

Must Relate to Real World, Educators Told

By MARY-ANN GINNERTY

Geneva — Ecumenical ventures, and blending of parochial schools and of catechetics with the social action apostolate to bring religious education into relationship with the real world are ways the Church can come to grips with religious education today, according to Msgr. Norbert Henry, director of Religious Education for the Syracuse Diocese.

Catechists, the teaching of he said. Critical to religious education is the continuation of the discussion of whether liturgy should be a means of education to bring forth love of God, the speaker noted.

Msgr. Henry was speaking to religious education coordinators and priests from the Yates-Ontario-Wayne and Seneca-Cayuga

regions at St. Francis De Sales in Geneva, Oct. 13.

The development of fulltime religious education coordinators on parish staffs has put religious education into the realm of professionalism based on experience and expertise, he said.

Parental involvement in sacramental programs allows parents to assume more responsibility for the religious education of their children.

Problems of which religious education people must be aware include breakdown of family life and the need to come to terms with such pressures, polarization of parishes, fewer vocations, which caused staffing problems, and limited church affiliation which calls for developing a diversity in faith communications, he said.

Msgr. Henry said that the role of

clergy continues to be crucial as the need to be visible and available, non-threatening and supportive, in order to encourage the development of community among his own staff as well as the parish. Religious educators themselves must seek their own educational as well as spiritual development, involvement in decision making, and develop support groups and accountability, Msgr. Henry said.

New programs such as youth ministry are needed to motivate involvement. The Catholic school crisis does affect greatly what we do as our whole educational system in the past has been based on it, he said, adding that religious education of all people is needed.

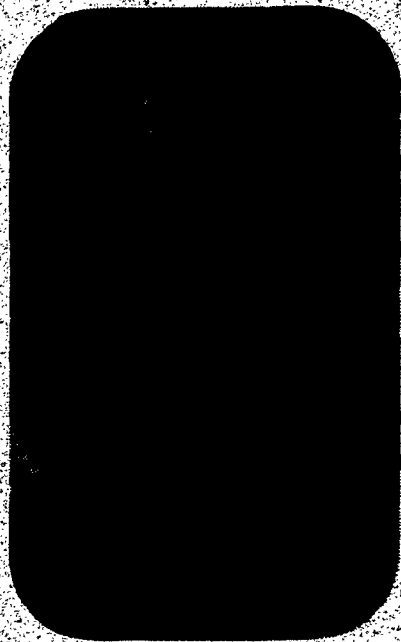
Msgr. Henry said more family centered programs should be developed, but not at the exclusion of the single adult, the divorced,

the elderly, handicapped and retarded.

Religious education has been too long teaching children and playing with adults, he said. Adult education at diocesan and parish levels deserves staffing and funds, he said, and it should be the culmination of catechetical efforts as it allows the teaching of the full message, for faith is an adult, mature commitment to Christ.

Significant signs to watch in the future of Church, he said, will be the pastoral team ministry base, establishment of the permanent diaconate, and continuation of Christian family movement, Marriage Encounter and Cursillo.

The development of the National Catechetical Directory based on the broad consultative base will help clarify the direction of religious education, and integrate theology and methodology, Msgr. Henry concluded.



MSGR. HENRY



Father Sebastian Falcone speaking at Scripture Sunday.

Scripture Sunday Draws 100

By MARTIN TOOMBS
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira — More than 100 persons attended Scripture Sunday at St. Patrick's Junior High Oct. 17, and heard Father Sebastian Falcone and eight other speakers discuss Scripture from a variety of perspectives.

Father Falcone, academic dean of St. Bernard's Seminary, was the keynote speaker, after which the others, including a local minister and rabbi, conducted the workshop sessions.

The turnout was greater than the organizers, PACE (Personal Alternatives to the Christian Experience), had anticipated.

The workshops dealt with specific aspects of Scripture: Our Lady, Father Bartholomew O'Brien; prophecy, Bernard Rutzke; the family, Rev. Hugh Smith; Bible study groups, Sister Jean Rodman; reading the Bible, Sal Ruriani; liturgy, Father David Fedor; community service, Father Daniel Formey; the Old Testament's meaning today, Rabbi Phillip Aronson.

Father Falcone examined problems that can occur in Scripture interpretation. He said that it is important for speakers on Scripture to say "it means this to me," and not "it means this," implying that the point is not debatable.

He also said that it is important to examine what the Scripture meant at the time it was written, as the only way to learn the meaning that was intended by the writer. He noted that Pope Pius XII said in 1943 that for a text to be studied properly, the time in which it was written must also be studied. Without that study, Father Falcone said, errors can be made, because the reader brings his own perspective to the reading rather than that of the writer.

"It is important to understand what a parable is," Father Falcone continued, and the best way to do that is "by studying what it was." First we must get back to "what it meant," he said, and then ask, "What does the text mean to us today?"

To explain his point, Father Falcone cited two parables that were misrepresented in the past. During the 17th Century, he said, the parable of the prodigal son, dealing with the compassion of God, was used by some homilists, emphasizing the story's beginning when the son takes his money and begins to travel, to extoll the "growth in, of all things, foreign travel," Father Falcone said.

He also noted the parable of the workers in the vineyard that were all paid for a full day's work even though starting at different times, was used in the 19th Century to justify inequitable wage scales.

The "most important point," Father Falcone said, is that faith is "the process of understanding God," and that the inherited values of faith will help a reader of Scripture to determine how to proceed. "Where faith and facts intercept," Father Falcone said, we can decide how to act.

Open Houses Set, Officers Elected

Coming — The Coming Area Catholic School Board of Education at its October meeting announced plans for an Open House at its two schools. Coming Catholic School South will be open Wednesday, Oct. 27 from 7-8:30 p.m., and Coming Catholic North October 28, from 7-8 p.m.

Officers for the 1976-77 school year also were elected. Richard Mizzoni will serve as president, Mrs. Dominic Ferreira, vice president, Mrs. Gene Tunny, secretary, and Father Michael Hogan, treasurer.

SOUTHERN TIER AUBURN-GENEVA

St. Mary's Sets Parish Mission

Canandaigua — Redemptorist Father Paul Bryan, formerly of Rochester, will conduct a mission at St. Mary's Oct. 30-Nov. 3.

Father Bryan is rector of St. Clement's Mission House in Ephrata, Pa., and pastor of an Ephrata parish. In Rochester, he was stationed at the former St. Joseph's Business High School. He also taught at St. Bernard's Seminary.

The mission will open with a Cana Night for married couples, at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 30. The Sunday service will be at 5 p.m. Masses, sermons and discussions are scheduled for 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. on the remaining three days.

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Elmira — A women's retreat will be given by Father Bartholomew O'Brien, pastor of St. Mary Our Mother, Horseheads, at Our Ladies Villa Retreat House, Mt. Pocono, Pa., May 20-22. Registrations are currently being accepted by Mary Fitzgerald, 729 W. Clinton St., 734-7439. No deposit is required at this time.

ANNUAL DINNER

East Bloomfield — This year's Election Day dinner at St. Bridget's will be chicken and biscuit, served from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m., and 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 2. There also will be a bake sale throughout the day in the parish hall on Church Street.

SOUTHERN TIER NEWS

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Assessment Problems Discussed by Board

Elmira — Discussion of the assessment for St. Peter and Paul Parish for the support of the Chemung County General Education Board and of the assessment formula itself occupied the major portion of the October meeting of the Catholic school board Oct. 14.

St. Peter and Paul has protested its assessment, which is nearly \$2,000 higher for 1976-77 than it was for 1975-76, even though St. Peter and Paul has fewer students in the system, has had an income decrease, and an increase in expenses for the maintenance of a now empty school building. Thomas Sheppard, chairman of the parish's financial committee, told the board.

T. H. Banks, school system business manager, pointed out that the assessment rates are figured in the Spring, at budget time, and the attendance figures used are the ones for that year. He noted that for the St. Peter and Paul assessment to be analyzed accurately, it was necessary to use last year's figure of 90 students, and not the figure of 67 students this year, which will be used for next year's assessment.

In respect to the maintenance of empty school buildings, Father

William Burns, pastor of St. Anthony's, noted that such expenses were also a problem for his parish, and might be considered in future discussion of the assessment formula.

Sheppard said that St. Peter and Paul "can not and will not pay more than \$33,000" of its \$40,700 assessment. James Danna and Mrs. Eileen McCarthy, representatives of St. Peter and Paul on the board, moved and seconded a motion to accept the \$33,000 as full payment. Banks was asked if the \$7,000 difference could be made up in the budget. He replied that he did not see where, and asked for the tabling of the motion. The motion was tabled, 13-4, and the issue will be examined by the board finance committee.

Board president Lawrence Stephens asked if there was a motion to ask the finance committee to examine the assessment formula itself, but no motion was made.

In other action, the board heard of special programs in the four schools of the system, of Walkathon plans, and Banks' report that revenue projections for the year, based on enrollment figures, will meet the budget.

\$10,000 Goal Set For Walkathon

Elmira — The second annual Chemung County Schools Walkathon has been scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 13. Students of the Chemung County Catholic School System and Notre Dame High School will sell sponsor tickets, costing \$1 each, to benefit their respective schools.

The three-mile, one-hour walk will begin in St. Patrick's parking lot at 1 p.m., and go to Notre Dame High School by way of Park Place, Second Street, Lake Street, and Maple Street. Parade marshal will be Elmira Police Chief Thomas Donnell. Area politicians, public figures, and diocesan leaders have been invited.

Under the theme "Earning for Learning," organizers have set a goal of \$10,000. Poster contests publicizing the event are under way in the schools, and soon the

students will begin soliciting sponsors.

At the end of the walk, a reception at Notre Dame will be given for the walkers, and awards will be given to walkers and sponsors.

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