

COURIER-JOURNAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

32 Pages—Two Sections

Wednesday, April 26, 1978

OUR 94th YEAR

20 Cents

No Justice Down on Farm?

The rural staff of the Office of Human Development (OHD) is urging participation in a Day of Prayer for Economic Justice in our Food System Sunday, April 30.

The program is sponsored nationally by the National Catholic Rural Life Conference.

In a letter urging parish participation in the prayer observance, the staff notes that the current situation with regard to food policy is "a real scandal and needs to be addressed."

Farm prices which affect the entire rural community are far below parity, the letter explains. "We are told that the cause of these low prices is a surplus in nearly every area. These low prices

are not only unjust but are also a real threat to our family farm system.

"Yet despite the surplus in this country, we find the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations saying that there are at least 500 million starving people. Now this seems like a ridiculous problem that a child could solve. Yet our leaders in government, Church, education, agriculture, grain companies and others are not solving it."

"These injustices, then, are the reason for our choice of theme for prayer this spring: Economic Justice in our Food System."

While a lack of will to feed the hungry is not the only cause of these injustices, we think it is a major cause.



We are asking that all of us join in prayer for courage to do something and for wisdom to do the right thing.

The rural OHD staff are Sister Mary Kruckow and Father Neil Miller, Southern Tier, and Sister Anne Urquhart and Father William Spilly, Northern Tier.

Sister Anne Urquhart and Father William Spilly of the Northern Tier office of Rural OHD.

Photos by Susan McKinney

One Parish... Five Generations



FR. GAGNIER

Ordination Slated for John Gagnier

Deacon John Gagnier will be ordained a priest on Friday, April 28 at 7:30 p.m. by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan at St. Mary's of the Lake Church in Ontario where the ordinand has served this year as a deacon intern.

The new priest is the son of William and Virginia Gagnier and of the late Barbara (Babe) Gagnier.

Fr. Gagnier attended St. Mary's of the Lake and St. John's of the Lake from 1973 to 1977. He was ordained a deacon in 1977 and served as a deacon intern at St. John's of the Lake.

According to Julia Gorski, a friend of the Ray Dornberger family, the Dornbergers are St. Salome's answer to Alex Haley's "Roots." She has it all down in a journal about the five generations of Dornbergers who have dedicated their time and energies to St. Salome's parish community.

It all started back in 1923, said Ray Dornberger. That was the year he and his Ethel moved down into the Culver Road parish. They were no sooner settled when he took up ushering duties for the church, which he is still doing at the 5 p.m. Mass on Saturdays. The following year he persuaded his father and mother to move into the parish and his father also became an usher.

Dornberger, who is 81, has no trouble remembering those years and said, "I'm happy the Lord blessed me with such a memory. He enjoys chatting about the family and parish history and recalled that back in the



Photo by Terrance J. Brennan

Four generations of dedicated parishioners include bottom row from left: David, Chrissy and Kent Michels. Second row: Mrs. Jacqueline Michels, Ken Helfer, Mrs. Mary Helfer and Mrs. Ethel Dornberger. Third row: Dave Michels, Larry Helfer and Ray Dornberger, with Father Conrad Sundholm.

20s there were no resident priests at St. Salome's. Visiting priests would come

down in horse and buggies or on the streetcar to say Mass for the St. Salome people.

He enthusiastically reminisces about the "helping hand club" of which he was

secretary. "We did everything," he claimed, and though the primary reason for the club was to raise money, members also took care of the maintenance and handled the building chores. According to Dornberger they were responsible for the church sacristy, built the garage and installed a new boiler for the school.

One of Dornberger's fondest memories was of the club's dollar day party, an event which offered the people all they could eat and drink for that amount.

"My wife was chairman of the kitchen," he proudly stated, explaining that the chore entailed organizing, cooking and serving.

When their daughter Mary was born another generation of parish commitment began. Mary, who at one time was a Courier-Journal paper carrier, attended St. Salome's.

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New York State Bishops List Legislative Concerns

Albany — In a 12-part position paper released in conjunction with their recent meeting here, the bishops of New York State urged legislative action on a wide variety of issues.

They called for increased aid for the poor, help for unwed mothers, opposition

to the death penalty, and opposition to the use of tax funds to pay for elective abortions.

Charles J. Tobin, secretary of the State Catholic Conference, said that "no other private group in the world is as interested in people concerns: health, education,

hospitals etc., as is the Catholic Church."

The position paper includes:

1. Opposition to death penalties for criminals and the unborn.

2. Opposition to paying for elective abortions.

3. Support of increased funding to the poor and needy who are living on a 1971 income standard.

4. Support for unwed mothers including counseling, maternity care, and after-birth care for their infants.

5. Support for expanded health services to both public and nonpublic school students.

6. Support for federal legislation that would provide tuition tax credits for all levels of education.

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