



**Anointing Service**

Father Thomas Corbett (left), and Father Patrick Seelman, associates at St. Mary's, Elmira, administering the Sacrament of the Sick to the 100 Catholic residents of the Chemung County Nursing Facility in Heritage Park recently.

**Chemung Unemployment Discussed**

Elmira Heights — At the invitation of Father Joseph Gaynor, regional coordinator, priests of the Chemung-Schuyler Region met recently at St. Charles Borromeo to discuss the situation caused by the layoff of 1,200 Westinghouse workers in Horseheads. Father Gaynor and Father Neil Miller, Appalachian Tier, Office of Human Development, discussed the severity of the unemployment problem in the area and what parishes can do to help.

As of October, there were 3,000 unemployed persons in Chemung County, or 7.4 per cent of the work force. On Dec. 1, the 1,200 Westinghouse workers were added to that figure. Father Miller told the group, possibly raising the unemployment to more than 10 per cent.

Father Miller described the benefits being supplied the laid off workers by Westinghouse, and distributed information concerning various programs that could benefit the unemployed. He also noted that funds were available from church sources. Bishop Joseph L. Hogan has offered assistance, he said, and is awaiting suggestions for what type of aid would be most beneficial. He also noted that assistance is available through the diocesan Disaster Relief Fund, the Bishop Sheen Housing Foundation,



Manger in front of the Knights of Columbus building in Auburn. The glass in front looks as if it is protecting the figures inside.

and the Campaign for Human Development.

Those present discussed local parish activities that would benefit the unemployed. Being on watch for those unemployed, and making the parish more conscious through sermons on the problems caused by unemployment were suggested.

**School Board Discusses Parish Assessment**

Elmira — Ss. Peter and Paul's assessment for the Chemung Catholic School System was the main topic at the monthly meeting of the Chemung County General Education Board, Dec. 9.

The conflict began in May 1976,

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according to Father Edward Foy, pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul, when the parish council rejected the increased parish assessment. Father Foy said that no response to the rejection was made by the board and he questioned the eight months that have elapsed without consideration by the board. Ss. Peter and Paul's Parish Council has told the school board that it "cannot and will not justifiably pay any more than \$33,000" of the \$40,700 assessment.

Father Foy said that the primary problem was the "injustice of the whole situation." Specific problems he cited include the loss of population in the parish, the closing of Ss. Peter and Paul school by the school board in June 1976,

the maintenance cost for the school building, now borne by the parish, and a \$20,000 inclusion in the school system budget so that Our Lady of Lourdes School could remain open instead of Ss. Peter and Paul.

T.H. Banks, school system business manager, reported on a meeting he had with diocesan officials at which it was concluded, he reported, that "no negotiations should be entered into with Ss. Peter and Paul Parish" noting that the budget was "arrived at fairly, based on exact information known," and "Ss. Peter and Paul having been bound and not objecting to the use of the formula for previous years" should pay the full assessment for the current year.

In a voice vote the board approved a delegation consisting of board president Lawrence Stephens, board treasurer John Brusso and Banks to meet with Father Foy and the parish council to negotiate an acceptable solution to the problem to be presented to the board at its January meeting.

In other action, the principals reported on Christmas activities at the schools, and the implementation of a program in art for the second semester utilizing students from Elmira College as instructors. Matt Fennell reported that the Walkathon raised \$5,400 for the school system, "250 per cent higher" than last year. He noted that 4.2 tickets per student were sold, with St. Mary's Southside,

selling more than six tickets per student. The board also discussed science education, and agreed to meet during 1977 at St. Mary's Southside - Toombs

**St. Ann's Alumni**

Homell — St. Ann's Alumni Association recently presented the school with a check for \$1,000. Officers also were elected. Francis Argentieri was elected president; Joseph Aini, vice president; Mary Ann Glynn Argentieri, recording secretary; Betty Griswold Cipalla, treasurer, and Mary Watt Falzoi, membership secretary. The alumni unit also made plans for a spaghetti dinner at the Sons of Italy Hall in February.

**A Bit (\$5 Million Worth) Of the Old West in Corning**

By MARTIN TOOMBS  
Southern Tier Editor

Corning — Customers of Rockwell's Department Store in downtown Corning don't seem surprised that one of the largest collections of Western art is on the walls of the store, and in a city noted instead for its glass museum. They seem to take it in stride when the collection's owner, who also owns the store, shows a visitor about,

pointing out paintings by such noted Western artists as Frederic Remington and Charles M. Russell, while greeting customers and employes.

Robert Rockwell's collection, decorating his store on Market Street, has outgrown the walls of the three-story business. Rockwell estimates that he has more than 4,000 pieces in the collection, which includes paintings, bronzes,

and toys from the West, and a collection of Carder Steuben glass.

The best of the Western art has recently been moved, just down the street to the Rockwell-Corning Museum, located in the former Baron Steuben Hotel. Many of the best paintings formerly in the store and on loan to museums around the country have been brought together for a display that Rockwell emphasizes is "not a sample" of Western art but "the greatest pictures by the greatest artists."

Rockwell estimates the collection's value at \$5 million, with half of the value on display in the new museum. A native of Colorado and a 40-year resident of Corning, Rockwell began the collection in 1960 when he discovered that few such collections existed, and he felt that the art should be preserved.

Rockwell's office in the store is an art museum itself; the walls are covered with prints and paintings. Rockwell talks easily about the artists and their work, referring to the paintings around the room to illustrate his points. He referred to the time he has spent traveling to locate the artwork, as "fun time."

A deep appreciation for the art depicting the West is obvious when Rockwell speaks. He explains how Remington used black and white for his paintings, often used as magazine illustrations during the

1880-1890 era. He points to drawings done by Remington for a classic edition of Hiawatha, which the publisher found just a few years ago. "Remington is the most important," Rockwell explained, because "he brought the West to the East." Remington "would ride with the cavalry" and make sketches, Rockwell explained, and then return to New York State to do the actual painting.

"The greatest of all painters is Charles M. Russell," Rockwell said, and proudly noted that the painting that has been called Russell's best is on display in the museum.

The depiction of action in the paintings and bronzes is "unique about the whole Western collection," and a major reason why there is such interest in the collection, Rockwell said, and that "especially kids like it."

One painting by the artist Norman Rockwell, which is on display in the museum, was the

cause of a communication between the two men, who are not related, Rockwell said. Rockwell the artist told Rockwell the collector that he did not remember when or why he had done the painting, but thought it must have been for a boys magazine, either Boy's Life or St. Nicholas. He also said that he was happy that the painting had found a good home, and belonged to a Rockwell.

Rockwell's opinion of modern art is not surprising. He said that most people "can't figure out what (modern art is) supposed to be. I don't think it means anything anyway."

"Here you don't have to try to understand art," Rockwell said. "People come in and see it and understand it. They know what it is."



Rockwell with Western art in background. Photo by Martin Toombs

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