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Fr. Miller

'Total Christian Education' Must Be School's Goal

By MARTIN TOOMBS
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira—Approximately 200 persons heard Father Neil Miller challenge them to meet the criteria for a Catholic school set by the nation's bishops in "To Teach as Jesus Did," at the annual Mass opening the Chemung County General Education Board's observance of Catholic

Schools Week.

Father Richard Murphy, chaplain at Notre Dame High School and Corning Community College, was the principal concelebrant for the Mass at St. Anthony's Feb. 4. Father Miller, Office of Human Development staff person and chaplain at St. Patrick's Junior High School, also celebrated.

Father Miller emphasized that teaching in a Catholic school has to be seen in terms of ministry; without ministry, he said, Catholic schools are "just another secular institution."

Teaching is a profession, he pointed out, but Catholic school teachers also are ministers, and that is why they are asked to do more than other teachers he said.

"To Teach as Jesus Did," the bishops' pastoral on Catholic schools, called Church "an integrated ministry," Father Miller noted, with three interlocking goals: to teach the message as revealed by God, to create a community in the life of the Spirit, and to do service to the Christian community and "to the entire human community."

Catholic schools must do all three, he said; Catholic education "has to be an integration of all of them."

He also noted that what is done in the schools "has to be reinforced in the home," or the school's efforts will be meaningless.

A Catholic school should be a "Christ-centered educational community where the teachings of man and Christ intermix to produce a Christian," who is "sensitive to his needs and the needs of others."

He then challenged Elmira's Catholic schools to meet that standard, the goal of "total Christian education."

Many persons involved in the system's operation attended the Mass. Lectors were J. Alan Wright, CCGEB board member from Our Lady of Lourdes Parish; and Lawrence Stephens, board president. The gifts were presented by Jerald Meeker, board member from St. Mary's, and his family.



A Hee Haw routine was part of the talent show at St. Patrick's, Owego.

Photo by Martin Toombs

Novena

Auburn — The Sorrowful Mother Novena at St. Aloysius Church will begin at 7 p.m. each Wednesday from Feb. 14 through Lent.

NFP Session Tonight

Elmira—There will be a Natural Family Planning informational meeting Wednesday, Feb. 14, at 8 p.m. in St. Joseph's Hospital's Doctors Meeting Room.

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

Further information can be obtained by contacting the Ivens at 504-2380.

D/S Group

Elmira — Mrs. Nannette Simons, assistant manager for H & R Block, Inc., will speak on "Taxes and the Single Person" to the Divorced and Separated Group on Sunday, Feb. 18, at 7:30 p.m. in St. Patrick's School.



Cinderella was played by Susan Stephens in a salute to Walt Disney at St. Mary's in Elmira. Geraldine Schultz directed the Schools Week production with the assistance of the faculty.

Workshop at St. Mary's

Auburn — An evening "Inner Healing Workshop" has been scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 22 in St. Mary's School on Clymer Street. The workshop begins at 7:30 p.m.

The workshop, sponsored by the Auburn Area Divorced, Separated and Widowed Organization, will deal with "developing a channel for emotional and prayerful growth."

Team leaders include Mrs. Rosemarie LaLonde and Sister Dorothy Quinn, group

chaplain; and Sister M. Peter, O.S.B.M. The public is invited.

Nagy To Speak

Elmira—Dr. Brian R. Nagy, medical director of the Southern Tier Alcoholism Rehabilitation Service (STARS) at St. Joseph's Hospital, will speak on the effects of antiabuse at an alcoholism seminar in St. Joseph's Hospital's Doctors Meeting Room Thursday, Feb. 15, at 12:15 p.m.

Further information can be obtained by contacting STARS at 733-5519.

In Seneca Falls

Schools Week Noted

Seneca Falls — Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, celebrated a special Mass here on Feb. 4 to open Catholic Schools Week for the Finger Lakes Association of Catholic Schools. Representatives from area schools all took part in the liturgy and each gave a special gift during the Offertory.

During his homily Bishop Hickey said that the challenges faced by Catholic schools today are nothing compared to the sacrifices of those who founded and sustained the schools through the years. The challenges facing the schools today, he said, are not such that they cannot be overcome with the same spirit of sacrifice.

He said that the reason for this celebration was not only to recognize the dedication of the priests, religious, lay teachers and parents who have made the schools possible, but to gather in a spirit of faith and thanksgiving for the successes and blessings God has poured forth on Catholic Schools.

Schools represented at the Mass included Blessed Trinity, Auburn; DeSales High School, Geneva; St. Mary's, Auburn; St. Mary's, Canandaigua; St. Mary's, Waterloo; St. Michael's, Newark; St. Michael's, Penn Yan; St. Stephen's, Geneva; and St. Patrick's, Seneca Falls, which is celebrating its 100 year of existence.

Council Acts After Hearing Public Outcry

By MARTIN TOOMBS
Southern Tier Editor

Gang Mills—A suggestion that a sex education curriculum prepared by Planned Parenthood of Rochester and Monroe County should be promoted for use in schools statewide caused considerable controversy at the last two meetings of the Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency (FLHSA) Southern Tier Subarea Council.

The controversial proposal is included in a draft of the FLHSA's Health Systems Plan, a long-range, goal-setting document in a section concerning teenage pregnancy. The various FLHSA bodies are currently reviewing the plan.

The goal, as drafted, stated that the FLHSA should encourage the state to require family planning education, and that "the curriculum guide developed by Planned Parenthood of Rochester and Monroe County for a school program in human sexuality and family planning should be examined as a possible model and promoted throughout the state."

That sentence, and specifically the recommendation of the Planned Parenthood curriculum, caused a flurry of protest at the Subarea Council's meetings Jan. 15 and Feb. 5.

Ten persons spoke during the public comment period at the Feb. 5 meeting. One speaker supported "better sex

education in the grade schools," and one commented on another agenda topic. The other eight speakers, with varying emphasis, criticized the recommendation of the Planned Parenthood of Rochester and Monroe County curriculum.

Rejection of any Planned Parenthood involvement in the schools was mentioned by some speakers; others criticized certain sections of the curriculum. The sentiment that there should be no sex education in the schools also was expressed. One speaker said that the use of the curriculum would "damage the quality of life in the Southern Tier," and another raised the right of parents to teach their children about sex.

At the Jan. 15 and Feb. 5

meetings, the council responded by recommending that the sentence at issue be replaced by "a variety of curriculum guides should be developed and examined for possible use in the schools. Such curricula should reflect the ethical diversity of the community."

The substitution was approved unanimously in January; meeting Feb. 5, the council approved the motion, 16 to 4. Among those voting in opposition were members seeking to have the entire section deleted from the plan, as being outside the health system.

Dr. Thomas Curran, an Elmira dentist, moved that the section be deleted, but his motion was defeated with 11

opposed, 5 in favor, and 1 abstaining. A similar motion also had been defeated at the January meeting.

Dr. Peter D. Mott, of St. Mary's Hospital, Rochester, informed the Subarea Council through chairperson Joanne Beecher that the Northern Subarea Council also has suggested a substitution for the debated sentence. They suggested that the final plan read "all" materials available to assist in the development of a curriculum dealing with human sexuality and family planning for use in school programs should be examined as a possible model for promotion."

Dr. Mott, chairman of the FLHSA Ambulatory Care Council, said that his com-

mittee recommended that substitution at its Jan. 9 meeting, which was before the Southern Tier action Jan. 15.

Both substitution recommendations will come before the FLHSA Board of Directors for consideration at its Feb. 22 meeting.

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