

Youth Council's Impact Growing Quickly

By MARTIN TOOMBS
Southern Tier Editor

Corning — Less than a year old, St. Patrick's Youth Council has undergone a growth that has "surprised and amazed" its moderator, and has already had an impact on many of St. Patrick's youth as well as the youth of Corning.

The council has sponsored several dances, which have been an indication of its increasing success. Tim Bonomo, council chairman, noted that 35 attended the first dance, and that the most recent drew 110 local youth.

Bonomo pointed out the group's purpose is to show that "you don't have to be walking around with your hands folded to be active in the Church." The social activities, fund raisers and other projects for the parish youth hopefully will "bring them into the atmosphere of the Church," he said. And

now that a following has been established, more programs similar to the special youth Mass the council sponsored on May 2 are planned.

Father Louis Vasile, associate pastor of St. Patrick's and moderator of the group, emphasized that it's the "imagination of the kids, their enthusiasm, action and concern for others" that has been the force behind the council. "I've been surprised and amazed by what has happened" since the council organized last September, Father Vasile noted. What has happened is "because of their enthusiasm and generosity," he added. "These kids are unbelievable."

The Youth Council consists of five advisors, and grade representatives from junior high through high school. The group has a slate of officers, and meets weekly, Bonomo reports.

Money the group has raised has been put to use. A

donation was made to St. Vincent's to help their youth committee get started, and another was made to a migrant assistance group. The council and St. Mary's youth committee are sponsoring the first 140 walkers who participate in a ten mile walk to benefit the Greenhouse Center, as the rate of five cents a mile. The Greenhouse Center is a non-profit rehabilitation agency working with brain-damaged individuals, which meets in St. Patrick's Hall.

The council also has been active in parish-sponsored events, as council members have worked on the decorations for parish adult dances, and they had a booth for children at the parish bazaar. Council members also have spoken at Sunday Masses.

Father Vasile pointed out that "as long as their goals are Christ-centered," as they have been in the past, the future should be bright for the organization.



A scene at St. Patrick's Youth Mass.

First Eucharist Retreat Held Liturgy Series Offered

Apalachin—Preparation for First Eucharist at St. Margaret Mary included a retreat for the first communicants this year.

The 53 members of the First Communion class participated in the retreat, designed to provide a concentrated learning experience on the Eucharist. After an opening prayer, the students examined the bread and wine, and familiarized themselves with their taste. The children also viewed a film on the Eucharist, and practiced for their class reception of the Eucharist. Father Elmer Schmidt, pastor, also discussed the

meaning of the Mass with the class. The retreat was coordinated by Mrs. Lorraine Lunn.

The communicants received as a class on April 30, after most had received their First Communion with their families.

BENEFIT AUCTION

Hornell—An auction sponsored by St. Ann's Mothers Club has been scheduled for Sunday, May 15 beginning at 1 p.m. in the Hornell Knights of Columbus Home.

Proceeds from the auction will be applied to a teacher's salary at St. Ann's. Victor Pirrung will be the auctioneer for such items as furniture, large appliances, household items, antique jewelry and dishes.

SOUTHERN TIER NEWS

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AUBURN-GENEVA

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Corning—St. Mary's Liturgy Committee is sponsoring a month-long series for liturgy planners during May. The sessions will concentrate on planning of Masses; the group will plan a Mass to be offered at the final class.

Directing the class are Father Louis Vasile of St. Patrick's, Father Steven Kraus, Steuben Liturgy Coordinator, and Mary Lou Andrychuk of the diocesan Liturgy Office.

The class began May 5, and will continue on Thursdays, May 12, 19, and 26, at Corning Catholic School South in the AV Room at 7:30 p.m. Those interested should contact Linda Smith, 354 W. First St., Corning.

ELMIRA DCG MAY 22

Elmira—The second meeting of the Elmira Area Divorced and Separated Catholics has been scheduled for Sunday, May 22 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Patrick's Hall, Clinton St. Further information may be obtained from Father Paul Ryan, St. Patrick's, 733-6661.

NEW CHAPLAIN

Auburn—Father James C. Enright, associate pastor of St. Mary's here, was presented a badge recently from Detective James Cioffa, president of the Police Benevolent Association, and Police Chief John T. Costello following his selection to serve as chaplain of the association.

SOUTHERN TIER AUBURN-GENEVA

Marriage Seminar

A seminar to help "educate Protestant clergy about the Roman Catholic (Diocese of Rochester) policy on ecumenical marriages, before, during and after the ceremony" will take place on May 17 at United Methodist Church of N. Chili.

Sister Kathleen Kircher, SSJ, chairperson of the Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs Commission, and Father James Lawlor, associate pastor at St. Charles Borromeo, Rochester, will conduct the seminar beginning at 9:30 a.m.

St. Anthony's Parade

The 65th annual St. Anthony's Day Parade and fireworks display begins at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 11 with religious services at Holy Cross Church, 4492 Lake Ave.

The parade begins at 6:45 p.m. at St. John's Park and Hewitt Street and ends at Ontario Beach Park. The fireworks display is scheduled for 9:45 p.m. at the beach. Any clubs, organizations or Marching Units interested in participating in the parade may contact Parade Marshall Lou Christopher at (716) 865-2126. Rain date for the festivities is Sunday, June 12.

An estimated 6,000 area Cub, Boy and Explorer Scouts will demonstrate a "gamut of modern-day scouting activity" this weekend, May 13-14.

"Scout Show '77, All Out for Scouting" takes place at the Dome arena on the Monroe County Fairgrounds from 7-10 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday.

Boy Scouts will display and demonstrate a wide variety of action-type skills — target shooting with pellet guns, archery, a bicycle rodeo, Olympic-type field events, theatricals and more.

Explorers will show exhibits and competitions with fire fighting equipment. Each post will demonstrate skills in which it specializes. One, for example, is computer operation.

Cub scouts will conduct a pinewood derby with miniature model automobiles of their own construction, show rope crafts, conduct a rabbit race show, puppets, demonstrate shadow box manufacture and play a wide variety of old games out of American history.

Scouts of all ages are now conducting a door-to-door ticket-selling campaign and

on-site sales in booths in plazas, malls and stores throughout the county. Most successful salesmen win valuable prizes.

MCC CELEBRATES

The public is invited to try the new swimming pool at Monroe Community College tomorrow and Friday from 5 until 9 p.m. The college, celebrating its 15th anniversary this week, has scheduled a number of free entertainments and, in some departments, open house tomorrow and Friday, from 3 until 5 p.m. The program includes a musical comedy, Diary of Adam and Eve, which will be performed in Forum West, Building 3, at 8 p.m. Thursday and Saturday and at 1 p.m. Friday. Saturday events include a walking tour of the campus and its archaeological excavations and a drum and bugle corps exhibition. Further details may be obtained from the public relations office, 442-9992.

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ON THE RIGHT SIDE

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

The Albigensian heresy was a part of the Catharist movement in Southern France in the 12th and 13th centuries. It was an odd Neo-Manichean heresy which taught that all matter is evil. Hence suicide was praised, marriage relations condemned, generation an abomination, eating meat a wickedness.

Pious legend has it that Our Lady instructed Saint Dominic in the rosary during these times and that he converted the Albigensians by preaching the rosary to them.

However, pious legend is not always good history. The Bollandists have traced the rosary as we have it to the Dominican Alan DeRupe around 1470. Saint Dominic died in 1221.

What is more important is the fact that this simple devotion has been a spiritual bulwark to 500 years of Christians. It has kept the outline of the life of Jesus and Mary in the memories and hearts of the literate and the illiterate through the meditations on the mysteries of the rosary.

The rosary has been blessed by Mary who is "blessed among women" (Luke 1:28). She encouraged this devotion of the rosary, especially for sinners, at her appearances at Lourdes, France, during 18 apparitions to St. Bernadette in 1858. She made the same encouragement during six apparitions in Fatima, Portugal, to the children Lucia, Jacinta and Francesco in 1917.

Because the new Eucharistic Liturgy involves constant action during the Mass, some who used to say the rosary during Mass, now are not saying it at all. TV, recreation, interminable meetings, and just plain

indifference have thinned the ranks of rosary prayers. The sick and the infirm best testify to the consolation from the rosary, as we see the beads in their hands or on their night stands. Not long ago I visited a very sick elderly woman, whom I had not seen in ten years. She lay in her bed, tranquil, composed, a model of acceptance of the Will of God in practice; and her well-worn beads were clasped like a dearest friend in her hands.

When theologian Karl Rahner was discussing the post-Vatican II attacks on Catholic devotions, especially devotion to the Reserved Sacrament and the devotion of the rosary, along with devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary (Which reminds me of a squib in a recent Rochester parish bulletin. A youngster in religion class said to his teacher: "I know who the Blessed Virgin Mary is, but who is that Saint James Virgin?")—to return, Karl Rahner commented drily: that just because a devotion was not in use in the Church during the first 1,000 years, does not mean it should be discarded. Christ sent the Holy Spirit into His Church, and these devotions evolved and developed under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

I know of no book which explains so graphically the awful disdain for traditional devotions and customs within the Church, including that subtle hostility to the Reserved Sacrament, to the institutional Church and to authentic community life, than the book Decline and Fall of Radical Catholicism by Professor James Hitchcock. He illustrates in print what Catholics, Protestants, Jews and non-believers have seen and experienced this past dozen years.

Example is the best instruction. It is instructive to many of us that Pope John XXIII recited 15 decades of the rosary every day; that Karl Rahner finds the rosary devotion of profit to his spiritual life; that Mother Teresa of Calcutta could not imagine her Sisters and herself doing effective spiritual work without the rosary and their daily Holy Hour.

But these names are

world famous. Especially beautiful to me was the off-hand remark of a mother of five children. She was discussing the rosary devotion, and said, "We always said the rosary as a family in Ireland. Now that we are in the States, my husband and I gather our children for the rosary each night. And each child leads a decade, as my husband and I announce the mysteries." From such families we hope for vocations to the religious life.

Registration Day Set

Elmira—A registration day for the 1977-78 school year for the Chemung County Catholic School System has been scheduled for Sunday, May 15. No late fee will be charged for registering that day, from 2 to 5 p.m. at either St. Patrick's Junior High, St. Mary's or Our Lady of Lourdes' schools. Registration can be made at any location, regardless of the school the student will attend.

Tuition charges for next year remain at \$90 for one student, \$160 for two, and \$170 for more than two. Kindergarten is also available, at \$50 per student. A \$15 per family registration fee will be collected at the time of registration.

AIM Meeting Set

Auburn—"Sex and Our Children" will be the topic of the annual dinner meeting of Auburn Interfaith Ministries set for May 25 at St. Peter and Paul Parish Center here.

Guest speaker Mrs. Coreida Anderson, is associated with The Institute for Family Research, Syracuse University and has taught sex education in parochial schools conducted workshops and written in this educational concern.

Reservations for the 6:30 p.m. dinner may be obtained by calling Meals on Wheels in the day or phone (315) 253-2176 during the evening.

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