

# SOUTHERN TIER AUBURN-GENEVA

## Parish Cooperation Provides Varied Junior High Instruction

By MARTIN TOOMBS  
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira—Parish cooperation is not new to Elmira, but one of the lesser known cooperative programs probably also is the most unusual; six parishes have combined their junior high religious education programs for students in public schools.

Some parishes had too few students to offer a quality program, explained Sister Joan Cawley, coordinator of the Monday evening classes, and the combination of the community's students and resources have made a varied program possible.

The program also benefits from the audio-visual aids and other materials, designed for junior high students, that are available at St. Patrick's Junior High, where the classes meet, sister pointed out.

The program also is "able to draw from all the parishes for personnel," sister noted. Teaching in the program are two priests, five sisters and one laywoman, resulting in more contact between the students and clergy and religious than in Catholic schools, she commented. The "large number of priests and religious teaching in the program is good for the students in public schools," she added.

Father O'Connor, who has been with the program since it began in September 1973, noted that the consolidation means the program has "better faculty than any one parish could have." Sister Joan noted that the instructors are experienced teachers, which helps with the difficult junior high age group.

The 160 seventh and eighth graders make up four classes in each grade, of 18 to 20 students, sister reported. Attendance is monitored, she noted, and students who are absent are called at home.

A common problem in religious education programs is low enrollment, and the Elmira program is no exception. Even though the parishes require students to attend the classes before beginning Confirmation training, sister noted, enrollment in the program is only about one third of what it should be.

While it "may not be the best program going," sister said, it is "better than we were able to do on a parish level."

The "input from the

parishes" on the continued operation of the program "has been very good," sister noted, adding that she has had little difficulty getting teachers or substitutes.

A suggestion for a similar program for high school students has surfaced in St. Anthony's parish, sister reported; further discussion is expected.

The parishes participating in the program are Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Patrick's, St. Peter and Paul, St. Cecilia's, St. Anthony's and St. Casimir's.

In the seventh grade block, Father O'Connor gives "Bridging the Bible." Father Paul Gibbons, associate pastor of St. Casimir's, teaches "The Church and its Beginnings." Mrs. Mary Tucker of Our Lady of Lourdes, "The Sacrament of Reconciliation," and Sister Robertina, "Creation and Baptism."

The eighth grade courses, all taught by sisters on the Notre Dame faculty, are Sister Dolores Ann's "The Person of Jesus," Sister Nathanael's "The Mass," Sister Arlene's "Jesus, the Church and Me," and Sister Katherine Ann's "Prayer."



Photo by Martin Toombs

### Renovation Work

For the first time in nearly 15 years, Immaculate Conception Church in Ithaca is in the process of renovation. Scaffolding rises in the sanctuary as workmen paint.

### STONE SOUP

Freeville—Twenty-five high school students will serve "stone soup" Sunday, March 12, at Holy Cross Parish Center, hoping to raise \$500 for Catholic Relief Services. They are soliciting donations of vegetables for the soup and apples for dessert; are baking bread, making posters, planning a prayer service, decorating the dining room and selling tickets at \$2.50 each. In charge are Cecile Schickel, Rene Funke and Lori Flaville. Supper will begin at 5 p.m.

### CHOIR RECITAL

Auburn—St. Mary's Church Choir will present a Mass by William Byrd, a 16th century English composer, tonight at 8 p.m. at the church, 15 Clark St.

Father Gerald O'Connor, associate pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes, noted that the change of classes and the "quality and variety of the teachers" helps make the program interesting for the students. It also reduces preparation work for the teachers, he noted, as they repeat the same course through the year.

### Irish Review March 15

Elmira—An Irish Review featuring Paddy Noonan and his Grand Irish Band will be presented Wednesday, March 15 at 8 p.m. in the Samuel Clemens Performing Arts Center, downtown Elmira.

The Irish Review will benefit the Chemung County Catholic School System, and is being planned by the system's Ways and Means Committee. Tickets are available at the Clemens Center box office.

## Prison Residents Help Young Offenders Reform

By MARY ANN GINNERTY

Auburn—Resident members of the Legion of Mary at Auburn Correctional Facility (ACF) are participating in a program designed to keep young people who have already had minor trouble with the law away from more serious crimes.

The group of some 60 Auburn Correctional

residents is working closely with the Prison Ministry Team of St. Stephen's, Geneva, Prayer Group and the Geneva Legion of Mary. Both Geneva groups began visiting the residents at the invitation of Father Clarence Gardner, prison chaplain.

The ACF residents write letters to the young offenders describing prison life and encouraging them

to stay out of trouble. They also advise the prison teams on how to counsel parents, and what to look for if they think their children are getting in trouble.

A Legion of Mary spokesperson said those inside are very anxious to tell young people how bad prison life is in order to deter them if possible.

Prison residents meet with prison team members every two weeks and they plan to continue their work.

### ST. PAT'S PARTY

Seneca Falls—The annual St. Patrick's Day party of St. Patrick's Church will be held Saturday, March 18, from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. in the school gymnasium on West Bayard St. Duke Gerlach's Big Band will play for dancing. Tickets are available at the church rectory and at Ceo and Rutz, Pedull's, Ryans, The Package, and Sincicropi Florist.

### HEALING SERVICE

Hornell—Father Edward McDonough of Roxbury, Mass., will conduct a healing service at 8:30 p.m. Friday, March 10, at St. Ann's Church. The service, scheduled originally for Feb. 10, was postponed because of the weather.

## Supreme Court Rules Against J.P. Stevens

Washington, D.C.(RNS)—The U.S. Supreme Court rejected a request by the J.P. Stevens Co. that it review a lower court ruling which requires the firm to cooperate with union organizers in its plants and also imposes a large fine for abuses.

The Court refused to hear a plea to reverse the decision by the federal appeals court in New York City. That court ruled that the company had ignored three earlier court orders to stop interfering with the workers' right to organize.

J.P. Stevens replied to the high court decision by saying it "had hoped the U.S. (Supreme) Court would have taken the opportunity

to review the decision of the Second Circuit of Appeals (but) the appeal process is... complete. (The company) intends to comply with the order of the court as we have in the past."

The citation which the justices refused to review was the latest of 18 brought by the NLRB since 1967.

It charged the company with firing employees for engaging in union activity, coercing employees to report on other employees' union organizing, placing electronic surveillance devices in the motel room of a union organizer and harassing and reprimanding pro-union employees.



### Clowns In the Making

The first graders at Immaculate Conception School, Ithaca, busy building bodies of what will be clown dolls. The papier-mache art project was under the tutelage of Julie Gomez, an art volunteer at the school.

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