



Rep. Matthew McHugh speaking to the students of St. Patrick's, Owego.

Students Quiz Congressman

By MARTIN TOOMBS
Southern Tier Editor

Owego— Representative Matthew McHugh visited St. Patrick's School Feb. 13 and fielded questions from the students ranging from how much money he makes to what he is giving up for Lent. The students eagerly asked questions that kept McHugh responding for nearly an hour.

McHugh, representative from the 27th Congressional District for three years and an Ithaca resident, began by telling the students that he represented them as well as those old enough to vote.

When McHugh responded "\$57,000" to the question concerning how much money he makes as a representative, the students "oohed" and "aahed" loudly.

He jokingly said that he was giving up "Billy's beer" for Lent, but then stated that instead of giving up something for Lent, he is working to remember to "say prayers every morning and every evening."

Asked if he had always wanted to be a representative, McHugh said that when he was young, he wanted to be a baseball player.

He also told the students that at a White House party last summer, his daughters got to climb into Amy Carter's treehouse on the White House lawn.

One student informed McHugh that his mother wanted to be a "congressgirl," to which McHugh said that he hoped she would "wait until I'm finished."

Parish Assisting Relief Efforts

Ithaca—The flooding of Fall Creek on the city's northside which began in mid-January has eased somewhat, although the work and the need for diligence is expected to continue throughout the spring thaw.

Immaculate Conception Parish is participating in two efforts to help. Twenty-one volunteers signed up for relief work in the Fall Creek neighborhood, and are available for work in homes, according to Sister Elizabeth Hughes, parish pastoral assistant.

Parishioners also are involved in an effort

Another student asked about his position on the Equal Rights Amendment, and about its effect on abortion. He responded that he is in favor of the amendment, and doesn't think it will affect abortion.

Asked if President Carter



Pauline Youngs, a volunteer at St. Mary Our Mother, Horseheads, correcting some math papers.

Volunteers Enrich School Program

Horseheads—The students and staff of St. Mary Our Mother School benefit from the hard work of a group of interested senior citizens who responded to an invitation to help the school.

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) provides three volunteers to the school who make it possible for extra services to be provided to the students and teachers.

Limited library facilities at St. Mary Our Mother prohibit an organized program of library use for the first and second graders. To close the gap, Jewell

tells jokes, McHugh said yes, and asked if they were funny, he responded "sometimes." Answering another question, he said that the president doesn't make jokes about his brother Billy, although, McHugh said, everyone else in Washington does.

Wilkinson selects and prepares stories, using diocesan curriculum guidelines, for the second graders. She then offers a story hour on Monday afternoons. Mrs. Wilkinson also brings along maps, pictures and background material on the author, and has been well received by the students.

Dorothy Muzzey types ditto masters, class plays, business correspondence and materials which provide practice and enrichment for students. Friendly students often investigate what Mrs. Muzzey is doing, and on occasion confuse her, with the nurse, the school secretary or someone's mother.

Pauline Youngs joins the school on Fridays. A resident of the Bethany Retirement Center, Miss Youngs sees her weekly work at St. Mary Our Mother as an opportunity to keep in touch with the hectic pace of the rest of the world. She does a variety of jobs, answering the telephone, cutting out bulletin board letters, repairing library books or putting up a Christmas tree.

Grandmothers of school students also participate in instructional capacities during mini-sessions and as library aides. They along with the RSVP volunteers offer an example of patience; they are not inhibited by pre-schoolers or by a sick child.

Bible Answers Question

Am I My Brother's Keeper?

By MARTIN TOOMBS
Southern Tier Editor

reported, although 90 percent believe in God.

Corning—Father Daniel Tormey initiated St. Patrick's Lenten series Feb. 16 speaking on "Am I My Brother's Keeper?"

The talk and discussion followed a well-attended parish pot luck supper. The series will feature a different speaker each Thursday evening during Lent except Holy Thursday.

Father Tormey, chaplain at the Elmira Reception Center, said that possibly "the answer that God gives" to Cain's question "Am I my brother's keeper?" is "the whole rest of the Bible."

"God will always be concerned with the poor and suffering," he said, noting that in Exodus, God responded to the cries of the Jews and freed them. But later, when the Jews were the oppressors, the prophet Amos admonished them for the way they were treating others. They failed to respond, and were punished for their oppression, he noted.

Another Biblical example of caring, Father Tormey noted, is Christ's association with the fringe of society. He often was criticized for his associations, he reminded those attending.

As an illustration of the need for Christians to treat others as a brother, Father Tormey described a study of the unchurched sponsored by the Glenmary Fathers. The study found that 40 percent of the people in the United States are not affiliated with a Church, he

A negative factor in building brotherhood, Father Tormey observed, is a lack of "willingness to listen," something that is increasing, he observed. Persons seem to have an "intolerance for dissent, an intolerance for diversity," he said. An example he gave is the charismatic movement; he noted that he sees a "drawing up of lines" on either side of the movement, and "I worry about that."

"A very positive sign," he said, is the divorced and separated ministry in the Elmira and Corning area, a movement based on reconciliation, he pointed out.

Noting the special problems of those he works with in prison, Father Tormey pointed out that Church people have always been aware of Christ's instruction to visit those in prison, but that the duty seems to have been "relegated to chaplains." While noting that prison ministry can be accomplished without en-

tering a prison, through political and legislative action, he called for persons to become more involved in criminal justice issues. The current system has many injustices, he said, the first of which is that "society has not taken into account the victims" of crime. Other injustices in dealing with criminals also need to be addressed, he said.

Father Tormey also described an unusual program at Rahweh State Prison, New Jersey, where teenagers who have been in trouble with the law are taken to the prison and spoken to by prisoners serving life terms. The sessions he described are verbally violent; a convict explained to him that "all we're trying to do is scare them." The program has been successful, he noted. In one year, of 3,500 teenagers who visited the prison, only 100 were arrested again.

Especially noteworthy, he said, is that the convicts, who set up and operate the program themselves, sincerely "care about the kids" and don't "want them" to follow in their footsteps.

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Photo by Mary Ann Ginnerty

Family Life panelists making their presentation at St. Patrick's. From left to right are: Mr. and Mrs. James Fitch, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Staropoli, Sister Kathleen Kircher, SSJ, and Father Edward Palombus.

Family Life Members Call For 'Families to Serve'

By MARY ANN GINNERTY

Seneca Falls—The staff members from the Office of Family Life explained their future plans during a Family Ministry Night presentation at St. Patrick's, here, Feb. 13.

The program was designed to raise diocesan consciousness toward the need for strengthening the family ministry.

Family Life members included Mr. and Mrs. Frank Staropoli, Family Life co-directors, Mr. and Mrs. James Fitch, coordinators for Pre-Cana, Sister

Kathleen Kircher, SSJ, ministry to the divorced, separated and remarried Catholics, and Father Edward Palombus, coordinator for the diocesan Marriage Encounter Apostolate.

The Staropoli emphasized that priority must be given to the recognition of the family as a community of people who nurture each other through love and prayer. Family ministry includes the whole gamut of family styles which include single parents, the separated and divorced, older couples, religious men and women in

in community as well as the traditional nuclear families, they said.

"Family ministry doesn't mean serving families as much as calling families to serve. We are really called to minister to one another and can begin by helping families to face everyday life in a Christian context," they said.

A celebration of the Eucharist with Father Palombus followed small group discussions.

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