



### A Valentine Surprise

The post office certainly had its work cut out for it delivering the huge Valentine's Day card from the Aquinas Courier-Journal readers to RapAround's news editor, Joan M. Smith. It was a delightful surprise, and it is these unexpected remembrances which make working with young adults and the schools so rewarding.

### Adult Ed At St. Catherine's

Ithaca — Parishioners from St. Catherine of Siena are participating in an ambitious adult education program.

The adult program includes a

morning bible study with Father Robert Downs leading the study on the Old Testament. "Marriage Today," a three-week discussion of the sacrament of Marriage in the Catholic Church, is being led by Father John Maloney, pastor. The

course began on Feb. 5 and will continue Feb. 12 and 19.

Father Downs also will discuss the book "Who is a Catholic?" with adults and teenagers on Tuesday evenings beginning Feb. 24. A four-session program, designed for adults interested in becoming active with youth groups, will meet Thursday Feb. 26.

## DSC

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Development. Some DSC members questioned the need for such a body, and asked if the proposed \$12,000 initial budget would be for salaries and office expenses only. Perez assured them that the money would fund programs as well as pay operation costs. No vote was taken. The proposal will be taken to the sisters of the diocese, who will be able to attend informational meetings before deciding.

Father Robert Miller appeared before the council requesting approval of the concept of a Mission Task Force to consider further diocesan missions. Father James Boyle had spoken on the subject at the December DSC meeting, and the task force was approved after a few questions. The council approved a \$1,700 budget for the DSC, the same as last year's.

### Capt. McKay

A Mass of the Resurrection for Capt. Thomas McKay, (U.S.A.F.) will be celebrated at St. John the Evangelist Church, 2400 West Ridge Road, Greece, on Saturday, Feb. 21, at 9:30 a.m.

Capt. McKay's tragic death in Korea was reported in last week's issue. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery on Feb. 6 following a Mass of Christian Burial celebrated in the chapel at the cemetery.

### FAMILY PLANNING

A Natural Family Planning Information meeting will be conducted at Holy Rosary school, 420 Lexington Ave., Friday, Feb. 20 at 7:30 p.m. Instructors will be Mr. and Mrs. Richard O'Hara, trained family planning counselors. More information is available from the Catholic Family Center, 546-7220.

# Group's Target: Learning Disability

By MARTIN TOOMBS

Why can't Johnny read, or write, or do arithmetic? Why can't Jane? They are neither stupid nor lazy, but something is holding them back: a "learning disability."

As their troubles pile up in school, they begin to think they lack normal intelligence. Most likely, they are wrong in this, according to the people who are trying to identify their problems.

Estimates that 20 per cent of the population is affected by a learning disability indicate that it's a problem that is just beginning to get the attention it deserves. Attempting to increase public awareness is the Monroe County Learning Disabilities Association. A chapter of the Health Association, located at 973 East Ave. in Rochester, the association concentrates on education of parents and professionals. Parents need to know the nature of their child's problem, and professionals need to be able to recognize learning disabilities.

Mary Kirkwood of the association says that what they would like most is to put themselves out of business. That can only happen when everyone becomes aware of potential problems and is prepared to help the children affected.

A learning disability is anything that prevents a person from using the full range of his intelligence. When it is not recognized, the student often is treated as though the problem were a lack of intelligence. Eventually, learning disabled children may start to believe they are "dumb."

The Learning Disability Association deals with a wide range of problems. Some of the children reverse printed material: "was" becomes "saw" or a "b" becomes a "d". Other children have trouble remembering what they hear or read; some are unable to write. Hyperactivity is also a learning disability; a student who can't sit still or concentrate is unable to learn.

Early diagnosis in the schools is necessary, so the special instructions required may begin early. Bonny Boll of the association has been working as a liaison with the Rochester diocesan schools. With the help of Sister Edwardine Weaver of the diocesan Department of Instruction, testing for learning disabilities will be available for all the schools in the diocese next fall. Ms. Boll also notes that several Catholic schools, either through a reading teacher or a learning disabilities expert, are beginning to offer special programs for the children affected.

Seminars for professionals and parents are an important tool of the association to educate people about learning disabilities. Mary Kirkwood noted that many times a student's problem is identified, but the parents aren't told what it means, or what they can do to help. The next parents' seminar to be offered by the association is scheduled to begin Feb. 23. Anyone interested in attending may register by calling the association at 271-3540.

The lack of general knowledge on learning disabilities was pointed up recently by a segment on the CBS Television show "60 Minutes." Mary Kirkwood reports that a local man who watched the program recognized his son's problem and called CBS in New York. They referred him to the National Association for Children with Learning Disabilities who referred him to the local office. Mrs. Kirkwood hopes that people will become more aware of the problem and the services available here.

In addition to the education efforts, the association has begun to deal with a problem they had not expected. Meetings of parents revealed that their children often have social problems as well as learning disability. A self-image of being "dumb" or "different" may be the reason. To help the students, the association now sponsors a social and recreational program for teenagers who have a learning disability.

## Priests Council

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together into private associations for a greater voice in Church affairs.

Celebrated and controversial cases included some West Coast organizing to form priests' unions. In Rochester, an alliance called the Priests Association of Rochester (which recently voted to disband itself) was growing.

The organizing "was a demonstration of the fact that the priests wanted a voice in the Church," he said.

"I think Bishop Sheen was very smart in heading that off by getting proper representation in the structure of the Church," he said.

Conceding, "I really don't know what was in the man's mind," Father Marvin cited principles of collegiality, subsidiarity and shared responsibility which Bishop Sheen himself noted in his talks and letters for the creation of the council.

On PAR, Father Marvin noted that that body recently recognized that the Priests Council was so effective a voice in the diocese that it disbanded itself.

He lauded PAR for raising certain issues in the council. Father Marvin was never a member of the association.

Over the years, the Priests Council has done an "excellent" job in tackling such issues as new processes for the selection of bishops, a permanent diaconate program, the Diocesan Pastoral Council, the Priest and Deacon Intern programs, schools, the grievance board, to name only a few.

Early on, "There was an awful lot of identity crises," Councilmen agonized over who they were, their position in the Church. They agonized about what is shared responsibility.

"We built it in an excellent way, although we did it through trial and error, an awful lot of agonizing," he said, "a lot of soul searching, a lot of mistakes, but also a lot of triumphs."

"We at least took the risks. And even though we made mistakes we weren't afraid to try again."

"I think we even made the Sisters Council realize, in a better way, their role as a consultative body."

"We have never refused to cope with any subject, no matter how difficult it may be, that the bishop has put on our agenda." And we've never been afraid to take the risk to bring things out in the open that may be a confrontation with the bishop.

As for the future, Father Marvin noted that he expects the council to be getting away from "purely internal matters, salaries, housekeeping," in its deliberations. "I think we are beginning to realize our competence as the Priests' Senate is that we are one with the Bishop and what he is concerned about we are concerned about. Anything that would come under the heading mission of the Church. We've got to be visionaries. Instead of being concerned about a lot of concrete things, we should spend a lot more time talking about true mission of the Church."

"We should be concerned about

responding to needs of the Church of Rochester," Father Marvin said.

"And we should know what those needs are, realistically. I'm talking about the total needs of the Church. I don't mean physical things. I don't mean temporalities. I'm talking about needs for efforts for evangelization, religious education, youth social issues. All those things we should get our teeth into more, our heads into more."

In the past, he said, the council became entangled in solving immediate problems. He called it the "bandaid approach." This, he asserted, is not the function of the council. "We are not a problem solving group," he stressed.

"We should set directions. We should set into existence proper institutions and programs" for meeting needs, he said. The Priests Council is not the forum for solving the needs themselves.

### OPEN HOUSE SET

Auburn — Cayuga Counseling Service, formerly the Cayuga Family Center, will hold an open house from 2 to 5 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 22 in their new office on the second floor of 80 North St.

"This will provide area residents an opportunity to visit our office, meet our personnel and ask questions about services and agency directions," said Paul Kelly, executive director. United Fund agency individual counseling, marital, parent-child and adoption services are offered. The agency is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday with Monday evening appointments by request.



Feb. 20, 1887, Cardinal James Gibbons successfully defends the workingmen's organization, the Knights of Labor. In the latter part of the 19th Century industrialization brought about much exploitation of labor by capital. Workers had no organization to stand for them but the Knights of Labor, a semi-secret fraternity. Unfortunately, on petition of the Archbishop of Quebec, the Holy See, in 1884, banned the Knights to Catholic membership because secret societies were forbidden to Catholics. Cardinal Gibbons of Baltimore, backed by most American bishops, strove to reverse the Roman decision. In a well-conceived memorial to the Vatican, he declared that the Knights were not truly "secret," that its members' grievances against employers were genuine, and that they would make the condemnation of the Knights of Labor as a sign that the Church had abandoned the poor. Moved by Gibbons' reasoning, the Holy See decided to withdraw the ban on the Knights. Gibbons had vindicated the workingman's belief that the Church was on his side. — Rochester Diocesan Bicentennial Commission.