

Rev. Rogers:

Economic Systems Should Benefit 'Hungry Majority,' Not Wealthy

By MARTIN TOOMBS
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira—It is "a lot easier to praise the Lord Jesus than to follow Him," the Rev. William Rogers told those attending the second Christian Institute of Man lecture Jan. 16.

John Stuart Mill, English philosopher, pointed out the problem in his essay, "Liberty," Rogers said. Mill observed that Christians did not use the dictates of Christ to distinguish right from wrong, but each used the "customs" of his nation and his class," Rogers reported.

Perhaps what has happened, he said, is that we have "so intertwined our middle class ideology with our Christian faith" that it has become difficult to separate them. The result is

that when the middle class ideology is attacked, people see it as an attack on their faith.

Mr. Rogers, a Presbyterian minister, was a replacement in the series for Chilean refugee Rev. Joel Garjardo, who is on a trip to Latin America.

Mr. Rogers is a chaplain at Cornell University, and directed a Cornell project in Brazil in 1967-68.

The speaker for the fourth lecture, Monday Jan. 30, will be Father Charles Mulligan, diocesan Director of Social Ministry. His topic will be "The Challenge of World Hunger." The lectures are at 8 p.m. at Park Congregational Church.

Examining the world hunger issue as central to the problems of the third

world nations, Rogers noted that the "prevailing overview" is that "human needs are best served by the free enterprise system," and that the reasons for food shortages are low food production and dense population. The suggested solution, he said, is for such food-short countries to limit population and increase production.

Pointing out that Denmark has a dense population and that Saudi Arabia has low food production and neither has food shortages, Rev. Rogers said that hunger is not a problem of population or production, but "a problem of economics."

"What matters is that you have money," he said, "hunger is the result of poverty, not dense population or lack of production."

What is needed in third world countries, he said, is to "organize the country for the benefit of the hungry majorities." To illustrate his point, he discussed two Caribbean countries with different systems.

In Cuba, he noted, the country was organized to provide food for everyone. That meant rationing and a diminished living standard for the wealthy, he said, but it also assured that no one was hungry. Some have said that the Cuban revolution made everyone in the country equally poor, he said, adding that others have said that it made everyone equally rich.

In contrast, the Dominican Republic is regarded as "part of the free world," he noted, open to foreign investment. But the result is that "what's produced is not food" for the Dominicans, but "commodities for the international market." The profits generated in the country go to the foreign corporations that have bought the farmland and operate the factories, he commented, and not to the people who should have first claim to the resources of their country. The only hope for the people, he said, is that "someday there will be enough from the feast of the few for the hunger of the many."

Responding to a question later, Rogers noted that for the third world countries, the choice seems not to be between freedom or Communism, but whether their economies are organized for the benefit of the "hungry majority" or of the mercantile and professional classes. Just as Cuba is not a free country, he said, neither is Brazil, where he lived for a year. The difference is that in Cuba everyone has enough to eat and in Brazil they don't, he noted.

The Catholic bishops of Latin America stated their position on the economic situation in their countries, the speaker noted, at a meeting in Colombia. Their statement was that "we're not underdeveloped, we're oppressed," he said.

To illustrate the position

of many Latin American bishops, Rogers noted an instance when he went to visit Dom Helder Camara, bishop of Recife, Brazil, five years ago. Rogers called Archbishop Camara, known for his social activism, the "most outstanding Christian in the world." He was "more famous than Pele," the soccer player, Rogers said, because he spoke for the majority of the country's people, who are poor. As a result, he said, the government made the prelate a "non-person," and ordered that he not be mentioned in any of the country's media. When he visited him, the non-person Rogers reported, was writing a friend who edited a Sao Paulo newspaper asking for an opportunity to express himself.

St. Joseph's Sets Program

Elmira—The Volunteer Services Department of St. Joseph's Hospital is sponsoring a "Holiday International" afternoon Sunday, Feb. 5 from 3 to 5 p.m.

Men and women between the ages of 18 and 80 who are interested in volunteer work at St. Joseph's Hospital are invited. Department members will explain the offerings of the volunteer program and respond to volunteer needs of those who wish to contribute their time and talents to St. Joseph's.

The afternoon will include entertainment provided by the Scottish Dancers along with refreshments of punch and an international food fair.

The program will be in the Dunn Memorial Building. Parking is available adjacent to the Dunn Memorial at the Madison Avenue entrance to St. Joseph's.

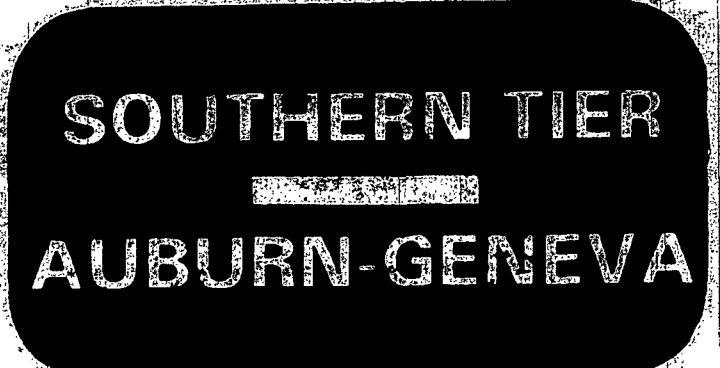
School's History To Be Traced

Ithaca—Various projects concerning growth will occupy the students of Immaculate Conception School during Catholic Schools Week, Jan. 29 through Feb. 4, according to Sister Raymond Mary Davis, principal.

A Mass and a prayer service will mark Monday's observance of "how we grow in the Church."

On Tuesday, the school will write thank-you notes to those both in the school and in the community who help the school. Parents of kindergarten pupils will spend time in the classroom. On Wednesday evening open house will feature ethnic foods, part of a project by the junior high students, and an exhibit.

The junior high students will trace the school's history through skits that will be performed for the school on Thursday. Friday will be student-teacher day, and will end with student-teacher competitions.



Chemung Board Approves Fund Raiser

By MARTIN TOOMBS
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira—The Chemung County General Education Board approved sponsorship of an Irish Review for March 15 and the reprinting of a brochure on the school system for use during registration, at its regular meeting Jan. 12.

The Irish Review program, proposed to the board by the Ways and Means Committee, will be presented in the Clemens Performing Arts Center in downtown Elmira, Barbara Skorzewski, committee chairperson, explained. The fund raising event could gross \$11,000, she said, with estimated expenses of \$5,000.

The disposition of funds raised by the committee was again the subject of a lengthy discussion. Mrs. Skorzewski reported that the committee suggested that the proceeds from the Irish Review be used to supplement the lay teachers' pay. She explained that the committee wanted the funds designated for a specific purpose so they can see the benefits of their work.

After lengthy discussion concerning the suggestion, sponsorship of the program was approved with a provision that the Ways and Means Committee and the Finance Committee meet jointly to discuss a method for disposition of the funds the committee raises.

The board approved the printing of 5,000 brochures, at a cost not to exceed \$400, for distribution in the county as part of the registration effort for next year. The booklet will be an updated version of one produced a few years ago, Thomas Klotz, chairman of the Registration and Public Relations Committee, told the board.

Sister Davidica, Our Lady of Lourdes principal, announced that as part of the Catholic Schools Week activities, Sister Roberta Tierney, diocesan schools superintendent, will speak at St. Mary's Auditorium on Feb. 1 at 7:30 p.m. Her topic will be "Mission and Ministry of Catholic Education." The talk is being sponsored by the Chemung Catholic School, Notre Dame High School, and St. Mary Our Mother School, Horseheads, she noted, for all parents in the area.

Board president Lawrence Stephens also read a communication from Panosian's, the only local school uniform distributor, that the store intends to discontinue the uniforms. After a discussion concerning possible solutions to the problem, Sister Julia Clare, St. Mary's principal, volunteered to chair a committee to examine the problem, and Sister Davidica and Sister Joan, St. Patrick's principal, said they also would serve on the committee.

Open Houses Set At Elmira Schools

Elmira—Open houses during the day will be a major part of the events of Catholic Schools Week, Jan. 29 through Feb. 4, in the Elmira Catholic School System.

At St. Patrick's Junior High, Monday and Thursday will be open house days, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., with a liturgy on Thursday.

A St. Casimir's open house will be on Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday will be "dress-down day" for the students, and a kickball game in the afternoon will involve the fifth and sixth graders. Friday will be "dress-up day" and will include a Mass.

At Our Lady of Lourdes, open houses will be from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday. Monday and Tuesday will be student awareness days, with essay and poster work emphasizing schools week themes. Friday will be

"patriotic dress-up day," with everyone being asked to wear red, white and blue. A Mass also will be celebrated on Friday.

St. Mary's School will have open house on Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. A variety and musical show and school-spirit rally will be conducted on Wednesday, and a Mass will be offered on Friday.

The Elmira Catholic School System, Notre Dame High School and St. Mary Our Mother School, Horseheads, also are sponsoring a talk by Sister Roberta Tierney, diocesan superintendent of schools during schools week. Sister Roberta will speak on "Mission and Ministry of Catholic Education" at St. Mary's Auditorium on Wednesday, Feb. 1 at 7:30 p.m.

Nursing Facility Gets Highest Rating

Elmira—St. Joseph's Hospital has received good news from the state Health Department. Sister Martha Gersbach, hospital administrator, was advised that upon completion of a recent review by the department, the hospital's 31-bed skilled nursing facility has received the highest possible rating.

The "very good" rating was determined by how well the facility provides care and services for its patients as required by the state hospital code and federal regulations. The review covers nursing, nutrition,

leisure activities, cleanliness and safety, medical care, rehabilitation therapy, social work and building features.

The birthing unit in the hospital maternity section also has been approved by the Bureau of Maternal and Child Health of the state Health Department.

The birthing concept provides a "home-like environment" within the obstetrical area allowing the involvement of both parents in the birth while making available delivery personnel and apparatus should complications arise.

Special Mass Sets School Theme

Corning—A Catholic Schools Week Mass for parishioners of all three Corning parishes will be the highlight of Schools Week activities in the Corning schools. Planned by the students, the Mass will be Sunday, Feb. 5 at 2:30 p.m. in St. Mary's Church. Students also are preparing banners for the Mass.

The week's program will

include an "open building" arrangement, with parents invited to visit during school hours, Sister Ann Miller, principal of Corning School South and Corning School North said.

The junior high students will be publishing a special edition of the school newspaper, and both buildings will have faculty luncheons during the week, Sister Ann said.

There also will be an open house for four-year olds at both schools' kindergartens.

Homily Begins Week At St. Ann's

Hornell—St. Ann's School is observing Catholic Schools Week activities Jan. 29 through Feb. 4 with daily activities in the school according to Sister Mary Ambrose, principal.

A homily at all Masses on Sunday, Jan. 29 will begin the week, which will feature "open building" sessions each morning during the week, and a special program when the grandmothers of the first graders will be invited to the school. Classroom work also will be displayed in local stores during the week.

A social with the school board also is planned for Sunday, Jan. 29.

Schools Week Observed

Horseheads—St. Mary Our Mother School will begin Catholic Schools Week, Jan. 29 through Feb. 4, with a homily at all Masses on Jan. 29.

On Tuesday, an art fair will take place. Wednesday will be grandparents day, with the students' grandparents invited to spend the day with their grandchildren. A liturgy will be celebrated on Friday, and then the sixth, seventh and eighth grades will go to the Elmira College Murray Athletic Center for skating and swimming, while the first through fifth grades see a movie.

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