

Repp to Direct OSV Music Dept.

Trumansburg — Ray Repp, a resident here, has been named director of Our Sunday Visitor's newly established music department, it was announced in Huntington, Ind. OSV headquarters.

Under Repp's direction, Christian music to serve a wide range of needs, including general family listening, worship settings, religious education programs and classical arrangements will be developed, according to OSV.

Contacted at his Trumansburg home, Repp said that he has been working for Our Sunday Visitor for a month now, developing the music department. He has been "running the music and record division from Trumansburg," he commented, noting that a decision concerning a permanent office location

probably will be made in the spring.

Repp, author of such songs as "Sing from the Highest Mountain," "Sons of God," and "All You People Clap Your Hands," has lived in the Ithaca area for four years.

As OSV music director, he will be responsible for the production of records and the publishing of music books, he said. He explained that the music department will be a full publishing service for records and music books, and he has been contacting authors and telling them of the department's new services. In the future he expects to have several staff members working under his direction, he said.

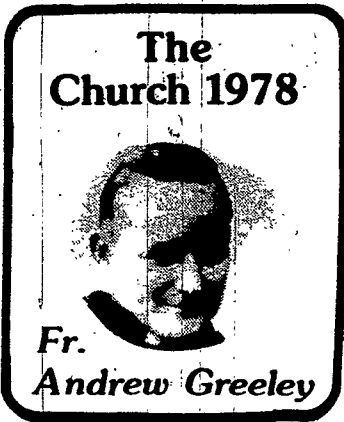
During the past month, he has been preparing the department's first four album releases. Set for March, one of the releases

will be an album of his own, he said.

Repp, formerly Ithaca's Head Start director, commented that the OSV job has changed his full-time occupation from "the child business" to the music business, and that his

interest in being totally involved in "the writing business" may yet happen.

A great deal of traveling will be part of the job, he pointed out; he was preparing to go to OSV's Huntington, Indiana, offices when contacted.



The deterioration in American Catholic devotional practice continues.

In 1963, some 72 percent of American Catholic adults went to Mass every week; in 1974, 11 years later, at the time of the National Opinion Research Center's (NORC) second Catholic school study, the percentage had declined to 50 percent — a decline of two percentage points a year. Since then a number of people bravely whistled in the dark that the decline had "bottomed out." However, if one pools the responses to the last two NORC General Social Surveys, thereby obtaining almost 800 Catholic respondents (twice as many as the typical Gallup survey), church attendance for Catholics at the present time is down 42 percent — a continuing decline of two percentage points a year and an overall decline of 30 percentage points since 1963.

My colleague William McCready and I first noticed this decline in Catholic Church attendance in 1972 and reported it in an article in America. We were called alarmists. Father Campion, then editor of America, wrote an editorial in the issue which carried our article in which he expressed grave reservations about our findings.

The deterioration that McCready and I reported at that time is now taken for granted. Presumably there will be the same outraged protests against this most recent finding, and then in a year or two, or three or four, when the situation is even worse, it will be conceded by everyone that what was reported here was true.

There is worse news. Sixty-six percent of the Catholics in the country said they would have an abortion or urge their wife to have an abortion if there was a chance of a defective child; 76 percent said they would favor an abortion if there was a serious threat to the mother's health. Previous data on abortions have had to do with underlying legalization of abortion, but these data have to do with personal choice. Depending on the circumstances, somewhere between two thirds and three quarters of the Catholics in the country would opt for an abortion. (I would ask all Right to Life enthusiasts to refrain from writing me letters of protest. I don't like these findings either, but I feel constrained to report the truth.) Having lost its credibility on sexuality, the Church now

appears to be losing its credibility with its own rank and file on abortion.

When McCready and I wrote our article in America, now almost six years ago, we warned that American Catholicism was in a crisis of decline of the sort that had not been seen since the French Revolution or perhaps even the Reformation. We urged the church leadership to acknowledge the gravity of the present emergency and to respond with dramatic efforts to restore the vigor of American Catholicism.

It goes without saying that we were ignored. The leadership has four ways of reacting to unpleasant research results: (1) They bravely announce that moral decisions are not made by counting noses; (2) they question the motivation of the researcher; (3) they deny the validity of the probability sampling; (4) they lament the materialism of their own people.

They issue their statements, go to meetings, elect their new officers, write their inane Catechetical Directories, and smile benignly at the questions of reporters while the church continues to burn.

There is nothing in the behavior of the leaders of the American Church which would give you the slightest hint that they feel any sense of urgency, much less an awareness that they are in the middle of one of the worst disasters in the history of Christendom — a 30 percentage point decline in church attendance in a mere 15 years. How do you react to such bad news? Well, you go into court against the teachers' union and against church music publishers, you pour more money into closed-circuit television, you have national conferences in which you advise the rest of humankind how to solve its problems, or you talk euphorically about "evangelization."

If you refuse to acknowledge the existence of the crisis, you don't have to do anything about it. Once you admit that the situation is desperate and an urgent response is required, then you have to do something; and once you do something, there's no telling how many people — particularly the Romans — you might offend.

HEADS STATE SOCIETY

Dr. Joyce M. McChesney, an attending physician in the Department of Anesthesiology at St. Mary's Hospital, has been selected president-elect of the State Society of Anesthesiologists. She will serve until 1980. Dr. McChesney is chairman of the Monroe County Medical Society's Committee on Community Relations.



CHRIST HAS BROKEN DOWN THE WALLS THAT SEPARATE US

1978 WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY



ALL IN THE FAMILY

Some items from various sources over the past week which may be of interest to no one other than the writer. From 6:30 national news over WHEC-TV: Only 7 percent of the student body at Princeton University smokes. The other 93 percent find smoking "an ego trip" which they do not need and/or a proven cause of cancer which they also do not need. (Writer's note: Hooray!! Hooray!! Does this indicate a national trend as the tv reporter hinted it might? Let's keep our fingers crossed.) From a newspaper ad (I can't remember which paper or which advertiser at this moment): There is now on

the market a small hand held computer which makes instantly available the correct spelling of six thousand words! The potential uses are mind boggling. I think.

From the CBS soap "As the World Turns": High fashion in New York now dictates the use of scarves (or shawls) over fur coats. Lisa played by Ellen Barkin wore a huge fur coat with a plaid fringed collar, a pink (beaver) hat, and a rabbit? last week and the script gave no indication that she was any less stable than usual.

From my bathroom scales: The cost of overeating is going up.

From our son's teacher: He tends to talk a lot on Tuesdays. And Wednesdays, Thursdays, etc.

From our seventh grader: Her mother's new silver earring hoops are too big (translate youthful for big.)

From the second grader: A little bread is nice when eating butter.

Ecumenical Service At St. Jerome's

An ecumenical service arranged by the East Rochester Association of Churches will be held at 7:30 tonight in St. Jerome's Church. Many other churches of the area are involved in the service, which coincides with the opening of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.



by Mrs. Beverly Hess. A social hour will follow. The program was planned at the request of the Northeast Region liturgy committee.

The Rev. Margretha B.J. Brown, executive presbyter of the Genesee Valley Presbytery, will speak. The combined choirs of the United Presbyterian Congregation of East Rochester and the United Church of Christ of Webster will be conducted by Robert Warfield and accompanied

Courier Calendar

Lilliput, USA — American miniature house furnishings from Margaret Woodbury Strong Museum in traveling exhibition launched by Smithsonian Institution, through Feb. 13 at Rochester Savings Bank, 40 Franklin St.

Sunday Concert — At Memorial Art Gallery, 3 p.m. Jan. 22, Eastman School students and teachers in Brahms String Quartet, Song Cycle for voice, piano, clarinet, features Dominic Argento.

Tapestry Weaving — Demonstration by Prof. Donald Bujnowski of RIT at Memorial Art Gallery, 3 p.m. Jan. 22, in connection with current show, Five Centuries of Tapestry.

Ancient Theaters — Lecture by Richard Doyle, classics chairman at Fordham, 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24, Memorial Art Gallery.

Lunchtime Theatre — Sweet Bitters, program of black poetry and jazz, 12:15 p.m. today and tomorrow at GeVa, 168 S. Clinton.

Films Sandwiched In — Free movies at Rundell Library, South Avenue, Tuesdays at 12:12 p.m.

Seniors' Matinees — A Star is Born, 1954 Judy Garland musical, 1:30 p.m. tomorrow, Dryden Theatre, Eastman House.

Family Sundays — The Pied Piper of Hamelin, with Jim LaVilla-Havelin, storyteller, Bob Berk, Mime; Jeremy Seligman, flutist, 2:30 p.m. Jan. 22, at Harley School's Wilson Arts Center, 1981 Clover. First in series of three programs.

Karnival — Rochester Saenger Choir and Harold Tausch's Royal Bavarians, 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, Mother of Sorrows hall, Mt. Read at Latta; masquerade costumes optional. Tickets and details: David Avery, 271-4760; Judy Tausch, 671-1594 or 265-1600.

Art Exhibit — Paintings by Loretta Brown at Valley Manor, 1570 East Ave., daily 11 a.m.-4 p.m., through January.

Groundhog Day Banquet — For former residents of Punxsutawney, Pa., their friends and all interested, Saturday night, Jan. 28, at Barry's Party House; reservations with Mrs. David Klender, 334-5712.

80th Seton — Meeting tonight at 8:30 with Mrs. Peter Formicola, Firestone Drive.

St. James Rosary Society — Annual tureen supper, Monday, Feb. 6, after 5:30 p.m. Mass.

Separated and Divorced Catholics — Northeast Region group meeting tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. at St. Thomas the Apostle school library, 4536 St. Paul; Joan Wilson of Monroe Community College to conduct "assertiveness" workshop.

Natural Family Planning — Information session at St. Jerome's, East Rochester, 7:30-9 p.m. Monday, Jan. 30, sponsored by parish Human Development Committee. Trained NFP instructors will describe program. All invited; no fee. Further information: 716-464-8705.

Citizen-Heart Savers — Cardio-pulmonary resuscitation workshop at YWCA, 175 N. Clinton, on three Thursdays, 9 a.m.-noon, beginning tomorrow, sponsored by Y and Genesee Valley Heart Association. To Register: 546-5820, ext. 229.

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