

At Blessed Trinity

# Water Damage Forces Move of Classrooms

**Auburn** — Extensive water damage in 12 rooms at Blessed Trinity School has forced the school's seventh and eighth grade classes to be held in Holy Family School.

The damage to the facility was caused by roof leakage, Sister Walter Anne, principal, noted this week. "The roof of the school did not collapse as the rumors have stated," she said. "Steps are now being taken to correct all of this damage."

She stated that the rest of the building "is in perfect operating condition and classes have resumed on a normal schedule." The school's Kindergarten through sixth grade classes

are all being conducted in the Blessed Trinity building. For the time being, students at Holy Family are calling their building the Blessed Trinity annex, she said.

"While it is true that Blessed Trinity has suffered a severe blow," she commented, "it is also true that they have such a great deal for which to thank God. First of all, there were no children in the building at the time and no one was injured. Secondly, they were blessed with the foresight of pastors, parents and many others who consented to and worked on the merger of the three schools, Holy Family, Sacred Heart and St. Alphonsus. Due to this merger the other two

schools were readily available to them. And, thirdly, they had the support and cooperation of many dedicated friends.

"Had it not been for the cooperation of every faculty member, secretary and custodian, the awesome task of moving, within 48 hours, the books and the inventory of all material in the classrooms could never have been accomplished."

She noted "It was truly 'community in action' at Blessed Trinity School these past few days."

She stated her conviction that "Blessed Trinity will emerge from this misfortune even more unified and greatly strengthened."



Photo courtesy Steve Taylor, Citizen-Advertiser

Because of water leakage, Blessed Trinity second graders used a makeshift classroom in the basement last week. Sister Walter Anne, SSI, principal, talks with students. At left is Miss Kathleen Morgan, the second grade teacher.

## The Church in Poland Seen as Powerful Force

By RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE

The courtesy call paid by Mrs. Jimmy Carter and her husband's top foreign policy adviser to the Roman Catholic primate of Poland during Carter's eight-nation tour points up the unique power and influence of the Christian faith in this Soviet-bloc nation.

Ostensibly and officially "atheist," the Communist government nonetheless has to weigh Church concerns for effective implementation of its policies.

That political fact of life is also recognized abroad, and is seen as possible leverage by the Carter administration to broaden human rights. Polish-born Zbigniew Brezezinski, White House assistant for national security, told reporters after the meeting between him, Mrs. Carter and Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński that the Polish primate had praised Carter for his "strong religious stand" and for his position on human rights.

More recently, Communist party chief Edward Gierek told party members in a speech in Warsaw on Jan. 9 that his proposals to restore economic balance would get nowhere without full cooperation from the churches.

"The government policy of national unity favors the development of good church-state relations," Gierek said. "This in turn would result in cooperation in the implementation of great national aims and the prosperity of our People's Republic."

Gierek's appeal was addressed primarily to the powerful Roman Catholic Church, which represents about 95 per cent of Poland's 34.5 million population, but also to the leadership of the Polish Ecumenical Council, which links eight other Christian Churches, with a membership of about 1 million.

The Council comprises the autocephalous Polish Orthodox Church, the largest Christian minority; the second largest, the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession (Lutheran); the Polish Catholic Church (the Polish diocese of the North American Polish National Catholic Church); the Old Catholic Mariavite Church; the Reformed Evangelical Church; the Polish Union of Baptist Christians; the Polish Methodist Church; and the (Pentecostal) United Gospel Church.

Polish Seventh-day Adventists have observer status in the Council.

All these denominations have legal status. Last May, legal status was accorded to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon).

All told, there are some 30 officially recognized church bodies in Poland, and regardless of their size, all enjoy the same constitutional and legal rights and are subject to the same controls and regulations.

Constitutional guarantees of "freedom of conscience and confession to all citizens" of Poland go hand in hand with constitutional separation of church from state.

In Poland, this principle of separation has meant, among other things, separation between church and school, in such a way that general education has become, with few exceptions, an exclusive function of the state.

Churches, however, are permitted to operate

seminaries for ministerial training. Protestants, Orthodox and Old Catholics jointly administer the Christian Theological Academy in Warsaw. The Academy is financed by the state, which has a voice in the appointment of the teaching staff.

Orthodox also have their own seminaries, as do Seventh-day Adventists, and other individual denominations.

The Roman Catholic Church has approximately 50 major seminaries for the training of priests.

In addition, the Catholic Church operates two university-level institutions — the Catholic University of Lublin (KUL) and the Warsaw Academy of Catholic Theology.

KUL diplomas are honored on a par with those from state universities. Though KUL is financed by the Church, it received sizable government grants to repair the university buildings that had been severely damaged in World War II.

The Warsaw Academy of Catholic Theology is financed by the state and enjoys similar status to state institutions of higher learning.

A third private educational institution in Warsaw is the Methodist (English-language) College, operated by the Polish Methodist Church.

The state, through its Office for Religious Affairs, does, of course, exercise some control over the Churches. Many things must be reported to the authorities: the transfer of priests or ministers, the rebuilding of old churches which have cultural or historical value, church accounts, the nomination and election of all church leaders, and official visits by church leaders from abroad.

The intricate, subtle relationship between the two principal powers in Poland — the Catholic Church and the Communist Party — is unique in the Communist world.

Recent months have seen the first meeting in more than ten years between Cardinal Wyszyński and a Polish Communist leader. Gierek also met at the Vatican with Pope Paul, the first time the pontiff has received a Polish leader since the Communists took over the country.

Gierek's meetings with the cardinal and the pope were viewed as part of a larger design by the Communist leader to obtain the allegiance, or at least the acquiescence, of the Church for his long-postponed price increases and wage freezes.

In June 1976, with food prices falling behind production costs, the government announced price increases of up to 60 per cent. The increases were promptly rescinded when rioting broke out.

The intervention of the Catholic hierarchy on behalf of rioting workers and the bishops' call for "calm, sacrifice and hard work" helped prevent a worsening government crisis.

"It would be an exaggeration to call the Church in Poland a partner of the state," said a Polish government official. "But it could be said that we are both interested in faith and morals. This does not mean that there is full agreement on moral matters, but as Gierek (has) said, there is no conflict between church and state."

Despite this disclaimer, repeated by Gierek in his meeting with the pope, Polish bishops, in recent months, have been highly critical, not only of the government's handling of the economy, but also of restrictions placed on Catholic ministries and church life.

The prelates denounced the nation's media for promoting "godless ideology and total dictatorship," while a letter from Cardinal Wyszyński called for social justice and more humane living conditions for people who underwent "daily humiliations" of having to line up to buy food and by being ejected from their homes "to make room for more office buildings." In a later message, however, the cardinal praised the "enlightened" attitude of the country's Communist leaders, and voiced "great satisfaction" that they had "finally decided to improve relations" with the Church in order "to overcome (domestic) difficulties."

### Father Curran to Be Speaker at U. of R.

Father Charles E. Curran will speak on "Being Catholic in America" at this year's Beaven Lecture at the Interfaith Chapel, University of Rochester, at 8 p.m., Monday, March 20.

Father Curran teaches moral theology at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. and is past president of the Catholic Theological Society of America.

Catholics have been, at various times in the United States, persecuted, discriminated against and ignored by society. Father Curran will consider the impact of that history on Church life and teaching.

The Beaven Lecture is presented annually by the Chaplain's Office of the University of Rochester. It is named for the late Dr. Robert Beaven, a university chaplain for many years.

### Parish Plans Seminar

A three-session seminar on Community Drug Awareness is being sponsored by the Education Committee at St. Salome at the school hall, 4250 Culver Road. Each program will begin at 7:30 p.m. and will include a question and answer period.

Irondequoit Police Officer Ron Eisenhauer will be the speakers.

Session I is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 15. City Councilman Charles Schiano, an active participant in the Greece-Drug Awareness program, and

Session II is scheduled for Wednesday, March 1 and speaker will be Jim Manning of the Rochester Drug and Alcohol Council.

At Session III, Wednesday, March 8, Dr. Douglas Evans of the Rochester Mental Health Center will speak.

The seminar is open to all residents of Irondequoit.

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