

SOUTHERN TIER AUBURN-GENEVA

K of C Makes Awards

Hornell—Grants totaling \$15,000 were presented to Church and community organizations April 14 by Columbus Charities at its first banquet at the Hornell Knights of Columbus Home.

Recipients of the gifts were guests of honor at the dinner, attended by the K of C members who participated in the fund raising program.

Alfred L. Chapman, grand knight, was general chairman of the event; Shawn Hogan made the presentations and introduced the principal speaker, Father Robert MacNamara, pastor of St. Ann's and chaplain of the Hornell council.

Speaking of the "Columbian concept," Father MacNamara said: "Chaucer, in his Canterbury Tales, described one of the pilgrims to the site of St. Thomas A Becket's martyrdom as a 'very perfect gentle knight.' Our members may not think of themselves as perfect but the spirit of perfection pervades every K of C council which is true to its extraordinary heritage.

"The spirit of optimism and the desire for new horizons which characterized Christopher Columbus is reflected in this venture of the Hornell Council. You men have forged ahead in this program to benefit your Church and your community," Father MacNamara concluded.

Accepting the grants were: Father MacNamara for St. Ann's School; Sister Mary Rene for St. James Mercy Hospital; Mrs. Jean

Palmiter for Bethesda Hospital; Thomas Dugo for the United Way; Mrs. Eric Shults for the YMCA; William Rohan for St. Ignatius Loyola Church; Mrs. Andrew Lamb for Hornell Area Right to Life; James Gessner for the March of Dimes; Thomas Cronin for St. Joachim's Church, Canisteo, and Anthony Lisi for the Hornell Symphony. Grants also were presented to St. Brendan's Church, Almond, and the Notre Dame Retreat House, and Mrs. Palmiter received a floral piece for her achievements in cardiopulmonary resuscitation training.

K of C Fourth Initiates 40

Hornell—Forty men from the Southern Tier were initiated into the Fourth Degree, Knights of Columbus at a ceremony Saturday, April 23, in St. Ann's School. Candidates were from Hornell, Bath, Elmira, Geneva and Rochester. The class was named in honor of the late Bishop James E. Kearney.

The ceremony was followed by Mass in St. Ann's Church. After Mass, Knights and guests paraded to the K of C Home for a dinner and dance.

Paul Rombout of Rochester, Fifth New York District master, conducted the ceremony, assisted by Dominic Cortroneo of Geneva and members of the exemplification team. Robert Chapman of Hornell Council 243 was in charge of the dinner and dance arrangements.



Jackie White, Peggy Soule and Doree Epstein discuss the problems of hard to adopt children.

Adoption Discussed In Auburn

Auburn—"Every child, regardless of handicaps, has the right to a permanent home," said Doree Epstein, services coordinator for the New York State Adoption Exchange. "The state-wide pictorial listing of children legally free for adoption in New York State is one means to encourage children finding homes."

Ms. Epstein made these statements in an address to the YMCA-WEIU here, joining her in this community educational effort to

recruit parents were Mrs. Jackie White and Mrs. Peggy Soule, members of the Council of Adoptive Parents (CAP) of Rochester. CAP pioneered in use of pictorial listings of hard to place children.

The New York State Adoption Exchange book which can be seen locally at Cayuga Counseling Services lists a brief biographical sketch of every child. The exchange does not list infants who are easily placed in adoptive homes.

Liberation Theology Discussed in Ithaca

By MARTIN TOOMBS
Southern Tier Editor

Ithaca—Exodus was the recurring theme during the discussion of liberation theology conducted by two Presbyterian ministers at St. Catherine of Siena April 20.

Rev. Joel Gargarde and Rev. William Rogers led the discussion, which several times returned to the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt. Rev. Rogers noted that they were "released from bondage" and "liberated by God." Such liberating acts of God are the source of liberation theology, he explained.

Rev. Gargarde spent two weeks in a Chilean prison before he was released to come to the United States through the efforts of several religious organizations. He had taught for seven years at the Catholic University in Santiago, and currently works with the Committee on United States and Latin American Relations. He also is a member of the diocesan Justice and Peace Commission.

Rev. Rogers works at Cornell, and has spent two years in Brazil, one year while directing a Cornell-sponsored program there.

Rev. Gargarde discussed four ways of examining the Bible, one of them being a sociological viewpoint, which is the basis of liberation theology, he said. He noted that "you approach the Bible from your own context, from your own sociology," when reading the Bible. The result is that "every reading of the Bible is always an interpretation," he continued, if only "when we choose one verse and not another."

Theology from the academic world is based on philosophy, he pointed out, while liberation theology is based on "a very concrete and real (Latin American)

context," which is similar to that of the Israelites.

Rev. Rogers called liberation theology "exciting, but also very frightening and threatening to us," because it threatens institutions in the First World. Rev. Gargarde commented that the defensive response of those in the First World to liberation theology could be an indication of the problem. Liberation of persons means less power for those formerly in power, he noted. The "liberation of the Israelites was bad news to the Egyptians," he pointed out.

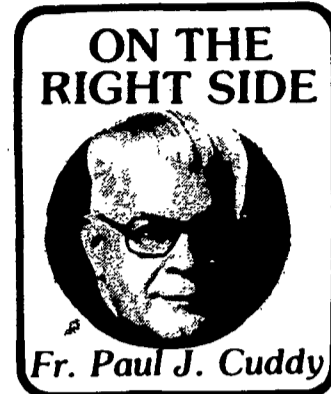
Rev. Gargarde said that after several years of teaching theology, he began to wonder about the relevance of what he was teaching, which raised the question "what does it mean to be a Christian in an oppressive society?" Many Latin Americans, he said, have come to the conclusion that "Christian faith is not a way of dying in peace, but of living in a more meaningful way each day." Oppression in Latin America currently means that "fullness of life is not possible," he stated.

Many who embraced liberation theology began to work for the poor of Latin America, Rev. Gargarde said, and were surprised to find that Marxists were already actively working there. One South American bishop, he noted, pointed out the paradox of the situation, saying that "those who love have no faith, and those who have faith have no love."

Discussing the relationship between Marxism and liberation theology, Rev. Gargarde emphasized that no economic or social system is more Christian than any other. Justice is the central element, he said, to a truly Christian society.



Rev. Rogers (left) listens intently to Rev. Gargarde at the Liberation theology seminar at St. Catherine of Siena in Ithaca.



Has the mission of the Catholic Church changed? There seems to be great emphasis on social and political issues. But there also seems to be total ignoring of grace and the supernatural.

No. The mission of the Church is constant: to teach, govern, sanctify and save all men, to prepare them for eternal life with God. (Mt. 28: 18-20) Social Justice and freedom are part of the mission of the Church. But sanctification is a supernatural gift. It comes through faith and charity. "Unless a man be born again of water and the Holy Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of heaven." (John 3)

But we never hear about grace or sin or eternal life.

You must be in a peculiar parish. Though I do recall a letter from a man who wrote: "I have not heard a sermon on sin in my parish in three years. The sermons are all about love, with a clear insinuation that if I don't like the sermons I am a bad Christian, and not loveable." He belongs to a large parish in Rochester.

I never hear about Purgatory, either.

What a strange parish. If men are concerned about relieving the material needs of their brethren, it is mysterious that they should be calloused about the needs of their brethren in Purgatory. Recently I celebrated Mass in a public chapel. As is my custom, at the petitions I prayed: "For the souls in Purgatory, let us pray to the Lord." After Mass a young man in his early twenties bounded in and said: "Father, that's the first time I have heard purgatory mentioned in six years."

GOSPEL CONCERT

Elmira—The Douglass Memorial AME Zion Church will sponsor a Gospel Music Concert featuring the Var-Son Community Choir of Buffalo and the Zion Church Combined Voices Choir of Elmira May 15 at 6 p.m. The public is invited; donations are \$3 for children and adults in advance, and \$3.50 at the door. Tickets may be purchased from Douglass Memorial Church members or by contacting the parish office, 734-6546.

Purgatory is part of Catholic teaching. (cf. Vatican II: Lumen Gentium #50.) I suppose those revolutionists who restrict religion to picketing, protest and rhubarbs about their own pet projects, but remain silent about grace, purgatory and the redemptive aspect of the Mass will be in purgatory with me.

But I thought purgatory was out.

Good heavens, no! It is a defined doctrine of the Church. To appreciate it I would recommend Cardinal Newman's Dream of Gerontius. It is a beautiful poem of a man dying and seeking purgatory before entering the Presence of the All Perfect God. "Gerontius" refers to aging, as in gerontology. Newman wrote the poem in 1865.

But doesn't the Church have a mission to promote Social Justice and Human Rights?

Yes. The papal encyclicals from Leo XIII to Pope Paul give a consistent teaching of the principles of justice and rights. Vatican II confirms them. Last Sunday Father Brown gave me a splendid 48-page booklet: "To Live in Christ Jesus. A Pastoral Reflection on the Moral 'Life.'" It was published by NCCB (National Council of Catholic Bishops) Nov. 11, 1976, and treats of justice, charity, compassion and sin. If it has a weakness, it is an underplaying of the powerful grip which pride, covetousness, lust, anger, envy, gluttony and sloth have on fallen human nature.

What does Mother Teresa of Calcutta do for social reform?

When asked if she had entered the political field to bring about reform she replied curtly: "No. We are too busy taking care of the poor. That is the work of others." As we study the gospels that seems to have been the methodology of Our Lord. I have a good cassette talk given by Mother Teresa at Notre Dame College, Baltimore. Send me \$3.25, and I will send you this most inspiring and instructive talk. A Webster parishioner bought ten copies, to share the Good News of Mother Teresa regarding social concern and Catholic spirituality.

SOUTHERN TIER NEWS

Martin Toombs
Oakwood Terrace B-1
West 13th St.
Elmira Heights, N.Y. 14903
607-732-3371

AUBURN-GENEVA

Mary Ann Ginnerty
294 1/2 South Street Road
Auburn, N.Y. 13021
315-253-2176

ND Spring Festival Plans Completed

Elmira—Final plans for the Second Annual Notre Dame Parents Association Spring Festival Saturday, May 14 have been completed.

Father Richard Murphy, Howard Lapple and Bob Agan have planned the menus for the day. Mr. and Mrs. Ray Zelko set plans for children's games to coincide with the children's theater being conducted during the afternoon and early evening

hours by Mrs. Claire Reidy.

Roy and Helen Tenny, general chairpersons, announced that in addition to a live radio broadcast, live entertainment will be provided by a Barbershop Quartet and Celebrate Life as well as other musical groups.

Funds from the festival are used to assist in the operation of Notre Dame and to help retain the school's low tuition level.

Mercy Appeal Kicked Off

Elmira—Southern Tier campaign workers for the Sisters of Mercy Infirmary Appeal met at Notre Dame April 24, viewed a slide presentation on the infirmary, and heard from Father Joseph F. Hogan.

The slide presentation detailed the needs of the Sisters of Mercy for a new infirmary, and their plans to renovate the McAuley Wing of the Motherhouse for that purpose. The drive is seeking renovation costs of

\$325,000.

Father Hogan, pastor of St. Vincent's, Corning, noted his long relationship with the Sisters of Mercy and the need for an infirmary for sisters who served the diocese for many years.

Campaign workers in Hornell, Corning, Elmira and Owego will be contacting friends of the Sisters of Mercy over the next two weeks to ask their assistance in meeting the drive's goal.

M. L. ALLEN & SON
Corning, N.Y.
Quality Furniture
62 Bridge St.
Phone 936-8431

A. W. BEILBY & SON
Funeral Home
James Rotsell
Darrell O'Brian
139 Walnut St.
Dial 936-9121
Corning, N.Y.