

# Family Program Provides Option

By MARTIN TOOMBS  
Southern Tier Editor

**Corning**—St. Patrick's Parish offers an educational alternative for families that wish to increase their religious education as a family unit.

The Family Program, offered on the first Sunday each month, draws about 50 families to the sessions, which include classes by age group and a Mass based on the theme for that month.

The first year of the program's operation, 1975-76, a slide-tape presentation was used extensively for the classes. Sister Agnes Catherine, pastoral assistant, explained, and age group sessions were held on the theme. Before the Mass, families met as a unit and discussed the theme, and participated in a suggested family activity. Parents were then encouraged to follow up on the lessons at home.

The program, now in its third year, has undergone some changes, Sister Agnes Catherine said. Speakers now address the adults each month, speaking on the topic being studied by the age group meetings at the same time. The Mass, which follows, also develops the theme. The children involved also meet an additional time each month, on the third Sunday.

Walter Savaria, the parish's Religious Education Coordinator, and Sister Agnes Catherine agreed that the changes have resulted in families being less involved as family units, a development that has weakened the program. Family activities have been planned for December and March this year, they noted, and they hope that they will be successful moves toward increasing family interaction.

Attendance at the

program has been consistent, with many families participating the entire three years, Sister Agnes Catherine said. She added that several families have reported positive effects in the family relationships which they feel directly resulted from the program.

The Family Program is not designed to replace the other religious education programs the parish offers, they noted, but provides an alternative for those families that are interested.

Father Andrew Teuschel, pastor, noted that the family program was an example of new religious programs which put the responsibility on parents "to really help their children," and not just leave the responsibility to teachers.

The importance of the parents' role, and their need for help with that role, was pointed out as Sister Agnes

Catherine and Savaria discussed the program. The family discussion activity sessions, used in the first year's program, were difficult for some parents, they said, who had not been taught as their children are being taught. But their interest in increasing their knowledge was shown in the request for expansion of the speakers program.

Savaria noted an example of the importance of parental involvement. Recently he had spoken to the parents of those preparing to receive First Penance. When he outlined the parents' responsibilities, he said, a few questioned their large involvement in the process. Savaria said that the involvement and the example of the parents is essential to the success of such a program. If children don't see their parents going to confession, they probably won't go themselves, he noted.

## SOUTHERN TIER AUBURN-GENEVA



Photo by Martin Toombs

James Mosher, a volunteer at St. Joseph's Hospital, acts as the model for a demonstration of the EKG equipment that the hospital auxiliary plans to purchase with proceeds from their Christmas sale. Matalyn Rustin, a hospital volunteer, watches as Tony Mullen, manager of cardio-pulmonary services, demonstrates the use of the equipment.

# Regional Assembly Meets in Weedsport

**Weedsport**—A call to be Catholic and the challenge to find ways "to be diverse and yet as one" set the tone for the Oct 18 Seneca-Cayuga Regional Assembly held at St. Joseph's Parish here.

The program included fifteen minute presentations from the Education, Human Development and Liturgy Committees of the region which described their purpose and future programs.

Father Elmer Heindl, regional coordinator,

reported for the education committee which is currently under reorganization. He stated that a teachers' training program, offered by the Diocesan Office of Religious Education, was now being planned.

Father James Enright, associate pastor at St. Mary's, Auburn, reported for the Liturgy committee the continuation of a project, begun last year, which evaluated proposed liturgies of parishes in the region in conjunction with the parish liturgy com-

mittee

Father George E. Gauthier, associate pastor of St. Patrick's, Seneca Falls, and Charles King, human development committee co-chairpersons, stressed the need to become acquainted with all the individual parish HD committees in order for progress to be made.

Father George Wiant, representing the Northern Tier Human Development Office, added that a staff person from HD would be available in Auburn every Tuesday at Sacred Heart

School for consultation and referral services.

In other assembly action representatives to the assembly were asked to submit nominations for the region's president, vice-president and secretary to fill recent vacancies.

## Bazaar Planned In Dryden

**Dryden** — "Holiday Happening," a bazaar, is scheduled Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 19-20, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Holy Cross Parish Center on Union Street here.

Handmade afghans, wall hangings, and a quilt made by Mrs. Gary Rumsey will be available. Mrs. Mary Grace, 90, spent many hours creating one of the afghans, as did Mrs. Marie Gay.

Father Roger Downey, a Jesuit residing at the rectory while studying for his doctorate, selected many exotic articles for the sale while visiting Indonesia and other Far Eastern countries last summer.

Special tables are planned for greenery, pots, macrame, jewelry, jams, pickles, relishes, baked goods, toys, Christmas decorations, mittens, aprons.

# Christmas Sale Scheduled Nov. 10-11

**Elmira**—St. Joseph's Hospital auxiliary is asking for support for their "Help a Heart for Christmas" campaign during their annual Christmas Sale Thursday, Nov. 10, and Friday, Nov. 11, in the hospital's Doctors Meeting Room from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The proceeds from the event have been designated for the purchase of a Dyna-Gram Holter Recording System and monitors. The equipment provides 24 hour monitoring of patients who require this method of electro cardiogram. The patient wears the device for 24 hours; it is then returned to the EKG department where its recording is scanned for abnormalities; the equipment costs \$30,000.

Through the sale of crocheted and knitted items, ceramics and home grown plants, the auxiliary hopes to achieve the goal of \$30,000. This year also will mark the introduction of miniature dollhouse furniture, rugs and linens.

The traditional flea market, unusual gifts section and wearing, playing and eating things, as well, will round out the largest display of "made by hand" items in the Twin Tiers.

The monitoring equipment and scanning device are expected to be presented to the hospital at the auxiliary's holiday luncheon at Pierce's Restaurant Friday, Dec. 2.

## St. Joseph's Receives Accreditation

**Elmira** — St. Joseph's Hospital has been accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals (JCAH), Sister Martha Gersbach, administrator, has announced.

The accreditation which covers the period from June

20, 1977 to June 20, 1979, is the result of an on-site survey made by the field representatives of the commission's Hospital Accreditation Program. It indicates that a facility has chosen to operate according to standards set by JCAH and that the facility has met the standards.

St. Joseph's is one of approximately 4,800 general hospitals in the United States that have earned this recognition; there are approximately 7,150 hospitals in the country.

The commission's accreditation surveys are voluntary. It is not legally necessary for a hospital to be accredited, but health care facilities have sought accreditation because it represents a benchmark of quality that is higher than governmental licensure alone. The chief aim of the hospital accreditation program is to help hospitals in their pursuit of excellence and thereby provide a higher quality of care to patients. The program also seeks to recognize and to identify for the public those facilities which meet its standards.

## Christmas Bazaar

**Seneca Falls**—An old-fashioned Christmas Bazaar will take place in the St. Patrick's School Gymnasium on West Bayard Street, here, on Saturday, Nov. 19, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Featured will be baked goods and hand crafted items (including needlework, holiday decorations, dried flower arrangements, live houseplants and a white elephant booth). Santa Claus will be on hand to add

to the festivities. A light luncheon will be available at noon.

Beginning at 7 p.m., a buffet will be served, followed by music for dancing. Reservations for the buffet may be made through the rectory by calling 568-5203.

General chairperson is Margaret Zona, assisted by co-chairpersons Kathleen Burroughs and Pat Bisso.



All Saints

Children at St. Mary Our Mother in Horseheads wore crowns decorated with their patron saint's name on Nov. 1.

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