Variety Marked Week of Prayer

By MARY ANN GINNERTY

Auburn—"Ecumenism is taking our faith onto the front lines, into the community where the action is," said Father James C. Enright, president of Auburn - Interfaith Ministries (AIM). Father Enright was asked to share his views on ecumenism last week just prior to the begining of the week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Jan. 18-25.

"We tend to keep ecumenism locked into one week of the year when we should be saying Yes, I believe in my faith and I accept yours. Now lets get on with the building of a Christian community," he said.

Father Enright observed that the biggest hinderence to ecumenism is a "two-fold fear." The first would be Christians belonging to one church feeling ecumenism is out to destroy their traditions. The other is the fear a person will discover some things he really didn't want to know as it might cause a crisis in his faith.

"There are people who would like their religion in comfortable little boxes. Once they begin to see different interpretations of the same faith in Jesus Christ, it puts a demand on them to see how diversified and universal our Christian faith can be," he said.

"Of course I believe in my worship as the fullest way possible and welcome others to join me. This does not restrict others from finding their own expression of the gospel as fulfilling for them," he said.

Father Enright, associate pastor at St. Mary's, Auburn is serving his second term as president of AIM. The voting membership includes any church or synagogue in the area requesting membership as well as community resources recognized as religious in philosophy. Lay persons and clergy serve as representatives.

"People need to understand ecumenical groups like AIM are not going to solve all the problems. It is not intended to be a religious community, but rather to provide opportunity for sharing and a reaffirmation of deepening the spiritual forces in the community," he said.

"It is important to stand together in a world that almost says Christian faith isn't worth it, in the face of the atheistic subculture we live in. There are times it is important to be willing to stand together against some of the tides in our society."

Father Enright ended saying "here in the Rochester Diocese we are fortunate our bishop has set the tone by bringing the teaching of Vatican II into reality through example in his own life. It is the simple things like being seen publically in ecumenical situations, supporting ecumenical efforts and ministries sharing that we all learn by his example. If the movement is to succeed, it takes all of us together, clergy and the people in the pews."

SOUTHERN TIER — AUBURN-GENEVA

St. Mary's Wins Trophy

Sister Julia Clare, principal of St. Mary's School, Elmira, and Alicia Gillette admire the trophy the school won as a result of the Chemung County Catholic School's Walkathon. St. Mary's won the trophy for leading the county in sales per student and Alicia was the top salesperson. She accounted for 200 of the more than 1600 $1 tickets St. Mary's students sold.

Suggestions Invited For Chrism Mass Hymns

Auburn — The Cayuga-Seneca Regional Liturgy Committee is inviting parishes and individuals to suggest hymn selections for the Chrism Mass slated for April 5 at St. Mary's here.

The invitation is in keeping with the emphasis of involvement by the whole diocese symbolized in the rotation of the location of the Chrism Mass.

The committee hopes to include hymns which would be familiar to most people. It will make the selections public so participants in the Chrism Mass can fully lend their voices and spirit to the celebration, a committee spokesperson said.

Suggestions may be sent to Father James C. Enright, St. Mary's Parish, 15 Clark St., Auburn, 13021 by Feb 1.

Assessment Problem Resolved in Elmira

By MARTIN TOOMBS
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira—The Chemung County General Education Board resolved the Ss. Peter and Paul assessment problem and approved raises for most of its employees for the 1977-78 school year at its regular meeting Jan. 14.

The Ss. Peter and Paul assessment had been challenged by the parish council. Donald Stamp of St. Casimir's reported for the Finance Committee that the parish reported a significant drop in income, and its enrollment in the school system had also decreased. Stamp reported that the parish agreed to work to meet a payment of $34,000, and would add anything to that the parish was able to.

The Personnel Committee report, made by Thomas Callahan of St. Mary's, recommended increases of $212 for all lay teachers, in addition to step increases. Raises were also proposed for custodians, teacher aides, school secretaries, and the business manager. The committee projected the total cost of the raises at $25,419. The raises were approved by a vote of 15-0.

The board discussed outstanding tuition payments for the current school year; T. H. Banks, school system business manager, reported that 44 per cent of the tuition is outstanding, and that nearly 100 families have not made any tuition payment. It was concluded that Banks would contact the pastors to see if some of the families should be considered for the scholarship program, and that those with outstanding payments would be billed each month for the amount outstanding.

The board also discussed plans for Catholic Schools Week, beginning Feb. 6. The schools will conduct special events to commemorate the week, and Lawrence Stephens, board president, told the board of an invitation to participate in a special Mass for Catholic Schools Week to be celebrated by Bishop Hogan in Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Registration for next year was tentatively set for Catholic Schools Week, with details to be determined by the Registration Committee. Father Francis Davis, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes, moved that the registration fee, required of each family registering, not be applied to the tuition, as it has been in the past. The motion was approved after some discussion.

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Canisteo To Be Site Of D and S Meeting

Canisteo—An organizational meeting for a Canisteo-Hornell area divorced and separated Catholics group has been scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 6, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Joachim's Parish Center, 10 Green St., Canisteo.

Father Thomas Burr, pastor of St. Joachim's, and Sisters Rene and Augustine will be the group's advisers.

Sister Kathleen Kircher, diocesan Coordinator of Ministry to the Divorced and Separated, and Father James Lawlor, clergy liaison for the ministry, will speak to the group.

Any divorced or separated Catholics from the area are welcome to attend. The parish center is located just off West Main Street in Canisteo. For further information, contact Father Burr, 698-4034.

SKILL OLYMPICS

Elmira Heights—On Friday, Feb. 11, the local chapter of the Vocational Industrial Clubs of America will celebrate National Vocational Education Week by hosting the state Area II Leadership and Skill Olympics at the BOCES Bush Area Education Center, 431 Philo Rd., Elmira Heights. Students from the 18-county area will compete in leadership and skill contests, concluded with a banquet and awards ceremonies.

ON THE RIGHT SIDE

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

The old admonition before the marriage ceremony was a jewel which sparkled with wisdom, holiness and honesty. "...You take each other for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health until death do you part..." I have noticed that when the occasional priest uses this admonition at weddings instead of the new and less beautiful successor, the congregation sits in thoughtful meditation.

Many years ago a newly married couple came to an Air Base where I was chaplain. After some months the young wife came and asked for instructions in the Catholic Faith. She was well grounded in her own denomination. And she was almost the most intelligent person, man or woman, I ever instructed. It was a joy to discuss the truths of the Faith with her. She became a Catholic, and an ardent one. Her husband was a good supporting man. And the two proceeded to raise a whopping big family.

Priests often give great praise to parents of large families without quite appreciating the great problems and heart aches as well as the joys and the delights which come from the great vocation of marriage. I think that most of us priests do not quite fathom the profound nobility of good parents.

Each Christmas I receive a report on the family, and it is instructive. This year the letter begins: "We always enjoy your Christmas letter, and whatever interesting reading matter you include. I can't remember how complete a resume I sent last year. Here is a run-down on this tribe of ours as they look in the bi-centennial year.

Jack: 28 — in California, working as an auto mechanic and still trying to pull his life together after many wasted years in the drug scene.

Mel: 27 — a contented housewife and mother of two, a part-time nurse in the hospital.

Jerry: 25 — living at home again; working as a truck driver and helping tremendously with the continuous decorating which goes on in a 75 year old house.

Lisa: 24 — living in Canada, helping to manage a cooperative food exchange. She was married, but is now divorced. She visited us last June. It was lovely to have her home.

Jed: — graduated from Teachers College, but has not found a teaching job yet. A recent hair cut may improve his chances.

Peter: 22 — serving a 4 year enlistment with the Air Force. He is with the Security Police and loves it. He is anxious for an overseas assignment.

Dennis: 21 — living in Jersey. He does not seem to stick with anything very long and is probably our biggest worry right now. If you have any extra prayers, he can use them!

Renata: 17 — will be graduated from High School this year. Talented girl, active in many school projects and CYO; works part time in Burger Chef.

Kathie: 19 — working as a jewel worker; and going steady with a very nice, stable young man.

Millie: 16 — is interested in physical therapy and works hard on charitable projects for a hospital for handicapped children. She is a part-time waitress at a local restaurant."

There are five more: 14, 11, 9, 7, and finally the five year old who is described thus: "Kevin: 5 — Spoiled! (How could he miss?) But gradually learning the world does not revolve around him. He keeps mom moving."

This is an honest description of "for better and for worse, for richer and for poorer, in sickness and in health until death." To me these are the Grass Roots people who are superlatively honest, faithful, devout and worthy of the praise that is given to the saints. May they be an inspiration to other parents who realize that they are not alone in the difficult vocation of family life.

ME Sets Program For Nuns

A marriage encounter weekend experience "adapted for religious women" will begin at 7:30 on Friday, Jan 28 at Our Lady of the Poconos. For further information of the the program interested sisters may write or call Sister Jean Rodman, 811 Westlake St., Horseheads, N.Y. 14845, 607-739-8214, or write Jack and Sandy Logue, 54 Crestmont Rd., Binghamton, N.Y. 13905.

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