

COURIER-JOURNAL

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Southern Tier-Auburn Geneva

Assembly Slated April 16

Ithaca—The Tompkins-Tioga Regional Assembly will meet Sunday, April 16 at 2 p.m. in Immaculate Conception School.

Father Douglas Hoffman, diocesan director of Pastoral Ministry, will address the assembly.

The major part of the meeting will be dedicated to a discussion of Bishop Hogan's Focus for 1977-78. Group discussions will address the implementation of the goals on a parish level. Parish council members and regional delegates are invited to attend and participate in the discussions, according to Father Albert Cason, regional coordinator.

Two delegates to the Diocesan Pastoral Council from the region will be elected, to fill the seats currently held by Glenna Wickline and Valerie Rynne. Regional officers also will be elected.

Information On NFP Offered

Elmira—An informational meeting on Natural Family Planning (NFP) will be offered Wednesday, April 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Doctors Meeting Room at St. Joseph's Hospital.

The meeting is for information only. Methods will be taught to engaged and married couples at a later date.

Beryl and Nick Iven of Odessa, certified NFP instructors, will conduct the NFP program at St. Joseph's. They are volunteers associated with Natural Family Planning Education of Rochester.

Further information can be obtained by contacting the Ivens, (607) 594-2380.

NFP Clinic Slated In Waterloo

Waterloo—A Natural Family Planning clinic is being offered at St. Mary's Church here under the guidance of certified instructors, Lon and Carol Snook.

The clinic is a three-part series, held every other Monday. Mrs. Snook said the first session provides instruction in the use of the natural family planning method with follow up discussions in the later sessions. Couples can begin use of the method after the first session.

"We like to call it (NFP) fertility awareness rather than birth control. It can be used to plan a pregnancy as well as control child birth," Mrs. Snook said.

This approach should help the relationships bet-

Chemung County Jail Has First-Ever Mass

Elmira—An Easter Mass offered in the Chemung County Jail was a landmark for the facility.

As far as is known, the Mass was the first ever offered in the jail.

Eight inmates attended the Mass, celebrated by Father Richard Murphy. Father Murphy reported that the men were "very enthusiastic" about the

Mass, and "definitely wanted it again."

He added that he intends that the Mass be the first of monthly celebrations at the jail. He recently took over the duties of jail chaplain; he also is chaplain at Notre Dame High School and Corning Community College.

Easter Sunday also saw Mass offered in the Steuben County Jail,

Bath, by Father Richard Tormey of St. Mary's. He noted that 17 men attended the Mass, although he didn't know if all were Catholic. He reported that he didn't have time to talk with the inmates, who were taken to their cells immediately after the Mass, but added that he sees the possibility of more Masses at the facility in the future. He pointed out that usually from one-quarter to one-third of the 40 to 50 in-

mates at the jail are Catholic.

Sister Margaret Mary Flynn, Offender Aid and Restoration director at the Chemung jail, called the Mass a "really good experience." She noted that a difficulty with religious programs in jails is that often inmates attend just to get out of their cells, and don't participate. Such was not the case for the Easter celebration, she said; one

inmate even served as a lector. She also noted that Father Murphy had been to the jail the previous day to hear confessions.

Father Murphy said that the assistance he received from acting chief jailer Harold Sechrist was helpful, noting that the inmates were allowed to go to the room where Mass was offered early and help set up, and no guards were visible during the Mass.

St. Joseph's Adds Eye Treatment Laser

Elmira—An estimated 1500 diabetic patients in the service area of St. Joseph's Hospital are potential victims of the leading single cause of new blindness in the United States, Diabetic Retinopathy, a blood vessel disease of the eye's retina.

St. Joseph's, through the initiative of several local ophthalmologists, has joined in a cooperative effort to address the problem through the development of a diagnostic and treatment program.

Since 1974 St. Joseph's has utilized a Photo-coagulator and Fluorescein Camera in the emergency service area for diagnosis and treatment of certain eye problems. The addition of an Argon Laser

now allows the treatment for Diabetic Retinopathy and other retinal problems.

Through contributions from the Anderson-Evans Foundation of Elmira and the Thatcher Glass Manufacturing Company, the purchase of the \$30,000 laser was accomplished. Appointments for free screening may be made through the Ambulatory Services Department, extension 539, at St. Joseph's Hospital.

With the commencement of the Diabetic Retinopathy Alert Program, a speaker's bureau, also, will make knowledgeable professionals available to local organizations for informational programs.



Brian Bancroft, Tom Welch, Jean Welch and Kate Roberts checking the supplies for their class trip to the Cape Cod National Seashore.



Trophies Awarded

Trophies recently were presented to students of St. Mary's, Dansville, for their sports activities during the winter. From left, Chris Shively, William Quinlan, seventh and eighth grade basketball coach, Brenden Conway, Dave Martin, Bryn Didas, Sue Davis, cheerleading advisor, and Rosa Kim. Missing is fifth and sixth grade coach Bud Gee.

Environmental Study Seashore Trip's Goal

Dansville—St. Mary's eighth grade will be making a week-long trip to the Cape Cod National Seashore from April 16 to 22.

The 21 class members and their teacher, Maureen Sweet, have been preparing for the trip by planning meals, organizing the scheduled activities, and studying ways in which individuals can help protect the environment.

Last year's eighth grade made the same trip, a program that is offered to 30 schools. St. Mary's was one of the 300 schools to apply for the program, and the only one invited from outside New England.

The educational trip has been developed by the National Park Service. During their stay, the group will visit Provincetown, Plymouth and Hyannis, and take advantage of the environmental activities offered by the National Park Service.

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Chaperones for the trip will be Mr. and Mrs. Robert Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph LaBell, Flora Welch, Carol Schirmer, Gail Vogt, Mary Ann Loncao, Maureen Sweet and Diana Travec.

Ice Cream Social

Elmira—St. Mary's Parents Club will sponsor an Ice Cream Social Friday, April 14 from 5 to 8 p.m. in the auditorium in St. Mary's Marian Center. Proceeds will benefit St. Mary's School.

RTL To Meet

Elmira—The Chemung County Right to Life Committee will conduct its monthly meeting Thursday, April 20 at 8:15 p.m. in the Doctors Meeting Room at St. Joseph's Hospital. All interested persons are invited.

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139 Walnut St.
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Corning Sets Registration

Corning—Registration for the coming school year for new students entering the Corning Catholic School System will be Monday, April 24, and Wednesday, April 26 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. each day at Corning Catholic School South, 158 State St. Sister Ann Miller, principal, will register the students. Parents of children not baptized in Corning are asked to take baptismal certificates to the registration.

Correction

In last week's story on reorganization of the Auburn area Divorced, Separated and Remarried group the address of St. Mary's School, where the meetings take place, was incorrect. The St. Mary's School is located at 17 Clymer St., just off South Street. The address reported, 15 Clark St., is the address of St. Mary's Church.

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Regional Highlights

Following is a schedule of upcoming spring regional assemblies.

Yates-Ontario-Wayne April 28 at St. Stephen's, Geneva

Tompkins-Tioga April 16 at Immaculate Conception, Ithaca.

Livingston-Steuben April 23 at St. Joseph, Wayland

North May 9 at St. Margaret Mary, Rochester.

Seneca-Cayuga April 16 at Holy Family, Auburn.

Northwest May 16 at Holy Cross, Rochester.

All parish council members for these regions are invited to attend the assemblies. The Southwest Chemung-Schuyler, Southeast and Northeast regions have already met.