

Teen Seminar Is 10 Years Old

Canandaigua — Young adults from around the diocese have been invited to Notre Dame Retreat House on Sunday, Aug. 15, to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the founding of Teen Seminar in the diocese.

According to organizers of the event, several thousand people have participated in the program during the past decade.

Teen seminar originally was a program of the Redemptorist Fathers under the direction of Father Richard Moran, CSSR. At that time the sessions were held at Notre Dame Retreat House, then located on Alexander St. in Rochester, under the title of Christian Family Seminar.

It was designed to give teen agers an experience of Christian community.

Seminar heads say that many people who participated in the early programs are now serving their communities as teachers, nurses, doctors, lawyers, priests and religious.

When the Redemptorists moved Notre Dame to Canandaigua, they brought Teen Seminar with them. In 1970 Father Dennis Kelleher, CSSR, succeeded Father Moran as

head of the program, but the following year he was given a new assignment by his order.

At that point the diocese assumed responsibility for the program and appointed Father Robert Hammond as its head and Dottie Hoysic as its lay coordinator.

Under a new format and direction, Teen Seminar provides an opportunity for a personal experience of Christ through witness, sacraments and scripture, with much of the three-day experience spent in small and large group activities.

Teen Seminar is now staffed by two priests and adults and teenage veterans of the program.

Organizers of the Sunday celebration see the day as an opportunity to renew old acquaintances. They are expecting several persons from the earliest days of the program to attend.

The day's festivities will begin with a social hour at 2 p.m. followed by a Mass and a buffet. A \$2 donation has been requested and reservations may be made by writing Seminar, Box 8454, Rochester, N.Y. 14618, or by calling Dottie Hoysic (716) 381-6921 by Aug. 9.

GEM, Reorganized, Names New Director

The Rev. Lawrence E. Witmer has been named executive director of the newly reorganized Genesee Ecumenical Ministries (GEM). Mr. Witmer, community minister for the American Baptist Churches of Monroe County, will assume the new post Sept. 1.

Eight Protestant denominations, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester, and the United Church Ministries, a coalition of minority churches, participate in GEM.

Mr. Witmer has headed GEM's urban education team for five years. He replaces the Rev. Melvin Hoover, who has been interim director during the past year, serving with the Rev. Gordon Gilbert, president.



REV. WITMER

GEM's board was reorganized last month to create the Ecumenical Strategy Board, made up of two decision-making individuals from each participating denomination. Father Charles Mulligan, director of the Office of Human Development, and Msgr. George Cocuzzi, vicar for Urban Ministry, represent the Catholic diocese.

Mr. Witmer said that his role was to "represent and act on behalf of

area churches, and to report back to those churches. It is my very great pleasure to have the opportunity to lend my energy, skills, and devotion to this ecumenical effort."

Service projects sponsored by GEM include the Judicial Process Commission, Hanover Houses Ministry, Education Resource Network, and the Pastoral Counseling Center.

Nine Community Groups Seek 'Bugging' Probe

Nine Rochester-based community organizations called for an "immediate court hearing" into allegations that the Monroe County District Attorney's office used illegal surveillance in the Hall of Justice. The charges were brought by the public defender, Peter Yellin, last week.

The organizations, including FIGHT, the Judicial Process Commission, the Rochester Interfaith Jail Ministry, and the diocesan Office of Human Development, called for "an open and full court hearing into the allegations of improper and possibly illegal eavesdropping by the Monroe County District Attorney's office."

"We are gravely concerned,"

their statement continued, "to learn that the D.A.'s office applied for and a county court judge approved the placing of an electronic listening device in a Hall of Justice room commonly used for private, confidential conversations between attorneys and pretrial detainees."

"Such eavesdropping could only occur against persons in custody — poor persons who do not have the resources to secure release on bail."

"In addition, other serious allegations have been made that additional 'bugging,' not approved by a judge, may have occurred in the Hall of Justice and County Jail. These allegations, if proved, constitute eavesdropping without court approval, a felony under state and federal law."

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