



Representatives from St. Alphonsus' Parish Education Committee discuss religious education plans. From left are Sister Mary Ellen Bossack, SSJ, Father Robert Gaudio, Ms. Cathy Rourke and Mrs. Letizia Magats.

Religious Ed. Teachers To Be Paid in Auburn

By MARY ANN GINNERTY

Auburn—High school religion teachers for the non-parochial school religious education program will be paid \$20 to \$25 per week for a ten week series on Monday evenings, according to an announcement made by the St. Alphonsus parish education committee. Applications are currently being reviewed.

Mrs. Letizia Magats, a committee member, said, "We feel the teachers are out there but perhaps have not thought of their teaching talents as a part of ministry.

"The salary may permit some to make a commitment to the program they might not otherwise be able to. We think there are

graduates of Catholic institutions who perhaps have never put their religious education studies to work. This is one resource we would like to tap," she said.

"The teenager is in the process of being awakened, coming to know who he or she is and what their talents are. Religious education must help them to look at life from the point of faith," added Father Robert Gaudio, associate pastor at St. Alphonsus.

"Jesus' message is come that you may have life and have it more fully. Education is a coming too and is indeed a necessary part of the teen scene" he said.

Father Gaudio continued saying that the doctrinal

facts and basic values are the same, but it is the method of teaching which has changed. The problem is how to communicate faith in a culture which says experience is your teacher.

The committee, he said, is trying to realistically face the trend of high school students fading away from religious education programs by asking why and looking to innovative measures to bring them into a viable program.

This new approach came from a survey and meeting attended by well over 100 parents of high school students in the program two years ago which disclosed that parents felt professional teachers were needed to handle the classes.

Sister Mary Ellen Bossack, SSJ, another committee member stated, "I don't want to listen or 'prove it to me' sometimes intimidates the volunteer but attitudes displayed by teens are old hat to high school teachers. They should also be able to cut across administrative details to get the most mileage out of class time."

The money offered symbolizes the parish's commitment to the high school program and has full support of the parish council, according to Ms. Cathy Rourke, committee member.

Then call the business division of the Rochester Public Library and ask for the President's name (always write to the top executive) and address of the sponsoring company. The people at the main library are terrific about helping with information. The number to call is 428-7328. If that's busy, try 428-7329.

When you get the information write immediately to the company and state your objections clearly and forcefully. You might mention that you think it does the company no good to be associated with a product that offends so blatantly.

It is also extremely wise to write to those firms which make a point of choosing their shows carefully and tell them how much you appreciate their choices.

Complaints and plaudits may also be sent to the three networks. Names and addresses are also available at the library.

ON THE RIGHT SIDE



Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

The best retreat I ever made was at Auriesville in 1940. While a student at Old St. Bernard's Seminary, I was greatly influenced by one particular book, "Ignatius Loyola" by the English poet, Francis Thompson. That so florid a poet should write a biography in so simple a style is a wonder. The Thirty Day Exercises composed by Ignatius and described by Thompson made me anxious to share some of it. So when in 1940 the Jesuits advertised their newly fashioned Eight Day Retreat, I applied and was accepted for October.

It was eight days in complete silence. Father Elwood McFarland was the disciplined retreat master. We had reading from a holy book at all meals but breakfast, read by angelic Jesuit scholastics. Fr. McF. sat with us, and brusquely corrected every mispronounced word which the jittery scholastics spoke, to our embarrassment and their humiliation. It was an exercise in humility I doubt scholastics would endure today.

The retreat followed the outline of St. Ignatius's Exercises, with modern examples to illustrate Ignatian points — on creation, the Fall, Redemption, The Mass, the Passion; sin rebellion, prayer, Our Lady, heaven and hell. Oh, but it was powerful! The reaction in my soul was what the Pentecostals call "being born again," a term Cardinal Suenens wisely declares very misleading.

It is a pity I did not die right then, for I should never

Shrine Visited

Ithaca — Members of Ithaca's Third Order of St. Francis traveled to the shrine of St. Anne de Beaupre in Quebec, Canada, recently. Leaving July 23, the group participated in the special festivities on St. Anne's feast day, July 26, and returned July 28.

The pilgrims also visited St. Joseph's Basilica and the Sacred Heart Shrine in Montreal, and the wax museum which depicts St. Anne's life. The return journey included a stop at the Our Lady of Lasalette Shrine in Enfield, New Hampshire.

again be so utterly emptied of self and receptive of Our Lord's graces. At least I am grateful He has never ceased to give me those wonderful graces to continue to serve Him and the Church in priesthood.

Since Vatican II, retreats everywhere have suffered from experimental fluff, sometimes nearly de-supernaturalizing the work in sensitivity sessions and the like. Remember the Talkathons in the late '60s which experimenters considered "updating"? Thank God these are pretty well passe. Even silence is returning, as Jesuit Father Bassett writes, to give the Holy Spirit a chance to speak in our souls.

Auriesville has been my usual retreat oasis since 1940. Since Vatican II, retreatants take pot luck for conference matter, unless they find out ahead of time who will be the retreat master.

Despite the disappointment at some of the conferences, Auriesville and the memory of the Jesuit Martyrs laLonde, Jogues, Brebeuf are always an inspiration. So are the chapel, the spacious grounds, the shrines; Benediction in mid-afternoon, the celebrated Mass which I always join, though the Jesuits there do not have much sense of liturgical ritual.

The silence, the aloneness, with time to think, to pray, to read, to resolve; the evening dialogue among the priest

retreatants regarding the Church — all combine to stir up devotion and resolution.

When Father William Davie with the Old Sisters of Mercy ran Holy Family High School, every year a busload of students and faculty made a picnic-pilgrimage to Auriesville, only two and a half hours from Auburn. Religion permeated the school; and the graduates, like most graduates in all Catholic high schools of the diocese in the '40s and '50s were, and still are, a joy and strong right arm of the Church.

Fortunately there are also some newly developed exercises to strengthen the spiritual life of our people, in addition to retreats. Cursillos have energized adults. Teen seminars have given roots to high schoolers. Marriage Encounter has helped many. The Charismatic Movement has stirred devotion of thousands. More and more parents are demanding a return to sound religious training.

Sept. 23-25 I am giving a retreat at the Rochester Cenacle, sponsored by the Legion of Mary. It is not just for legionnaires, but for men and women who want a Friday evening through Sunday afternoon of quiet, prayer, doctrine and relaxation. Those interested can write to Sister Betty Rogers, The Cenacle, 693 East Ave., Rochester 14607, or telephone her at (716) 271-8755 for information or reservations.

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AS I SEE IT



Pat Costa

A Pittsford couple who label themselves "concerned parents" have written to this column asking for advice about dealing with current television programs.

"I read your column with interest every week in the COURIER-JOURNAL. My husband and I have been concerned over the quality of many TV shows now being aired especially the so-called comedy series which deal with problems that are anything but laughable.

I thank the Lord for Walt Disney programs and other similar shows that seek to give us the quality entertainment without the taint of smut so common on TV today.

At times when we wish to lighten our day with a light comedy program it becomes a tangle of many moral issues instead.

Could you give us some leads on how to deal with this situation? Possibly names and addresses of stations to write to or sponsors to whom we might complain about family entertainment"

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