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Nursing Home Benefits From Cornell Volunteers

By MARTIN TOOMBS
Southern Tier Editor

Ithaca—Volunteers from the Cornell Catholic Community have been at work the past few weeks, brightening up the surroundings of the residents of the Reconstruction Home.

Responding to a plea at weekend Masses, community members have been working Saturdays, painting residents' rooms.

The Reconstruction Home, a not-for-profit corporation, was founded in 1919 for polio victim rehabilitation; since polio has been all but eradicated, the home is now serving the infirm elderly of the Ithaca community.

Michael Apa, the home's administrator, explained that it has been several years since the facility was painted on the inside, and the staff had been unable to complete the work. Joyce Sarvi, the home's social worker, appealed for help from the Cornell Catholic Community at weekend Masses, and more than ninety persons volunteered.

They are painting all the residents' rooms, with materials supplied by the home. About 20 work each week; Apa said that he hopes to have all the rooms done by the end of March.

One result of the work, he noted, is that "it's really boosted the morale" of the home's residents, who got to select the colors used in their rooms. The first project was the dining room, which was completely redecorated, and now features new wallpaper and paint, hanging plants and pictures.

One volunteer, Donna Gardiner of Bowie, Md., noted that she had volunteered at the home before, and

Lenten Classes Announced

Corning—St. Mary's Education Committee is sponsoring a Lenten Series beginning Ash Wednesday, Feb. 28.

"Journey with Jesus through the New Testament" will be the series' theme.

On Feb. 28, "Jesus is Here! Repent and Believe in the Good News," will be the topic. Following programs will be "Forgiveness and Reconciliation: Being Able to Say I'm Sorry," March 14; "Faith and Healing," March 21; "The Time for Decision," March 28; and "Journey to Jerusalem: Journey to Joy," April 14.

The program is open to adults and high school students. Participants are asked to bring a Bible, notebook and pen.



Two of the volunteers from the Cornell Catholic Community painting residents' rooms at the Reconstruction Home were Alice Wu, on the ladder, and Alison Hayes.

when Ms. Sarvi spoke at Mass, "my boyfriend and I thought it would be fun." She added that there are a "lot of people here - the work has been really spread out," and that she was enjoying herself.

John Huenneke, a sports reporter for the Ithaca Journal, and his fiancée, Laura Foster, a graduate student in Ecology at Cornell, also were hard at work. Both from St. Louis, they saw Ms. Sarvi's request as a good opportunity to do something in the community. Ms. Foster noted "it's been fun," and is a "good opportunity to come

down and see people" you don't often see on a college campus. She reported that there was interaction between the residents and the volunteers when they first arrived, as the residents were curious to see which rooms were being painted, and the new colors.

Huenneke noted that he "always wanted to do 'volunteer-type things,' but didn't have time while a student. The work in the Reconstruction Home provided a 'chance to do something in the community,' he said.

Sports Award Given in Auburn

Auburn—Chuck Savage received the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Frederick G. Straub Award as "Sportsman of the Year" at the 21st annual Sacred Heart Sports Dinner Feb. 17 in the parish hall.

Savage, president of the Maroon Sports Boosters, helped the "Save Our Sports" drive find funds to keep the athletic program at Auburn High School going during 1978-79.

He began the Save Our Sports campaign last summer and faced the task of raising approximately \$100,000 to maintain a sports program after athletics were cut from the school budget.

"While the award is being presented to Savage, it stands for everyone who came to rescue the athletic program," a committee spokesperson said.

Savage has been active in area sports programs and other community activities for a number of years. He chaired the Auburn Days at Syracuse University, headed the Holland Stadium Improvement Project, served as Cayuga County's representative to the Syracuse Stadium Committee, has served as a Little League coach and is now on the board of directors of the Auburn Community Owned Baseball Organization. Mr. Savage is also a member of Cayuga County legislature.

Also in attendance at the Sports Dinner were Joe Albobelli, manager of the San Francisco Giants; Joe Holland, a tailback at Cornell University; Chris Chambliss, New York Yankee first baseman; and Dick Rockwell, LeMoyne College baseball coach.

Parishes Join Together To Form Youth Ministry

By MARTIN TOOMBS
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira—Attracting high school youths to parish programs is often difficult; providing them with valuable religious experiences can be even more difficult.

Three Elmira parishes have banded together to try a new youth ministry. St. Anthony's, St. Patrick's, and St. Casimir's parishes have acted together to fund and organize a Tri-Parish Youth Ministry Board, which will conduct youth programs for the three parishes.

The parishes share much the same neighborhood, and are only a few blocks apart.

Last September each parish council committed \$1,000 to the youth board. A matching grant through the city's youth bureau has given the board a \$6,000 budget.

Preliminary work on the project was done by a committee of representatives from the three parishes: William Caroscio Jr., Robert Darmstadt, Sister Mary

Bernarde, Father Kevin Murphy, Sister Mary Ann Siwa and Tom Patzke.

They did the research and designed the youth board, which had its first meeting Feb. 12. The board includes three persons from each parish, and is responsible to the pastors and parish councils.

Conducting much of the board's program will be a Youth Minister, a full-time worker responsible to the board. The board hopes to hire a college-aged person. A notice sent to college campuses in the diocese asked for "a youth minister to work long hours for little pay with the frustration of dealing with high school youths — and for the Church."

The stipend for the position is \$225 a month, and the board intends to arrange for the person's room and board. The possibility of the minister living in a convent or rectory was suggested at the meeting.

The program's success will depend heavily on the youth minister's accomplishments.

Father Albert Delmonte, St. Anthony's pastor, commented that "I see the person helping the kids identify with the faith community, steering them toward Church." He noted that often high school students feel that the Church is for adults and younger children; they need to feel a part of their parish, he said.

Acknowledging that some social events, especially in the beginning, will be necessary for the program, Father Delmonte stressed his concern that the program not become only a social-recreational one.

He also agreed that the cooperation of the three parishes has made it possible for a program to be established that none of the parishes could afford on their own.

Members of the new board are Sherrie Bloom, Frank Rosplock and Marlene Semesky, St. Casimir's; Caroscio, Richard Cerio and Alfred Baccile, St. Anthony's; and Rose Carnegie, Frances Crew and William Maloney, Jr., from St. Patrick's.

Church Women Plan Prayer Day

Corning—On Friday, March 2, women all over the world will celebrate World Day of Prayer. This year's service, on the theme "Spiritual Growth," was written by women in Africa.

Day of Prayer

Weedsport—"Spiritual Growth" is the World Day of Prayer theme this year. Church Women United, of Cayuga County, will hold a service on March 2 here at the First Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Dennis Haines, president of the group, will preside and the chairperson for the day is Sister Dorothy Quinn, SSJ, pastoral assistant at St. Mary's, Auburn.

Assisting Sister Dorothy will be Mrs. Ralph Streeter, Mrs. Jane Krueger, Mrs. Jennie Land, Mrs. Donald Speakman and Mrs. Jane Bassett.

Pro-Life Meeting

Auburn—The Cayuga County Right to Life Committee met Feb. 15 at the Salvation Army Building. Frank and Judy McKay reported on the state-wide meeting in Albany which they attended in January.

They said that the 84 affiliate groups of the State Right to Life committee, including local and county groups, contributed program goals and formulated 1979 priorities. Prohibition of Medicaid funding of abortion in the proposed state budget tops the Right to Life Party's legislative program.

Included in the observance will be those participating in the service sponsored by Church Women United of Corning and Vicinity at the First Congregational Church, at Pritchard and Pulteney streets, Corning.

The ecumenical observance will open with registration at 9:30 a.m.; a celebration service will close the event at 11:30.

Four workshops will be available. Growth in Knowledge will be presented by Sister Agnes Catherine and Mrs. Anna Black of St. Patrick's; Growth in Faith by Mrs. Mabel Young and Mrs. W. L. Babcock, Christ Episcopal; Growth in Hope by Sister Mary Kruckow and Mrs. William Havens, St. Vincent's; and Growth in Love by Mrs. Helen Cowles and Mrs. Beverly Alsen of First Baptist, Painted Post.

Child care will be available. Organizing the event are Vivian T. Peterson, Sister Agnes Catherine, and Sister Mary Kruckow.

St. Mary's Schedules Renewal Week

Corning—Passionist Father Camillus Barth will conduct a Renewal Week at St. Mary's Church March 4-11.

He will speak at weekend Masses Saturday, March 3, and Sunday, March 4. During the week, there will be a Mass at 7 a.m., and renewal Masses at 9 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., at which Father Barth will speak, and after which he will be available for reconciliation or counseling.

His sermons will be on developing the Christian life in the context of Vatican II.

There also will be a program for youth as part of the Renewal Week.

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