Educational Phase Of Justice and Peace

BY JOAN M. SMITH

Justice and Peace in Education is an up and coming educational process by which Catholics will come to grips with their responsibilities, through the Gospel messages and Church teachings, in promoting social justice in the world.

"An old face wearing a new hat," said Sister Mary Edwardine, superintendent of curriculum for the Diocesan Education Department, in explaining that teaching social justice has always been a part of Church doctrine. For instance the Papal encyclicals: Quadragesimo Anno, Pope Pius XI , 1931, Reconstruction of the social order; Mater et Magistra, (Mother and Teacher), Pope John XXIII, 1961, unequal distribution of wealth of the world especially in Latin America; Pacem in Terris (Peace and Justice), Pope John XXIII, 1963, regarding peace, poverty and human rights as the issues calling for Christian commitment; Rerum Novarum 80 years later, Pope Paul VI, 1971, A call to political action for the transformation of the world in peace and justice; and in 1971, the Synod of Bishops' statement dealing with action on behalf of justice and participation in the transformation of the world as a constitutive dimension of preaching the Gospel.

These doctrines along with the Gospels and teachings of the Church Fathers form the basis of the new Justice and Peace in Education pilot program being launched in the Diocese of Rochester. Presently, the program (formulated by NCEA) is being used by 1996 teachers throughout the nation encompassing a cross section of areas— urban, rural, suburban — as well as social categories — poor, upper and middle classes.

Sister being head of the diocesan task force for this project noted the thrust is on school curriculum with three pronged emphasis on preparation; general work with diocesan teachers (fall teachers conference at Bishop Kearney in September); work with the principals and pastors; work with the parents. It is this latter step which Sister underlines as an all important one. "We feel parents should be very aware of this."

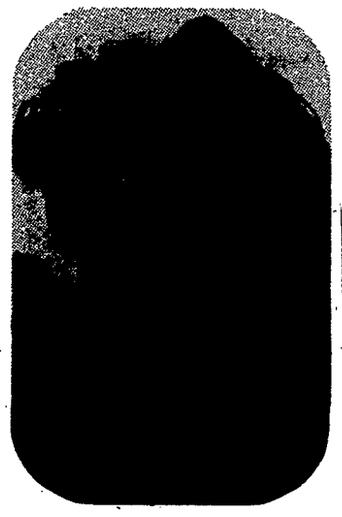
According to Sister, these three steps will take place before the program moves into classrooms. "We want no one to move on this material if they are uncomfortable with it."

An overview of the curriculum shows instructional units for kindergarten through grade 12 although the secondary schools may implement their own courses. One high school, St. Agnes, is in its second year of offering a Social Justice course (see RapAround section).

Instruction material will not necessarily be specific courses but integrated with religion, history and social studies and will encompass God's gift of nature — environmental conservation; Jesus as a Person of justice — Christian works of justice; Jesus as a Person of peace and reconciliation — what the Bible says about violence; the unity of the family and the dignity of the person — discrimination of Catholics; A call to political action — tools for decision making; A survey of Church history; current issues — war, peace, population; Christ's teaching — social inequality, values in the American System; Social Justice-Social Sin; our time — population, poverty, discrimination, sexism, government.

Aside from the classroom agenda, there are components dealing with CCD programs, teaching from the pulpit and adult education which make the project, "a total parish program," observed Sister.

There is no doubt Justice and Peace in Education is a sweeping endeavor and though in its infancy, has already been criticized. Sister indicated there will be those who will link the program with the more radical movement for social change but she points to it as a valid educational philosophy "in adequately preparing the youngsters we serve to live and cope with a changing social structure."



MRS. STONE

Merton Unit Sets Speaker

Naomi Burton Stone's personal reminiscences of Thomas Merton will engage those attending the Dec. 1 meeting of the Merton Society at Nazareth College.

Mrs. Stone, the famed Trappist's literary agent and trustee of his literary estate, will speak at the meeting slated for 7:30 p.m.

The society, established in 1976 at Nazareth College promotes interest in the works of the writer-theologian who died in 1968.

HOLY SPIRIT

Father James Mason, CSSR, will celebrate a charismatic Mass at 8 p.m. tomorrow at Holy Spirit Church, Penfield. The public is invited.

Father Mason, a retreat master, is stationed at the Redemptorists' provincial residence in Toronto. He will be in Rochester to conduct a retreat for men and women Dec. 2-4 at the Cenacle.

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COURIER-CALENDAR

Holy Family— Rosarians' Christmas party, 6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9; reservations by Dec. 4 with Mrs. Douglas Mannella, 254-8724, or Mrs. Robert Spahn, 235-3136.

Our Lady of Victory-St. Joseph's— Archconfraternity of the Holy Family, Christmas party at Holiday Inn after 9 a.m. Mass Dec. 4.

Cardinal Mooney Women's Guild— Christmas dinner-dance, 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3, at school.

Winter Festival— At St. Augustine's, 410 Chili, 6-11 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2. Spaghetti dinner with wine and music, hand-crafted gift items, decorations, inexpensive things for children to buy, plants, baked goods. Proceeds for school swim-and-gym, dance, language arts programs.

Christmas Boutique— Brighton Senior Citizens, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1, Town Hall, 2300 Elmwood. Hand-made gifts, original paintings and etchings, baked goods, white elephants.

Holiday Bazaar— This weekend at Rochester Museum and Science Center: more than 50 boutiques, specialty shops, independent craftsmen selling their wares; also, Company Fare, new cookbook compiled by RMSC Women's Council. Dec. 3 hours, 9-5; Dec. 4, 1-5 p.m.

Gingerbread Houses— Made by members of Nazareth College German Club. On display in Shults Community Center 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2; in Arts Center lobby during free Christmas concert Sunday, Dec. 4, beginning at 3 p.m.

Centro Italiano Lecture— Isabel Herdle, Memorial Art Gallery curator emeritus, on mosaics— Italian, Byzantine, Romanesque, 8 p.m. tomorrow, Nazareth Arts Center, Room A-14.

Gallery Concert— Baroque chamber music performed by Eastman students, 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, Memorial Art Gallery. Free.

Eastman Wind Ensemble— Free concert in Eastman Theatre Friday, Dec. 2, 8 p.m.

MIME Workshop— Dec. 3 at 50 Chestnut Plaza, family show, 2:30 p.m.; trio mime concert, 8 p.m.

Christmas Music— Mitzi Collins sings at Rundel Memorial Library, 115 South Ave., 12:12-12:52 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6.

Job Services— Public library program, 12:05-1 p.m. Thursdays. Tomorrow, Dec. 1: Resources for the Hard to Employ.

Brighton Chorale— Forty voices, orchestra, tonight at 8, Brighton High School, 1150 S. Winton, free.

Thomas Merton Society— Personal reminiscences offered by the late Father Merton's onetime literary agent, Naomi Burton Stone, 7:30 p.m. tomorrow, Otto A. Shults Community Center. Free.

Muggleton Gallery— Exhibition of watercolors by W.B. Romeling opens with reception 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, continues all month at 7 William St., Auburn.

Classic Film Series— Intermezzo, 1939 film starring Ingrid Bergman, Leslie Howard, 2 and 8 p.m. tomorrow, Rochester Museum auditorium.

Star Theatre— Star of Christmas, through Jan. 8, Strasenburgh Planetarium. Shows for pre-schoolers on Friday, Dec. 2: 9:50 a.m., Magic Sky; 10:40, Wonderful Rocket; 1 p.m. Space Wizard. Reservations: 244-6060, ext. 56.

Arts and Crafts— Show and sale, Lincoln First Concourse, daily 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., through Dec. 20.

Craft Show— BOCES pre-school parent group, at Foreman Center, 41 O'Connor Rd., Fairport, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 3, 4.

Focus on the Eucharist— Vigil with Mass at St. Cecilia's, 2732 Culver, 7:30-11:15 p.m. tomorrow.

Focus on Pre-Cana Ministry— Tomorrow at St. Charles Borromeo, 130 Oakwood Ave., Elmira Heights, Dec. 7 at Pastoral Office, 1150 Buffalo Rd., Rochester. Details from Family Life Office, 716-436-5450.

Women's Interfaith Coalition— Slides of Mid-Eastern art, tour and explanation of Temple B'rith Kodesh Israeli collection, 7:30-10 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6, at B'rith Kodesh, 2131 Elmwood Ave.

St. Thomas the Apostle—Breakfast with Santa sponsored by Rosary Society Dec. 3 in school hall, 10 a.m.-noon. Reservations with Mary Bingham, 338-1197, Marian Pickering, 342-5244; Mary Francione, 342-8950.

St. Rita's, West Webster—Christmas bazaar sponsored by Home School Service, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2, 9-3 Dec. 3.

Holiday Chorus— Men invited to sing with 80-voice Chorus of the Genesee, prize-winning barbershop outfit, in short series of December concerts. Rehearsal 8 p.m. Dec. 6, Harmony House, Webster.

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