



Looking over pictures of the churches built in India with contributions from the parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi in Auburn are Father John Nacca, pastor, St. Francis of Assisi; Bishop Marianus Ariokasony, Bishop of Kottar, India; Mrs. Margaret Picciano. The bishop thanked the parishioners personally at Masses on July 24.

Project Reaches Out To Newfield Catholics

By MARTIN TOOMBS
Southern Tier Editor

Newfield—Blending the rural and urban sectors of a large parish into one community can be a difficult task for a parish staff. Rural residents may come to feel that the church, located in the city, is not their church, and become uninterested in parish affairs, or stop attending church completely.

Such a rural-urban mix occurs in Immaculate Conception Parish in Ithaca, which includes the southern half of Tompkins County, primarily a rural area, in addition to the city of Ithaca.

This summer, Immaculate Conception is making a special effort in the largest rural town in the parish, Newfield. During July, Father John Glogowski and David Heywood, a St. Bernard's seminarian, lived in Newfield and they will continue their daily work there during August.

Newfield is a small village, noted for its covered bridge, still in use in the village's center. Six miles from Ithaca, the Catholics in town have established a loose-knit community, providing for the religious education of local children, and occasionally sponsoring events in Newfield for the Catholics there.

During the year, monthly Masses are offered in Newfield, in the Newfield Methodist Church. This

summer's project is the first time that a priest has been in Newfield on a daily basis, Father Glogowski noted. Daily Mass has attracted an average of 10 people each day, in a community that has never had daily Mass locally, he noted.

Father Glogowski pointed out that the effort is not designed to set up a mission, or to treat Newfield Catholics as being separate from the parish, but to draw them into the parish. He commented that the parish staff hopes that when Newfield Catholics go to Immaculate Conception to Mass, they will feel that "it's not the Ithaca people's church they're going to, but their church."

Heywood, who will be a second year student at St. Bernard's in September, is spending most of his time developing the Newfield census. Many local Catholics are not practicing, for a variety of reasons, he noted, and the census provides a way to reach them. There are an estimated 200 Catholic families in the town; attendance at the Saturday evening Masses is usually about 75, Father Glogowski noted.

Father Glogowski said that he has been following up on the census work, responding to requests or problems that Heywood is finding.

Heywood noted that he has been received well as he goes door to door for the census. The greatest value is with those who aren't at-

tending church, he noted. "I have seen some tangible effects so far," he commented.

The Newfield community includes many long term residents, he noted, who live on roads bearing the family name, as well as families that have moved into the area and work elsewhere, usually Ithaca.

Heywood noted that he has found Newfield to "be quite an open community," and that he has decided that "small towns have a bad name of being closed" to outsiders.

Father Glogowski also cited the ecumenical cooperation with the Newfield Methodists as a major aid to the parish. In addition to the monthly Masses in their church, the Methodist parish hall is used for release time classes for Newfield students. The two communities also conduct a summer school session in August.

During July, Father Glogowski and Heywood lived in the Methodist parsonage, and used the Methodist church for daily Masses.

Father Glogowski also admitted that they made little use of the parsonage's kitchen facilities. Most evenings they were guests at local homes. He commented that he believes in the axiom that "a home-going pastor makes for a church-going people," and that the home visits, and several home Masses, have been worthwhile.

India Prelate Visits Auburn

By MARY ANN GINNERTY

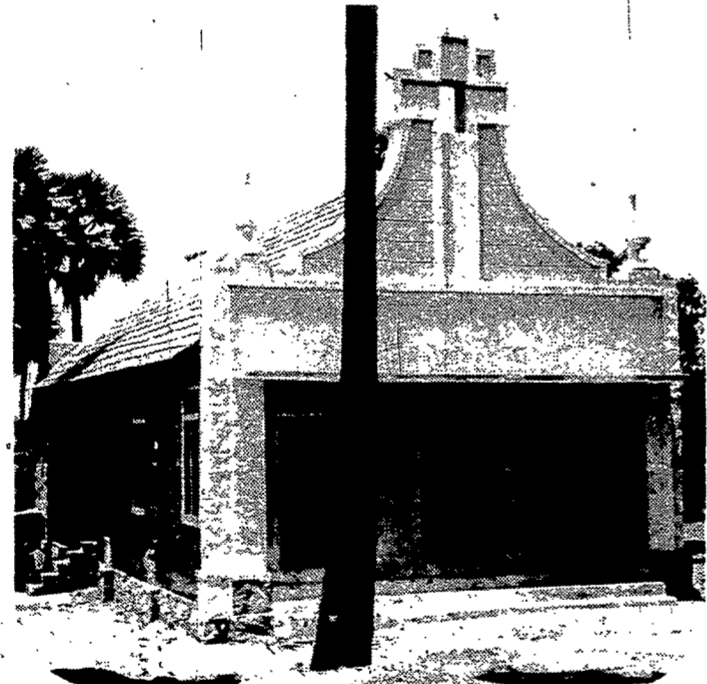
Auburn—Being in the right place at the right time resulted in the building of four churches in the Diocese of Kottar, India with the contributions from the parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi here.

Bishop Marianus Ariokasony spoke at the Masses during the week of July 24 to thank the people

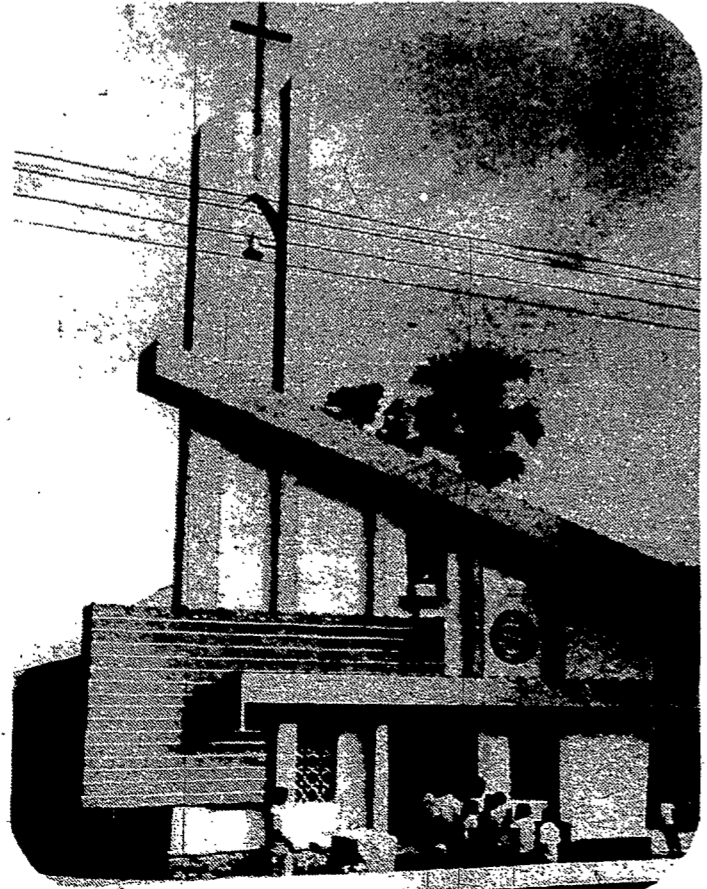
for the contributions, which made the building of the churches possible. Bishop Ariokasony was in the Office of the Propagation of the Faith in Rome four years ago when a letter from Father John Nacca, pastor of St. Francis, arrived requesting referral to a diocese that could use the assistance and prayer of St. Francis parishioners.

The bishop said that

about 2.5 percent of the 600 million people of India are Christian. The diocese of Kottar located in the southern most tip of India is flourishing with 300,000 Catholics. New Churches were needed as about 2,000 adult baptisms are performed yearly. Five or six priests are ordained yearly to supply the needs of the diocese and as missionaries on the northern part of India.



Above is Fatimapuram Church, below, St. Joseph's.



SOUTHERN TIER AUBURN-GENEVA

St. Joseph's Starts Petition Drive

Elmira—St. Joseph's Hospital is currently conducting a petition drive, with a goal of 10,000 signatures, in support of continued obstetric services at the hospital. The petitions will accompany the request for a waiver of penalties against the hospital so that the obstetrics unit can remain in operation.

The request is being made under a section of the Public Health Law which states that "religious need is public need," and religious questions must be considered when dealing with religious-sponsored health facilities.

Stanley Douglas, St. Joseph's Community Relations Director, reported that 7,568 signatures had been accumulated, and more will be sought before the packet of information is sent to Dr. Robert Whalen, state Commissioner of Health, who will act on the request.

In a related development, Dr. Whalen has requested that the NY-Penn Health Systems Agency, the advisory group covering

Binghamton, reconsider their recommendation that Binghamton General and Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital both be allowed to retain obstetrical service. The action could have implications for Elmira, as the situations are similar, and Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital also has requested a waiver as a religious-sponsored health facility.

COUNCIL WORKSHOP
Apalachin—A Tompkins-Tioga regional workshop for parish council members has been scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 16 from 2 to 5 p.m. at St. Margaret Mary's. All parish council and regional assembly members are invited to participate. More details will be made available at a later date.

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THE OPEN WINDOW

Fr. Louis Hohman

Dear Father Hohman,

I ask if you can give some information in regard to the Absolution Service.

Some priests say it is necessary to go to Confession for mortal sins within a year after receiving the Absolution Service. Other priests say absolution is absolution, and confession is not necessary for mortal sins after receiving the Absolution Service.

Who is correct? Whom do we follow? What is the official teaching of the Church regarding the Absolution Service?

Sincerely, (Signed) B.M.S.

Dear B.M.S.,

This particular matter has been covered in this column but this time I would like to simply set down the simple rules and regulations which govern the Rite of

Reconciliation. There are three ways at present of receiving the Sacrament of Penance (Rite of Reconciliation). 1. Privately as in the past. 2. In a Penance Service at the end of which individual confessions are heard and individual absolution given. 3. At a Penance Service in which general absolution is given with the specification that those who recognize themselves as being in the state of serious (mortal) sin must subsequently confess those sins privately in individual confession.

When we speak of the necessity of individual confession or of the Sacrament of Penance itself we are presuming the presence of mortal sin. The Sacrament of Penance is never necessary when one is not in the state of serious sin.

The statement made by those priests you quoted (if it is accurate) is true as long as the conditions for it are met. One of those conditions is that one confess privately at a later date. They may be giving a theological position on this particular matter but they are not giving the official position in regard to general absolution.

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