say to someone who blames Americans and not the oil-producing countries for the high cost of fertilizer? What do you say to someone who urges his readers to turn to Karl Marx for a vision of "the qualitative genetic mutation in the experience of the human species" (whatever the hell that means)?

But heaven forbid that I should say anything to hurt Joe Holland's feelings.

There are enough things in American foreign and domestic policy that need serious, penetrating, responsible criticism, heaven knows, but such narcissistic prancing and posturing, such romantic and emotional self-indulgence is lunacy and not serious criticism.



## Back to Africa

Clarence A. Amann, associate professor of English at St. John Fisher College, will leave July 24 for a three-week study tour in Nigeria, West Africa. The trip is supported by several grants, including a Fisher faculty award. In the summer of 1972, Amann visited East Africa. His objective in these specialized studies is to provide black studies for white students.

## ME Meetings Scheduled in Elmira Area

Elmira — A series of Marriage Encounter information nights will be held in the Elmira-Corning area starting Saturday and running through next Tuesday.

The information nights will be at various churches in the area and are open to persons of all denominations. The program will last one hour.

The nights will be at St. Charles Borromeo, Oakwood Avenue, Elmira Heights, 8:15 p.m., Saturday; St. Casimir's, Davis Street and Roe Avenue, 2 p.m., Sunday; St. Patrick's Church, Park Place and West Clinton Street, 7 p.m., Sunday; Our Lady of Lourdes, West Church Street, 8 p.m., Monday; St. Patrick's, Dennison Parkway, Corning, 7:30 p.m., Monday; Oakwood Methodist Church, Oakwood Avenue, Elmira Heights, 7:30 p.m., Tuesday; and at St. Mary's Southside, Franklin Street, 7:30 p.m., Tuesday.

Marriage Encounter is a program aimed at making good marriages great marriages.

## Board Elections

Elmira — Judge Daniel J. Donahoe was re-elected chairman of the Board of Directors of St. Joseph's Hospital at the annual membership meeting held last week.

Thomas Lynch and James Swartwood were named to the honorary board of directors as well as Sister Florentine MacCarthy, one of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester.

All other members of the board were re-elected, while Sister Marie Michael, also a member of the board, will serve as secretary.

## PENN YAN ACTIVE

Penn Yan — On Saturday, May 10, Father Thomas McVeigh served Communion to the first communicants and welcomed them into St. Michael's family. Forty youngsters received Confirmation administered by Bishop John E. McCafferty on May 22. These new Soldiers of Christ committed themselves as responsible members of the Catholic faith, and were welcomed into their community by all the parishioners. Ruth Morse, parish secretary, said that their active Parish Council has recently held elections and soon will announce the results.

## FIELD MASS

The 58th annual Field Mass of the Knights of St. John and Ladies Auxiliary will be offered at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery on Sunday, June 22, at 10 a.m. The celebrant will be Bishop Dennis W. Hickey. The public is invited to attend.

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