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# COURIER-JOURNAL

## Southern Tier-Auburn Geneva

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### The Southern Tier In Action



#### Distinguished Visitor

Thomas A. Murphy, chairman of General Motors, recently toured Hornell, where he spent his early years, visiting St. James Mercy Hospital where he was born, and St. Ann's School, which he attended. Above, he is greeted by Sister Mary Ambrose, St. Ann's principal, while pupils crowd around in the school playground. At left is Father Robert Mac-Namara, St. Ann's pastor; at right is Hornell Mayor Richard Dunning. Murphy spoke to the students, reminding them of the need to work and pray if they wished to attain spiritual and professional success.



#### Parents Meet Principal

Sister Marilyn Reeves, SSJ, the new principal of St. Mary's School, Elmira, talking to parents at a dish-to-pass supper sponsored by the St. Mary's Regional School Parents Club Sept. 27. The club began the school year by donating \$500 to the school, to be used to benefit the school children. The dinner was attended by 75 parents, who sat with their child's teacher and the parents of their child's classmates.



Five parishioners of St. Margaret Mary, Apalachin, discussing their hopes for the parish's future, during the "We the Parish" program Sept. 28. They are, from left, Donna Buchta, Patricia MacDonald, Dot McClintock, William Cooney and David Buchta.

#### Parish Unity Examined

By MARTIN TOOMBS  
Southern Tier Editor

Apalachin—Forty persons attended most of the "We the Parish" sessions at St. Margaret Mary Parish during the Thursdays of September, and then agreed to meet a fifth Thursday for a pot-luck supper to discuss ways they, as a group, could use their resources to benefit the parish.

loneliness in the parish, with the intention of making participants aware of the parishioners around them.

The similarity between the parish and the family was the topic of the third program, "A Family Affair."

The fourth week, "A Spark of Life," concentrated on the spark persons are able to give one another.

Each week, one of the talks was given by a lay person, and one by Father Schmidt.

Speaking of the "Spark of Life," Father Schmidt noted that things, often not dramatic, can enliven a person's day. Events such as letters from friends or relatives, or an unexpected visit, are "the little things that brighten up a person's day—at least they do my day," he related.

People should be aware of opportunities to give that "spark of life" to others, he pointed out.

The evening's program also included group discussions, with the participants examining their hopes and dreams for the parish, and what they can do to make those hopes a reality.

The "We the Parish" program, published by Sadlier and Worldwide Marriage Encounter, is a series of four evenings consisting of two short talks, and discussions, with each night focusing on a particular theme.

The organizers of the event, Susan and Stephen Kempisty, and Father Elmer Schmidt, pastor, expressed their satisfaction with the program, noting that the participation had been active, and they felt that having the program will be good for the parish.

The opening night is titled "Memories of Sunday Morning," and tries to rekindle memories of early parish life, to show each person the basis for their understanding of Church.

"Sounds of Silence," the second program, looks at

#### Catechist's Role Discussed in Auburn

Auburn—The role of the catechist today was the subject of a talk given Sept. 19 by James Fagan, representing the Sadlier Publishing Co. at St. Alphonsus Church here. His presentation was a part of the Sharing the Light of Faith Series sponsored by the Education Committee of the Cayuga-Seneca Region.

Fagan indicated that one thrust of the National Catechetical Directory, which came out of the National Bishops' Conference a few years ago, was the change in the language of instruction about the faith. The term religious education was changed to catechesis as more nearly reflective of the process involved.

"The purpose is to help a man's faith become a living and conscious one by helping people get involved in the process which leads to an active faith and commitment. The goal is an ongoing renewal and conversion process," he said.

Ten past presidents, including the first one, Lucille Morgan, took part in the program. It was announced that an article for the altar had been given in appreciation of Past President Betty Teller's sacristy work and service to the society. The current president, Alice Wadhams, saluted 20-year members, giving each a certificate of charter membership. They are Sadie Birch, Concetta Cerino, Bessie Cook, Geneva McNaney, Elizabeth Murray, Elizabeth Nailos, Loretta Nielson, Helen Rausch, Betty Teller and Pauline Weber.

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#### Lector Workshop

More than 50 persons from Southern Tier parishes are participating in a lector workshop at St. Mary Our Mother, Horseheads, on four Wednesdays, sponsored by the diocesan Liturgy Office. Above, David Nowak, of the office, speaking to the lectors on the course's opening night Sept. 27.



#### Stewardship Drive Set

St. Ann's, Hornell, Parish Council met in their regular meeting Oct. 2, and finalized plans for that parish's participation in the Stewardship Program. Two hundred parish volunteers were set to visit the parish's 1,500 families Sunday, Oct. 8. Some of the parish council members working on the final details are, above, from left, Augustine Dunn, Ruth Canty, Deacon Michael Bausch, Barbara Arnault, secretary, and William Loree, president.

#### St. Patrick's, Corning, Speaker:

#### Parents Need To Be Listeners

By MARTIN TOOMBS  
Southern Tier Editor

Corning—"Parenting is the only job of such an important nature" which has no training either before or during, Gilbert Sweet pointed out to the more than 100 parents attending the Family Education program at St. Patrick's Parish Sunday, Oct. 1.

Education Coordinator, are available for the parents, while their children attend religious education classes using the Sadlier series.

Sweet noted that it was difficult to do in an hour what he usually does in a semester, but he hoped to explain his philosophy concerning families, and to teach the parents something they could find useful.

The goal, he explained, is for families to become a "nurturant family," which is achieved when family members "give each other help when they need help," he said.

There are three basic skills parents need to be able to deal with their children effectively, he said: listening, confronting, and problem solving. It also is important, he emphasized, for parents to know "when to use which skill."

Listening includes giving time to children to explain their problems and perspectives; listening is not always called for, he noted, saying that parents sometimes need to confront their children concerning unacceptable behavior. Problem solving is a continual process

in the family, he noted, and should be developed.

Sweet explained a model which is designed to help understand parental reactions to children's behavior. All behavior is either acceptable or not acceptable, Sweet noted, and as there is "no such thing as a perfect person," some behavior always will fall into the not-acceptable category.

He also noted that parents who have a low "acceptance line," are perfectionists, and expect too much from their children. Others, who accept nearly any behavior, leave children without an understanding of how they should act. Both extremes can be damaging, he noted.

Sweet stated that many parents want to learn to confront their children successfully, while they really need to improve their listening skills.

The effectiveness of listening as a response to unacceptable behavior, rather than confronting, was questioned by a parent present. Sweet commented that "the most important thing to do is to listen to your kids," noting that it is valuable not just when the parent is trying to affect behavior.

#### Rosarians Mark 20th

Waterloo—A Living Rosary, reception of new members and a tureen supper marked the 20th anniversary of the Rosary Altar Society of St. Mary's Church. The society was organized in 1958 under the spiritual guidance of Father Robert Egan, now pastor of St. Bernard's, Scipio Center.

Among the guests at the anniversary celebration Sept. 19 were other former moderators — Fathers George Gauthier, James O'Connell and William Gordinier. Also present were Father Albert Shamon, pastor, and his assistant, Father Robert Doell.

Ten past presidents, including the first one, Lucille Morgan, took part in the program. It was announced that an article for the altar had been given in appreciation of Past President Betty Teller's sacristy work and service to the society. The current president, Alice Wadhams, saluted 20-year members, giving each a certificate of charter membership. They are Sadie Birch, Concetta Cerino, Bessie Cook, Geneva McNaney, Elizabeth Murray, Elizabeth Nailos, Loretta Nielson, Helen Rausch, Betty Teller and Pauline Weber.