

Bishop Hogan in Special Visit

By MARY ANN GINNERTY

Auburn--The homily which Bishop Joseph L. Hogan was giving at the annual Legion of Mary Day Mass at the Auburn Correctional Facility was loudly interrupted by a crying baby.

Unperturbed, Bishop Hogan paused during his sermon and told the embarrassed mother to "Let the baby cry." The sound is sweet. Stay here — this is about children.

With that setting the tone of the celebration, Bishop Hogan continued, "God has dwelt among us, but it is not easy to understand how much God loves us and how permanent is that love." He spoke of God's concern for his beloved people who had wandered away and of the hope of the life giving promise of new life and fulfillment.

This was the bishop's second pastoral visit at Christmastime to Auburn Correctional. The program was sponsored by the facility's Legion of Mary, headed by John Calabrese. Families of residents from as far away as New York City and members of area Legion of Mary chapters were in the congregation.

Bishop Hogan was joined in the concelebration of the Mass by Father Michael Conboy; Father William Trott of St. Bernard's Seminary; Father Elmer Heindl, Seneca-Cayuga Regional Coordinator; Father William Gordinier, pastor of St. Mary's, Cato; Father Raymond Wahl, pastor of Sacred Heart, Auburn, and Father Clarence Gardner, prison chaplain.

After Mass, lunch was served to residents and their guests and Santa Claus arrived for the children.



Special Christmas Mass

Photos by Mary Ann Ginnerty

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan celebrates Mass at Auburn Correctional Facility, above. At right, he puts one of his skullcaps atop baby Forzia Nadia, daughter of one of the residents, as the baby's mother assists with the gift presentation.



Medicaid Abortion Funding Restrictions Supported

By MARTIN TOOMBS
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira—The Chemung County Legislature has approved a resolution calling for the state to tighten Medicaid abortion funding rules.

The resolution, approved 12 to 2 Dec. 19, without debate, was the result of a request by Chemung County Right to Life that Medicaid funding for abortions be ended in the county. There had been two meetings of the legislature's Health, Education and Welfare Committee, and an open forum of the legislature on the issue.

The resolution approved was drawn up by James Burke, an Elmira attorney and a member of Chemung Right to Life. The resolution calls for the state to bring funding mandates in line with federal provisions.

As the issue developed, some called for the county legislature to direct the county Social Services Commissioner, Raymond Fortier, to discontinue abortion funding, as has happened in Niagara County. The Niagara County Social Services Commissioner has refused, and the question is now before the courts. During the discussions in Chemung County, Fortier said that he

also would ignore an order to end funding, which he said would be a violation of state law. Chemung County Attorney Louis J. Mustico also advised the legislature that they had no power in the matter, and an attempt to cut off funding might leave the legislature open to civil rights law suits.

The resolution notes that the county has previously protested state mandates in excess of federal guidelines, federal adoption of the so-called "Hyde amendment" means that the local cost for Medicaid nontherapeutic abortions will increase.

Payment for abortions, the resolution states, "is abhorrent to a large number of the electorate of Chemung County and the State of New York, and is not a proper charge to the taxpayers," and "pregnancy is not a disease but a natural and normal human function, and consequently, except in the most unusual cases, as defined in the federal Medicaid legislation, abortion is not proper medical treatment for pregnancy."

The resolution points out that the "mandates issued by the state of New York which are broader" than federal requirements have "the effect of further burdening the taxpayers of the County of Chemung."

The resolution calls for "the state of New York, through its legislature, to adopt legislation similar to the federal guidelines and in line with the United States Constitution... that nontherapeutic abortions be excluded from the requirements of the medical

Smaller Assembly To Meet Jan. 22

Elmira Heights—Father Joseph Gaynor, Chemung-Schuyler regional coordinator, has announced that the constitutional revisions tentatively approved at the November regional assembly have received the necessary two-thirds approval, and will go into effect in January.

The primary result is a reduction in the number of delegates to the regional assembly. Formerly four persons represented each parish, and three persons represented Notre Dame High School and St. Joseph's Hospital. Under the new constitution, two delegates will represent each of those organizations. Full representation for St. Benedict's, Odessa, a mission parish, also was approved.

Several other updating

assistance to be given under the Social Service Law.

The resolution calls for copies of the statement to be sent to Governor Hugh Carey, the state Commissioner of Social Services and the appropriate legislative committees.


and streamlining changes also were made. The changes will be discussed at the first meeting of the newly constituted assembly, Sunday, Jan. 22 at 2:30 p.m. at St. Patrick's, Elmira.

The assembly also will elect new officers at the January meeting.

In order for the changes to take place, Father Gaynor has notified all the parishes and institutions that they should be naming delegates before the Jan. 22 general assembly. One of the delegates should have a one year term, and the other a two year term; thereafter all terms will be for two years, with each parish and institution naming a delegate each January. Father Gaynor has requested that membership information be forwarded to him by Jan. 15.

SOUTHERN TIER
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ON THE RIGHT SIDE



Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

From a Courier Tour Patron:

"Christmas is more meaningful since our pilgrimage to the Holy Land. At this time of the year so many TV programs show places we visited, and where we prayed together. Even the term 'West Bank' in the Egypt-Israel reports has a clearer meaning. And the trip to Ireland! What memories that does conjure up, and the nice people who were on the trips. I will always be grateful for the opportunities to go on these trips, and to you and also to Father Lane for your great kindnesses."

Comment: With inflation making cash worth less each year, I think travel is a good investment. It is hard to measure in cash the happiness which comes from good memories. Anyone interested in going on our next tour, to Hawaii March 29-April 9, should get in touch with the Courier-Journal promptly. The Hawaiian trip requires earlier reservations for hotels, transportation, etc., because of the popularity of Hawaii.

From an Albany Doctor's Wife: "Many thanks for the little red catechism. It is so reassuring. And I am especially grateful for the book, Living the Catholic Faith Today, by Abp. Whealon. It is so concise, so pragmatic, and above all so inspiring. I keep it beside my bed so I frequently glean a few moments of sanity in this troubled world of ours."

From a Rochester Doctor: "I noticed that in a November issue of the Courier they put you on page 23. I held my breath because I expected to see you on page 24 the next week, alongside the ad for the Resurrection Garden Mausoleum."

"I am on your side all the way (on the religious education programs). Our XXXX College (Jesuit) graduate was told that it wasn't necessary to go to church on Sunday. So he gave it up after years of 'Catholic' training!!! This was my brother's experience, too."

Comment: Each morning I read the Democrat and Chronicle over breakfast of one slice of diet bread, two

eggs, orange juice and skim milk mixed together, and black coffee. The reading follows a regular pattern: first, the front page; then always, columnists: Ann Landers, Sydney Harris and Erma Bombeck. These are always on the same page. Many people have complained that the OTRside column requires a "search and find" party. Why the Courier does this I do not know.

2— When Jesuit Father O'Malley burst forth with his attack against the catechism and against me, he did the Church in the diocese a good service. How? In his defence of McQuaid Jesuit High School, which was not the issue at all, he did call attention to many parents and other concerned Catholics about weaknesses in our religious education program, not only in the diocese but in the whole United States. Many parents have had the experience similar to that of the doctor, and wondered why. Now the facts are coming to surface for them to analyze and study.

For example, few people know what even the term "values clarification" means, or the "Sid Simon approach" in values clarification. Ideally used, it can have value, but incorrectly used it can be a devastating gospel of utter subjectivism. Recently, my home town of Auburn was in an uproar— it often is— about putting Values Clarification in the public school program. The concern of many was: what will be the "values conclusions" of students, especially regarding sex, as presented by diverse teachers? I know several Auburn High School teachers, and would be perfectly confident about their prudent and correct use of such a program for their students. But I have little confidence about a general offering of teachers who would be unsympathetic or hostile to Catholic morality. On the other hand, the catechism and the religion works of the Daughters of St. Paul have been outlawed for several years in our own diocesan catechetical program. Since we tout the rights and responsibilities of parents regarding the religious education of their children, it might be a good thing to respect the desire of many to have the catechism as one of the instruments of instruction.

If you want the little red catechism, send one dollar to me at Holy Trinity Church, Webster, N.Y. 14580, and I will send you two copies.

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