



**Parish Council Installed**

At St. Mark's Church, an outdoor ceremony recently was held to install the members of the Parish Council. In the top photograph, Mrs. Carol Malley reads the first Scripture lesson for Mass. Seated are Fathers Peter Bayer, weekend assistant at St. Mark's, and Joseph D. Donovan, pastor of the parish. Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, left, preaches the homily, a lesson on the involvement of the laity in the total life and growth of the parish. Robert Werth, a seminarian at St. Bernard's and a weekend assistant at St. Marks, bears the crucifix at the head of the procession.

**Nazareth Enrollment A Record**

The highest number of undergraduate students in six years has boosted Nazareth College summer session enrollment to more than 1,300 for the third straight year, Elaine Hayden, director of continuing education has announced. The five-week sessions ends Aug. 6.

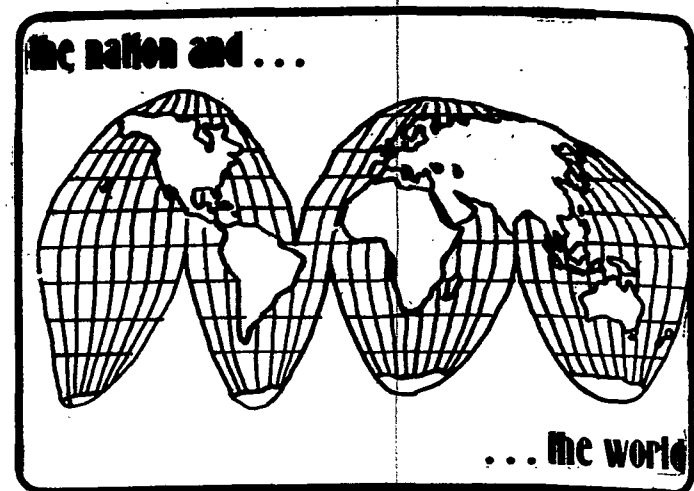
A total of 436 students are enrolled in undergraduate courses this summer compared to last year's 338, offsetting a decline in graduate enrollment from 938 to 853.

This year approximately 60 registered nurses were enrolled in courses required for enrollment in Nazareth's new upper division baccalaureate program in nursing scheduled to begin this year. The program will lead to a B.S. degree with a major in nursing.

The most popular course in the college's undergraduate summer session was a search into the meaning of Alex Haley's book *Roots*, supplemented by the student's search for family identity.

**FIDDLER**

The youth group at St. Louis parish will present *Fiddler on the Roof* at 8 p.m. Aug. 4 and 5.



An unusual report from Great Britain on artificial insemination has drawn strong criticism from *L'Osservatore*, the Vatican City daily. Mrs. Kim Casaldi became pregnant after implantation of semen taken from her husband 16 months before his death and her child was born two years after Mr. Casaldi died. *Osservatore* said artificial insemination is "against evangelical morality... generation must occur in matrimony as the fruit of a simultaneous relationship between the couple..." ...In Santiago, Chile, rebel French Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, under suspension from his priestly functions since July 1976 for illicitly ordaining priests in open defiance of a papal injunction, said that he would remain "firm" and "not bend" in defense of what he called the Catholic Church's "centuries-old traditions."

The National Coalition of American Nuns has urged President Carter to decide against development of the neutron bomb, calling on him to "reject the monster" ... Two bills designed to shield minors from obscene materials have been signed into law by Maine's Gov. James B. Longley. One prohibits dissemination of material which has been declared obscene to minors; the other requires opaque wrappers over books, magazines or newspapers with covers displaying obscene material, if those publications are in areas accessible to children ... President Carter has approved a plan to admit some 15,000 of the more than 80,000 Indochinese refugees who are still stranded on boats and in refugee camps in Southeast Asia. The government has spent more than \$500 million in transporting 150,000 Indochinese refugees admitted since the 1975 takeover of the area by the Communists. Resettlement of the additional 15,000 may cost an estimated \$15 million, according to reports here.

**Churches Face Debate on Homosexuality**

The thorny issue of homosexuality bids fair to become one of the most explosive and divisive subjects to face the churches in the United States in these times.

The bitterly fought campaign in Dade County, Florida, over repeal of an ordinance that guaranteed homosexuals equal rights in jobs, housing and public accommodation focused nationwide attention on the question of their civil rights. The question can be expected to embroil the churches in painful controversy for years to come.

In the wake of the overwhelming rejection of the rights ordinance by Dade County voters, groups on both sides of the controversy are preparing for similar battles elsewhere.

Robert Brake of Coral Gables, Fla., an attorney who was co-founder with Anita Bryant of the Save Our Children group that led the successful fight for repeal of the ordinance, announced that his organization had been incorporated as a non-profit organization in Washington, D.C., as the National Committee to Save Our Children.

"We're ... going to fight gay proposals before Congress," he said. "We'll advise and help any anti-gay group in the country that invites us in. Already we've heard from people in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Minneapolis and San Antonio."

On the other side, the International Office of Dignity issued a statement committing the unofficial organization of "gay and concerned Catholics" to a renewed effort on behalf of civil rights.

The 68-chapter organization pledged "continuing educational programs aimed particularly at U.S. bishops and clergy... and the general Catholic population to free them from the fears, myths, and religious misconceptions that have so dominated recent discussions" of homosexuality.

The 1976 Call to Action conference sponsored by the U.S. Catholic bishops— influenced by appeals from Dignity spokesmen— lent weight to the civil rights demands. A resolution asked for an end to "those structures which discriminate against homosexuals as persons," and urged the Church to "join the struggle by homosexual men and women for their basic constitutional rights."

In the recent past, a few bishops have spoken out on behalf of homosexuals. Cardinal John Dearden of Detroit, for example, called "arbitrary discrimination" against them "unwarranted," saying the Church should be concerned "about respect for (their) proper civil rights."

Last May, however, Minnesota's bishops opposed a bill in the legislature intended to safeguard the employment rights of homosexuals. The bishops feared passage of the bill could require the hiring of militant homosexuals as teachers in Catholic schools.

Miss Bryant's campaign should get powerful support from a large segment of the nation's Baptists. The Baptist General Conference voted to send a letter to Miss Bryant, a "born-again Baptist", commending her "courageous stand for morality."

"It is tragic," the conference's 99th annual meeting declared, "when such sin is elevated to the place that it is considered normal, acceptable behavior."

The 120th session of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC)—America's largest Protestant denomination— also commended Miss Bryant. In a resolution, the convention criticized what it called "a radical scheme" and "a national campaign to secure legal, social and religious acceptance of homosexuality by portraying homosexuality as normal behavior." The SBC also reaffirmed its 1976 statement urging Baptist congregations "not to afford the practice of homosexuality any degree of approval through ordination, employment or other designations of a normal life style."

Some other denominations, however, were sharply critical of Miss Bryant's crusade.

Delegates to the 11th General Synod of the United Church of Christ charged that her campaign "represents a reactionary movement which may eventually erode the civil rights of all."

Deploring the defeat of the Dade County ordinance, the synod denounced the use of the Bible "to generate hatred" in the fight for repeal of the measure.

As in 1975, the synod of the 1.8 million member church noted it was not addressing "the rightness or wrongness of same-gender relationships," but was expressing its "Christian conviction that all persons are entitled to full civil liberties and equal protection under the law."

The board of directors of the Division of Homeland Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) voted 11-5 to send to the church's General Assembly, which will meet in Kansas City in October, a resolution urging legislation to end the denial of civil rights to homosexuals.

A statement produced by the 117th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. (Southern) says that the church must "stand for just

treatment of homosexual persons in our society in regard to their civil liberties, equal rights, and protection under the law from social and economic discrimination which is due all citizens."

A proposed statement drafted for the 2.4 million-member American Lutheran Church calls homosexual behavior "sin, a form of idolatry, a breaking of the natural order that unites members of the human community. Nevertheless, we recognize the cries of our homosexual brothers and sisters for justice in the arena of civil affairs. We cannot endorse their call for legalizing homosexual marriage... We can, however, endorse their position that their sexual orientation in and of itself should not be a cause for denying them their civil rights."

The rights and responsibilities of parents are stressed as a necessary part of the current debate in *The Lutheran*, magazine of the Lutheran Church in America. An editorial in the July 13 issue says that parents and others responsible for community standards "must make moral judgments about what is decent and what is not. They have a duty to protect children from exposure to flagrant examples of unsatisfactory lifestyles. If this bars avowed homosexuals from some teaching and leadership positions and from the pulpit, it is a burden they will have to bear."

The Jesuit weekly, *America*, scored the "misguided campaign" in Florida for "stunting" real progress toward a healthier and more just approach to the homosexual question.

A June 25 editorial says, "Public advocacy, direct or indirect, of homosexual behavior as a valid way of life... can be a legitimate public concern." The *Save Our Children*, campaign, however, "lacked Christian compassion" and "violated basic justice in perpetuating a lie."

There is "no evidence to suggest," the editorial continues, "that children are more likely to be molested by homosexuals than heterosexuals. Yet this canard was used shamelessly by Miss Bryant and her followers."

To equate the homosexuals' plight with that of oppressed black people is to engage in "ideological fantasy," the editorial says. The situation of homosexuals "calls for more enlightened understanding," and "Impassioned crusades by either gay militants or Anita Bryant fundamentalists will not advance that cause..."

"The ambiguities of sexuality haunt our personal lives and complicate our public law, but shouts and slogans do not answer our needs on either level."