

SOUTHERN TIER AUBURN-GENEVA

YOW to Hold Lenten Series

"Marriage is the Human Condition," a lenten series sponsored by the Yates-Ontario-Wayne (YOW) Region, begins at 7 p.m. on Feb. 27 at St. Michael's Church in Newark. The program is a series of six presentations dealing with problems in marriage and marriage enrichment.

Father Robert O'Neill, official of the Diocesan Tribunal, Sister Kathleen Kircher, Separated and Divorced Ministry coordinator, Thomas Hanson and Joanne Lytle, of the Family Enrichment program, will be guest speakers.

According to YOW

Interfaith Workshops To Examine Scripture

Horseheads—A follow-up to the Scripture Sunday last October has been planned by PACE (Personal Alternatives to the Christian Experience), the adult education committee of the Chemung-Schuylers Region. Four workshops have been scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 20 from 2 to 5 p.m. at St. Mary Our Mother School.

Rabbi Philip Aronson of Congregation B'nai Israel will continue the subject he discussed in October, "The Old Testament—Its Meaning Today." Rev. Hugh Smith of the Northside

Community Church will discuss "God's Plan for the Family." Scripture and Prayer will be addressed by Father Neil Miller of the Appalachian Tier Human Development Office, and Father Paul J. Ryan, associate pastor of St. Patrick's, Elmira, will discuss a "Comparative View of Moses and Christ."

Those attending will be able to participate in two of the one-hour workshops. The afternoon will conclude with a prayer service prepared by the four workshop leaders.

Assemblies Schedule In L-S Region

The Livingston-Stauben Region clusters will meet Sunday, March 13 to discuss the "Call to Action" resolutions and to conduct other business. Father Charles McCarthy, regional coordinator, has announced the three clusters will each meet from 3 to 5 p.m. The Bath-Corning cluster will meet at St. Mary's School, Bath; the Dansville-Hornell cluster will meet at St. Mary's School, Dansville, and the Livonia-Genesee cluster at St. Thomas Aquinas in Leicester.

The delegates will discuss, amend and vote on selected key issues from the "Call to Action" conference, elect two delegates to the Diocesan Pastoral Council, and deal with other business introduced by assembly members. Proposals to be considered should be submitted to Father McCarthy, St. Gabriel's, Hammondsport, before March 1.

St. Patrick's Programs Set

Owego—Catholic School Week Activities at St. Patrick's School include special liturgies, community service projects, and opportunities for the community to get to know the school. Today, Wednesday, Feb. 9, the students will be making cards and favors for local shut-ins. Parents are invited on Thursday at 10 a.m. to see each class demonstrate a folk dance it has learned. On Friday, at 11 a.m., a special Mass will be celebrated, and in the afternoon a talent show will be given.

MEETING TONIGHT

Geneva—Father David Kelly, professor of moral theology at St. Bernard's Seminary, will speak tonight at St. Francis School at a meeting of divorced, separated and widowed Catholics. His topic: Dating and Sex for Single Catholics—the Church's View. The meeting is scheduled for 7:30. The group that arranged it plans also a family Mass for 5 p.m. Feb. 20, to be followed by a pizza party in the school.

Alumni Organizing At Immaculate

Ithaca—Graduates of Immaculate Conception grammar school are forming an alumni association to "strengthen programs and improve facilities" of the school, according to a letter to be sent soon to graduates.

The association also hopes to organize regular reunions, beginning this summer.

Several local alumni have established an organizing committee, and are trying to locate all the school's graduates. Bulletin notices have been used to contact local alumni, and soon a letter will be mailed to other graduates.

Carl Yengo is chairman of the committee; Miss Anne Tressy, a committee member, reported that they are currently attempting to update a list of graduates compiled in 1970 for a reunion.

Dues for the organization have been set at \$5 yearly, with the money being used for the school. Alumni association members will

also receive the quarterly parish newsletter, Immaculate News.

Alumni who have not been contacted can notify Yengo, 214 Bryant Ave., Ithaca, NY 14850.

Regional Meeting

Seneca Falls—An agenda revision which will allow 15 minutes of open discussion on any concern from the floor was adopted at the Jan. 18 meeting of the Seneca-Cayuga Regional Assembly. This "open forum" segment will be a regular part of the region's meetings from now on.

At the same meeting, Patricia Sullivan, Cayuga Seneca representative to the Diocesan Pastoral Council, asked for regional reaction to a new DPC proposal that calls for a decentralization of liturgical services by providing a liturgical consultant to each region's liturgy committee.

The Seneca-Cayuga region is also beginning their plans for this year's Christ Mass at St. Mary's Church, Auburn. The next assembly will convene at 7:30 p.m. on April 19 at Sacred Heart Parish, Auburn.

Registration Dates Planned

Elmira—Registration for the 1977-78 school year for the Chemung County Catholic Schools has been scheduled for the week of Feb. 13-20. The first session will be Sunday, Feb. 13 from 2 to 5 p.m. at St. Mary's Marian Center. On Tuesday, Feb. 15, registration will be at St. Peter and Paul School from 7 to 9 p.m. Families also will be able to register their students at St. Casimir's auditorium on Wednesday, Feb. 16 from 7 to 9 p.m., and on Sunday, Feb. 20 from 2 to 5 p.m.

PARENTING

Binghamton—A workshop to introduce the new Evenings for Parents Program has been scheduled March 13 at the Women's Gym, SUNY Binghamton. The Evenings for Parents program was developed by Father Charles Gallagher, SJ, and Rev. Lyman Coleman, a Presbyterian minister. The new program is designed to give parents an opportunity to see their full potential and to share their successes with others.

The seminar will be conducted by Father Gallagher and Father Thomas Morrow of the Brooklyn diocese. For further information, contact Robert and Joan Dizer, 11 Gail Drive, Owego, NY, (607)687-1416.

Intensified CCD Program

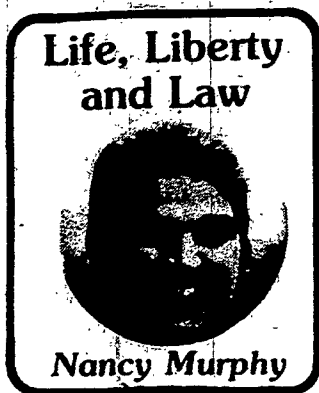
Shortsville—Assisted by Mrs. Mary Ellen Johnson, Father Joseph Sasso, parish administrator of St. Dominic's, organized an effort to upgrade the parish's CCD program. The response was direct and on Sept. 9 a special 16 week course was launched for CCD teachers and prospective converts. The subject matter included: Basic Notions of Religion, The New Rite of Reconciliation, The Commandments, and The Liturgy. Because of the program's success, the parish has four converts and six diocesan accredited CCD instructors.

MEETING RESCHEDULED

Corning—The first meeting for Corning area divorced and separated Catholics has been rescheduled for Feb. 24 at 8 p.m. in St. Patrick's Hall, 274 Denison Parkway East. Father Louis Vasile and Sister Agnes Catherine of St. Patrick's are organizing the meeting, which will feature talks by Sister Kathleen Kircher, diocesan Coordinator of Ministry to the Divorced and Separated, and Father James Lawlor. All interested divorced or separated Catholics are invited.

BELFAST KIDS

A Buffalo organization chartered as the Belfast Summer Relief Fund plans to bring 160 children to Western New York in late June for a six-week vacation from North Ireland. Anyone who would like to take in one of the children, or to contribute money, should write to Belfast Summer Relief Fund, Box 103 Ellicott Station, Buffalo, N.Y. 14205.



Nancy Murphy

Thus far this series on Value Clarification. (Also referred to as Cognitive Moral Education, Circumstance Morality and other titles) has concentrated on Dr. Jean Piaget. Dr. Piaget sees total moral maturity as moral autonomy, that state in which the child rises above rule-compliance, and obeys only those adult commands or rules which the child thinks of as fair ("internalizing"). Compliance with rules or commands which the child himself has neither written or made is seen as immature or "retarded." Piaget "forces" or "provokes" the child to make value-judgments of hypothetical children in stories which have been "devised" or "constructed" by Piaget—stories which describe behavior that "deviates from the rules (and) results in considerable material damage." Piaget sees adults' rules and commands as "external forces" and teaches that as a child "matures" he learns to resist these external forces in favor of personal "internalizing."

There is another well-known developmental psychologist, one who has expanded on Piaget's fascination with autonomy... and who has gone beyond Piaget's experimental approach. Dr. Lawrence Kohlberg of Harvard University has advanced a definitive stage theory of moral development, maintaining that a child's moral development proceeds through "an invariant sequence" (an unchanging and universal sequence...NM) of three levels, with two "stages" at each level. Children progress from the immaturity of "Stage 1" to the ultimate maturity of "stage 6."

"The Pre-Conventional Level. At this level the child is responsive to cultural rules, and labels of good and bad, right and wrong, but interprets them in terms of... punishment and reward. Stage 1: The Punishment and Obedience Orientation. The physical consequences of the action determine its goodness or badness... Stage 2: The Instrumental—Relativist Orientation. Right action consists of that which instrumentally satisfies one's own needs. The Conventional Level. At this level, maintaining the expectations of the child's family, group or nation is perceived as valuable... not only conformity, but loyalty and support and justification (of the family, group or nation). Stage 3: The Interpersonal Concordance of Good Boy-Nice

Girl Orientation. Good behavior is that which pleases others... "be nice." Stage 4: The Law and Order Orientation. There is an orientation toward authority, fixed rules and a maintenance of the social order. Right behavior consists of doing one's duty (and) showing respect for authority. Stage 4 could well be the stage of the majority of adults."

"The Post Conventional, Autonomous or Principled Level. At this level, there is a clear effort to define moral values and principles which have validity and application apart from authority. Stage 5: The Social-Contract Legalistic Orientation. Right action tends to be defined in terms of individual rights (and) standards which have been critically examined and agreed upon by the community... Right is a matter of personal opinion. Stage 6: The Universal Ethical Principle Orientation (the ultimate). Right is defined by a decision of the conscience in accord with self-chosen ethical principles... These principles are abstract and are not concrete moral rules like the ten commandments" (Note: the authors chose not to use the capital T and the capital C in Ten Commandments; NM).

All quotations are taken directly from the Paulist publication Moral Development, A Guide to Piaget and Kohlberg, by Catholic educators Duska and Whelan. I reject their opinions and conclusions because they are incompatible with Catholic morality and Catholic teaching. I present them to my readers so you can see what is taking place in some Catholic circles today, especially in the areas of sexual oral education. In my considered judgment, this is not Catholic education at all, but Values Clarification; and it is based on the Humanist Religion. (See Life, Liberty and Law, C-J, January and February 1976).

Adult Series Offered

Ithaca—Suffering, death and liberation theology will be among the subjects discussed during an adult education series being sponsored by St. Catherine of Siena. The monthly sessions will be on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. in the parish center.

On Feb. 23, Father Daniel Tormey, chaplain of the Elmira Reception Center, will speak on the "Problem of Suffering." On March 16, Dr. Jules Burgevin, an Ithaca College professor, and Margy Kerr will discuss "Dying and Death." "Liberation Theology" will be the topic on April 20, discussed by Rev. Joel Gagarde and Rev. William Rogers. The final session, May 25, will be on "Marriage and the Family," with the speaker to be announced at a later date.

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