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# BK Retreat Program Offers Total Student Christian Experience

By JOAN M. SMITH

With academics, dances, sports and festivals a major part of high school life, questions are often raised regarding the role of religion in Catholic education. Assuredly it is there, quietly taught and actively directing students to an awareness of Christ and His teachings. Though no longer encased in the formally structured sodalities or days of recollection - it is there. Bishop Kearney High School's retreat ministry is an example.

Under the direction of Ronald Howe, Brother religious minister, and Father Lawrence Gross, chaplain, BK retreats have taken on anew dimension. Instead of a certain day of recollection put aside for each of the classes as a whole (which in BK's case could mean 450 students), retreats are now being made by smaller groups — in-dividual religion classes which number 35-40 students. Twice weekly, Brother and Father hold these special days at Holy Angels on Winton Road. Before the year is out, freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors all will have experienced a day of spiritual growth and selfawareness through prayer, meditation and self-revelation.

Each class has its theme: freshmen, "Self-development in Christ"; sophomores, "Eucharist"; juniors,

"Listening and Talking with the Lord"; though perhaps it is the senior theme, "Being Christian", that best describes the project's aim which in Father's words, "Is simple basic Christianity and getting them to live it."

Each group participates in its day — preparing and performing the liturgical music, selecting and reading the homilies. It is their day and though a heavy one a personally satisfying one.

The days are called "Pax (Latin-peace) Days" with the initials used to symbolize "Personal Awareness of Christ". Brother describes the retreat activities in terms of Christian mantras, Christian yoga, and group dynamics. All of which mean praying, meditating, sharing, learning and abosorbing Christian morals and values.

In talking about the new retreat concept Brother Howe said, "We need to face ourselves. The 60's were a time of action, now in the 70's — prayer is in."

Both Brother and Father agree that they have no way of knowing what the impact of the program will be, but can't help think it will mushroom. It looks as if they won't be disappointed in their optimism. Though in its early stages, the students who have participated in the program are enthusiastic. This is revealed in their written



Kath Signorelli, Carrie Hasselwonder, Chris Burley and Paul Boutte discuss their views and ideas about the retreat program with Brother Howe and Father Gross. Chris and Paul performed the music for their retreat day with Chris as guitarist and Paul as organist.

evaluations. One such statement read, "It made me realize the different ways to offer everything I had to God."

Another — "It brought me closer to Jesus in a way I have never experienced before."

Also, there have been many

seniors offering their services to help with the upcoming freshmen retreats. The program has even begun to encompass graduates like Michael Mazzochetti, '72, and his brother Dave, '73, who according to Brother were due to participate in one of the next retreats.

The gentlemen guiding the

retreat program, which they insisted was motivated by Brother Thomas Feerick, principal, are not new to BK. Father Gross has been chaplain for eight years and previously, Brother Howe has taught at the school. His primary duty now, however, is to oversee the workings of the retreat program.

## Mooney Students Named Semifinalists

Brother Francis Ellis, principal of Cardinal Mooney High School, has announced the three senior students who have been named semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program. They are: Erik Hemdal, Brian Redmond, and Linda Schmitt.

Semifinalists, the highestscoring students in each state. are named from over 1 million students enrolled in 18,000 high schools who entered the 1979 Merit Program by taking the 1977 PSAT/NMSQT qualifying test. To be considered for Merit Scholarships these students must advance to Finalist standing by meeting further requirements which include: being fully endorsed and recommended for scholarships by the school principal, presenting school records that confirm high

#### Theater Event

Cardinal Mooney High School students, members of the college credit English class, attended a performance of George Bernard Shaw's "Major Barbara" at the Shaw Festival Theatre, Niagara-on-the-Lake. Ontario, Canada. "Accompanying them were their teacher, Miss Joanne Hinz, Brother Andrew Boone and Sisten Barbara Weyand, wice principal.

academic standing and substantiating their high qualifying test scores with equivalent scores on a second examination.

Also recognized by the Merit Program are Mooney students who have achieved commendation. They are: Patricia Batchelor, John Cianca, Terese Connor, Mary Cuccaro, Michael Johnston, Stephen LeBlanc, Gail Petrie, Denise Sarkis, Steven Wellman.

### German Festival

Our Lady of Mercy High School will celebrate, Oktoberfest, Oct. 21, 9-1 a.m. in the school gym. The evening will include music by the Krazy Fireman Band and a German buffet featuring homemade sauerkraut, potato salad, bratwurst, kuchen and coffee. Liquid refreshments will be available. Tickets are \$6 at door and \$5 in advance. For further information, phone the school office, 288-7120 between 8-3 p.m. or Mrs Leonard Burmeister evenings at 223-6064. Proceeds from the event will go towards the

scholarship fund:



By KEVIN CASEY McQuaid

"Merlyn grumbled about athletics, saying that nowdays people seem to think you were an educated man if you could knock another man off a horse and that the craze of games was the ruin of scholarship—nobody got scholarships like they used to when he was a boy "—"The Once and Future King" by T. H. White.

In recent years athletics have been growing on the collegiate level. Education seems to have become second in priorities, of many fine universities, to the value of laying claim to a football or basketball title. The high school

works to attain an "A" average for four years is disillusioned to find that he was rejected at his first choice college, while a football player with college board scores of half his and a "C" average is not only heavily recruited but given a four year scholarship.

Speaking Out

Our society in the past few years has undergone a value change. Education is experienceing de-emphasis while sports and the glorification of the athlete is growing. Our educational centers are no longer remembered as the institutions that contributed significantly to energy or biological research, but as the home of a winning football or basketball team.

Athletes are given added preferential treatment after the admissions procedure. A common complaint about college life is the food; however, many schools have special training tables for athletes that provide more nutritious (and certainly more palarable) meals than those for the rest of the student body

One of the most disturbing pieces of news was found in the Sept 11 issue of Sports Illustrated.

21 year old junior halfback for the University of Alabama. Jones discussed how the high school coach of his hometown football team urged him to "spend another year in seventh grade" so he might be better developed for football when he entered high school. Jones complied with the coach's wishes. In 1977, as a sophomore, Jones again repeated a year, this time at the University of Alabama. This policycalled redshirting is legal. National Collegiate Athletic Association (the college sports governing body) rules allow five consecutive years for the completion of four years of varsity competition. In essence an athlete might spend an extra year in college for the sole purpose of competition.

Athletics have an important role in our society but we must not let that value cloud, the real reason for the existence of our universities. In furthering athletics and competition we should never allow ourselves to compromise the basic values of education. It is only through the support of a fully rounded educational system that we may advance

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