

# The Church 1978

By Father Andrew Greeley

## Studying Youth Will Aid Church

I will not try to hide my enthusiasm about the study which the Knights of Columbus have commissioned of the religious and vocation attitudes of young Catholics. The most critical institutional problem the Church faces is the extraordinary decline of vocations in the last 15 years.

The refusal of all Catholic agencies to seriously investigate the problem, before the

Knights decided to do something about it, has always baffled me. All too easily our church leadership accepted the inevitability of vocational decline and busily closed down training institutions without ever bothering to figure out why.

It's high time we found out about vocations. The Knights are to be commended for their courage in taking the lead.

I suppose I'm prejudiced in the matter, because my colleagues William McCready and Terry Sullivan will be the principal investigators in the project. Even more important than the fact that the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) will do the study is the decision of the Knights to settle for

nothing less than professional competent research. The Church has been content too long with second-rate efforts, not all of them inexpensive by any means.

I am not saying that NORC is the only research organization in the country capable of high-quality survey research. There are at least a half-dozen other groups who compete with us head-to-head in government contract work. I think the boss might object if I listed our rivals in public print, but I would be happy to provide them to any Catholic agency which would prefer not to get involved with an organization where I work (at least some of the time).

I would have to warn the potential client, however, that we probably have an edge in research on the sociology of religion and the sociology of Catholicism (only because we are the only one of the

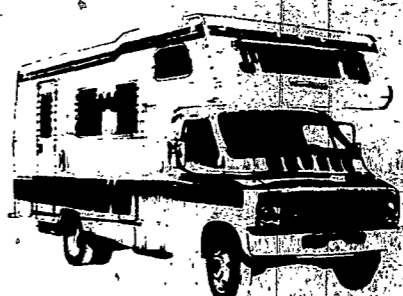
nation's top academic research institutions that has done much in these areas).

The cost of such survey research comes high, but Virgil Dechant and the Knights of Columbus decided that when you're dealing with the future of the Church, cost ought to be no obstacle to quality.

Professors McCready and Sullivan will not solve the vocation shortage, but when their work is done, Church policymakers, who have to make the decisions about vocations and the youth apostolate, will have a lot more and a lot better information available than they have now.

My own guess is that all of us will encounter some extraordinary surprises. We may end up discovering that young people are far more religious, in some ways, at any rate, than we are inclined to believe at present.

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# Seton Sale Slated

More than 750 women, representing 54 Seton branches of St. Mary's Hospital, are actively participating in the 22nd annual Seton Sale, slated this year for Saturday, Oct. 28, at the Otto Shults Community Center on the Nazareth College campus. The sale hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Cochairmen for the event are Mrs. Francis Kenny of Pittsford and Mrs. Arthur Johnson of Penfield.

This year's sale will feature Christmas decorations, plants, dried flower arrangements, a flea market, an Italian food booth, a "Grandmother's Corner," a silent auction, home-baked goods, and a variety of handcrafted gift items.

Also this year there will be a "Swim-a-thon" in the college pool by children of Seton members and their friends.

A salad buffet also will be served.

The volunteers on the sale committee are Mrs. John Schroth, Mrs. Robert A. Kidera, Mrs. Henry J. Kearse, Mrs. Peter DeLucia, Mrs. Peter G. Lersch, Mrs. Frank Beecher, Mrs. Thomas McCollins, Mrs. Anthony Ferrari, Mrs. Joseph

Adams, Mrs. Patrick Pacitti, Mrs. Robert Nemes, Mrs. John O'Hare, Ms. Jane Lavery-Jones, Mrs. Henry Rohrer Jr., Mrs. Michael Conley, Mrs. Thomas Fenton, Mrs. Robert J. Herberger, Mrs. George Supple, Mrs. Patrick R. Gaffney, Mrs. Norbert Wrona, Mrs. Henry L. Jesserer, Mrs. Victor E. Merkel, Mrs. E. Edward Strobino, Mrs. Robert Howe, Mrs. William Whelehan, Mrs. Walter Hillmer and Mrs. Michael Graney.

## Nurses' Day

The annual Nurse Teaching Day sponsored by the Monroe County unit of the American Cancer Society is scheduled for Nov. 4, 8:15 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at the Otto A. Shults Community Center on the Nazareth College campus. Speakers will deal with recent developments in the care and treatment of cancer patients. All nurses, whether active or not, are invited, and may register by calling the cancer society office, 461-3800. Other sponsors of the event are the Genesee Valley Nurses Association and the University of Rochester Cancer Center.

# INDIA: A MISSION GROWS

THE HOLY FATHER'S MISSION AID TO THE ORIENTAL CHURCH

Good news from India! While the Catholic population there numbers less than 3%—it is growing rapidly. For instance, Holy Family parish in Rajapuram has grown so large that a new parish, Mary Help of Christians, has been established to serve 600 Catholics in Chullikkara—more than three kilometers away. At present all the new parish has is a flimsy, temporary shed in which to worship. A permanent church, rectory and catechism hall are sorely needed if the Faith is to grow further. The parishioners, mostly poor farmers, have already raised \$2000—any more is far beyond their means. Just \$5000 is needed to complete this parish plant. Can you give it yourself as a Memorial for someone you love? At least, please do something for your brothers and sisters in Christ who have already done all they can for themselves. Surely God will reward you abundantly for helping to spread His Son's Word in a land predominantly non-Christian. Are you in Mary Help of Christians parish? Wouldn't it be wonderful to sponsor a sister parish half way around the world?

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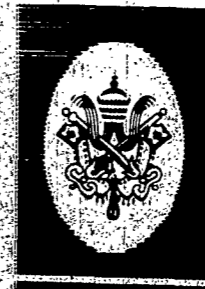
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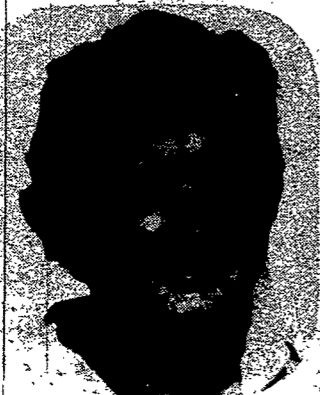
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## Vocations Chairperson



**SISTER KATHLEEN MARY**  
 Sister Kathleen Mary O'Connell has been named chairperson of the newly formed Vocations Team of the Rochester Sisters of Mercy.

She is assistant chaplain at Genesee State University. The team includes Sisters Anne Curtis, Diane Marie Erskine, Kathleen Ann Kolb, Catherine Pflieger, Jane Schur, Sheila Stevenson, Kathryn Wahl and Mary Frances Wegman.

The team was established to create awareness of the congregation's life, nature and purpose, according to Sister Mary Judith Heberle, superior general.

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