

World Hunger Topic at Conference

By MARTIN TOOMBS
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira—"God is on the side of the poor and hungry" Rev. Scott Paradise told the participants of the World Hunger Conference at St. Joseph's Hospital Feb. 16.

"Those who have food and other resources, have a responsibility to those who do not," he told 20 persons from the area who attended the day-long seminar, which had been offered the previous day at the Episcopal Church of the Ascension on Lake Avenue in Rochester. The conferences were sponsored by the International Justice and Peace Commission of the Catholic Diocese of Rochester, and the Hunger Task Force of the Rochester Episcopal Diocese.

One conference participant asked Rev. Paradise how to confront the rich

with their responsibility to assist the poor. Rev. Paradise asserted that we "have to remember that we ourselves are rich" and that most people in the world have "\$200 per year" to live on.

"It should be no surprise that the issue of hunger" has become very important to Christian Churches, Rev. Paradise told the group, as bread is mentioned so often in the New Testament. An Episcopal minister who works with the Boston Industrial Mission, he noted that the only story of a person in Hell in the New Testament describes a man who refused to share his food with the poor.

One of Christ's activities after rising from the dead was eating with His Apostles, he noted. "Sharing the bread is the most central act of our religion."

Pressing further, he noted,

raises the question, "what is the root cause of world hunger?" "Why is it that when so many people are so rich, so many are so poor?" he asked, and "why is the gap widening?"

One theory, he noted, is that the fault is with the food control system. He explained two methods of food control that were used in the Old Testament. The first was that used by Joseph in Egypt in response to the seven years of plenty and seven years of famine. Joseph bought excess food during the years of plenty, and then sold it during the famine first for money, then for livestock, and finally for the freedom of the people. At the end, the people had been reduced to serfdom, even Joseph's relatives.

The other system was that used by the Israelites when they returned to Palestine. This system, Rev. Paradise

explained, was based on the principals that all land belongs to God, people themselves are made of dust and are related to all other living things, and the earth and its resources are to be shared by all. Every seventh year the land was to lie fallow, he explained, and every 50 years there was a jubilee year when debts were forgiven, slaves freed, and land returned to the original owners.

Rev. Paradise went on to say that since World War II, the world has been moving toward the Egyptian model. "We need to change directions," he told the assembly.

During the afternoon session, discussion centered on projects groups could pursue to help alleviate world hunger. Political activities concerning world trade agreements,

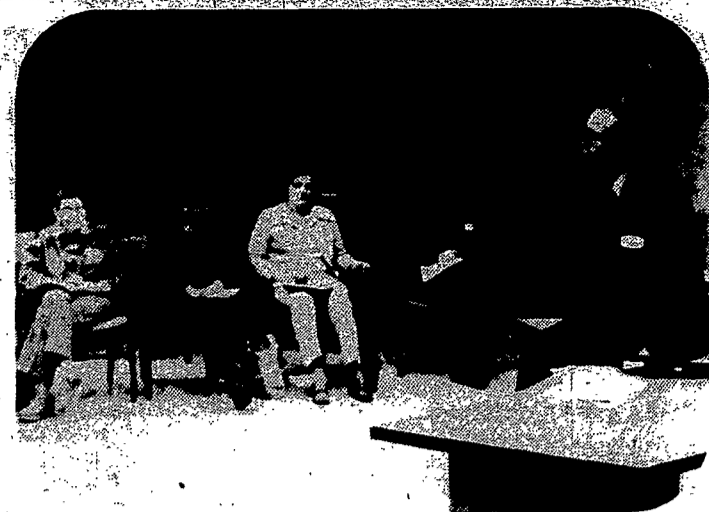


Photo by Martin Toombs

Rev. Paradise at hunger conference.

development and relief aid were discussed.

Educational activities concerning world hunger also were emphasized, and several small-scale projects were suggested. Community gardens in Boston have been beneficial, Rev. Paradise reported, for both educational and practical

purposes. Other local projects suggested included involvement in the Lenten project Operation Bread Box and local efforts to help preserve family farm.

The issue of American's nutrition was raised several times, and a seminar on proper nutrition was suggested as a follow up to the conference.

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Winnie the Pooh

Catholic Schools Week at Blessed Trinity School, Auburn, was celebrated by Miss Ursula Baldwin's first grade on Friday, Feb. 11, with the play "Winnie the Pooh and Tiger Too" and a puppet show entitled "The Sesame Street Clubhouse Party." All the children participated. Those performing were: Elizabeth Arthur, Melanie Chase, Jeffrey Colella, Terence Courtney, Katherine Davis, Heather DelloStitto, Kristin Diego, Melissa Fallon, Tracy Farrelly, Michael Fitzgerald, Jacquelyn Grillo, Caryn Holzhauser, Laura King, Jeffrey Lawson, Bridget Maher, Frederick Norton, Patrick Penafeather, Matthew Petras, Michael Petrosino and Erika Renken.

Fuel Cost Aid Available

Elmira—The Chemung County Department of Social Services, New York State Electric & Gas, Chemung County Office for the Aging and the Economic Opportunity Program are joining forces to help public assistance recipients and other low income persons who have high fuel costs, according to a joint announcement made by David Gordon, executive director of the Economic Opportunity Program, and Ray Fortier, acting commissioner of the Chemung County Department of Social Services.

Dr. Morris Blostein, Chemung County Executive, has been instrumental in coordinating the joint effort, according to the announcement.

Two staff members from the Economic Opportunity Program will be assigned to the Social Services Department to work out new Food Stamp budgets for persons with high heating bills. The agencies urge affected persons to contact the Economic Opportunity Program at 734-6147 or go to the Lagonegro Human Services Center, 319 Madison Ave., Elmira.



Thank You

Catholic Education Week at St. Hyacinth's School, Auburn, ended with a special service prepared by Sister M. Catherine, FSSJ. A representative from each grade read a short thank you for freedoms guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

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NEW POST
Dr. Joseph Casciani, a native Rochesterian and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Casciani of St. Thomas the Apostle parish, has joined the staff of Mercy Hospital and Medical Center in San Diego, Calif., an institution administered by the Sisters of Mercy. Dr. Casciani is a psychologist.



Lourdes Mass

One of the students of Our Lady of Lourdes School in Elmira is reading a petition during the Prayer of the Faithful. The Mass concluded the school's Catholic School Week Activities, and also fell on Feb. 11, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Ice Show, Bus Service Discussed By Chemung Board

By MARTIN TOOMBS
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira—The Chemung County General Education Board discussed a fund raising proposal and the need for the system's contract busing at its regular meeting Feb. 10.

Approved with no negative votes was a proposal by the Ways and Means Committee that the school board sponsor the "Ice America" ice show at Elmira College's Murray Center Monday, March 21. The school board will sell advance tickets, with all income exceeding the \$4,000 fee to cover the cost of the show being profit for the school system.

Matt Fennell led a discussion concerning contract busing, busing which the system provides to students living within one-and-one-half miles of

their school. He noted that the service is costing \$15,000 this year, which amounts to \$15 for each student in the system. T. H. Banks, school system business manager, reported that approximately one-third of the students are eligible to use the bus. Current scheduling problems with the buses, and questions concerning how many of those eligible actually ride the bus were raised. Sister Julia Clare, St. Mary's principal, pointed out that some of St. Mary's students would have to cross a busy street if it were not for the bus service. Those children might not attend St. Mary's if the buses were eliminated, she said.

Several members emphasized that parents should know of the possibility the service will end. Fennell encouraged principals, board members

and parents to contact him. Banks or Lawrence Stephens, board president, to give their views on the need for the service.

In other action, the board heard several reports. Banks noted that the school system is slightly under budget, although utility costs have been over budget. The Finance Committee reported that it is waiting for religious salaries and enrollment figures for next year to continue preparation of next year's budget.

The principals reported on activities in their schools, and the Personnel Committee noted that it was continuing its work on the job specifications for the business manager.

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