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In Ithaca

Seniors Like Time To Pray Together

By Martin Toombs
 Southern Tier Editor

Ithaca — A monthly opportunity to "come and pray together" has been well received by senior citizens in the Immaculate Conception Parish.

Sister Elizabeth Hughes, pastoral assistant, is working with the Senior Citizens Group in the parish. About 30 seniors attend the meetings, she noted.

The group began last spring, when a letter was sent to prospective members; an initial meeting in May showed sufficient support to begin a regular program, she reported.

The meetings begin with a prayer service, which in March consisted of the stations of the cross. Then the participants take a social break, which they often don't want to end, Sister said, followed by some entertainment. They have seen movies and, Sister noted, she hopes to invite musicians to future meetings to perform.

Rosalie Gombash and Marie Cheff are the group's coordinators, and they work on the meeting programs; they are planning a luncheon for the April meeting. Several of the group's members also are planning to go on a pilgrimage to the Fatima shrine in Youngstown during May.

While the meetings are only once each month, Sister Elizabeth pointed out that she doesn't feel the program should compete with others already in existence. She lauded the local senior citizen center for its work, noting that it is open every day. She also reported that the senior citizens interested in arts and crafts participate in the weekly work sessions in preparation for the parish festival along with other volunteers.

The meetings offer participants an opportunity to pray and to socialize, she said. Some members live alone, she noted, and participating in the



Sister Elizabeth leads senior citizens in prayer.

group has made it possible for them to meet others.

Such meetings also are good opportunities for the participants to ask questions

about the Church that are bothering them, Sister Elizabeth noted.

Three volunteer drivers currently are making it possible for some members to

attend meetings, Sister noted. She said that she hopes to develop a consistent transportation plan for the group, so those without transportation would always be able to attend the meetings.



During the Easter Experience Father Cosgrove and the CCD students burned paper tokens that signified their sins which they were sorry for.

Students Share 'Easter Experience'

Clyde — Students from St. John the Evangelist's CCD program took part in an Easter Experience last week at the parish center here.

The program began with a slide presentation of the life of Christ and concluded with an Easter Parade complete with

frilly Easter hats and special Easter ties.

Father William Cosgrove, pastor, led the students through the program that examined the Last Supper, Christ's Passion and Death and his resurrection.

Eleven Complete Nursing Aide Course

Hornell — Exercises recognizing successful completion of a nursing aide course by 11 students were conducted in the conference dining room at St. James Mercy Hospital March 30.

The aides completed the three-week course of 100 hours of combined classroom instruction and supervised clinical practice. Instruction was handled by Joan Diehl, RN, inservice instructor, and Cathy Andrews, RN, nursing supervisor.

Mrs. Diehl presented each aide with a certificate stating

that she is qualified to perform limited nursing care under the direction of a registered nurse. Congratulatory remarks were made by Sister Mary Rene, administrator, and Jeanette Baldwin, nursing services director.

Those receiving certificates were: Mrs. Clessa Allen, Miss Sally Dagon, Mrs. Kelly Forshee, Mrs. Peggy Didas, Mrs. Amelia Hayes, Mrs. Joan McEntee, Mrs. Edna Smith and Susan Palmiter of Hornell; Mrs. Nancy Sparks of Howard and Mrs. Joyce Whitfield and Mrs. Wanda Gunn of Troupsburg.

MacDonald Center Marks Fifth Year

Woodhull — An open house sponsored by the MacDonald Guild March 22 observed the fifth anniversary of the MacDonald Medical Center.

The center, established to provide care for the people of Woodhull, Jasper, Troupsburg, Addison, and surrounding towns which are distant from other health care facilities, serves as an extension of private physicians' offices. Named in honor of Dr. Fayette MacDonald, a physician who served the area for 35 years before his retirement, the center opened in March 1974.

At that time the center was open two days each week, served by a physician, medical nurse practitioner and volunteers. Today, the center is open Monday through Friday, served by five physicians, a nurse practitioner who also is registered, physician's assistant, a secretary and

volunteers. The nurse practitioner assists with primary health needs and arranges for immediate physician care, if needed. Patients served at the center also may request care from the center's doctors at the emergency rooms of the Hornell hospitals.

The center now has a large waiting room, secretary's office, three treatment rooms, a physician's office, utility room and kitchen. As an additional service there is a

"clothing room," sponsored by the MacDonald Guild, and a "food cupboard" for needy persons which is stocked by donations.

Physicians staffing the center are Dr. Nasar Chaudhry, Dr. M. Tarig Randhawa, Dr. Bijon Chaudhuri, Dr. Kyo Ho Kim and Dr. Merrra Chaudhuri. Sister Mary Scholastica, RSM, RPA, is the nurse practitioner, and Mrs. Valrie Button is secretary.

Records show 12,930 patient visits at the center from March 1974 through December 1978. Statistics show that because the center is an extension of a private practice, it provides care at less cost than if it were given in emergency rooms or hospital clinics.

The MacDonald Guild, composed of women from the area, serves the center and conducts fund raising activities which will benefit patients at the medical center and St. James Mercy Hospital in Hornell. The women have given more than 1,600 hours of volunteer service to the center.

Estate Planning Seminars Announced

Elmira — The fifth "Estate Planning Seminar for Women" will be Tuesday, April 24, in the Doctors Meeting Room of St. Joseph's Hospital.

Scheduled speakers are professionals experienced in each of five general subjects — legal, insurance, securities, corporate trust and taxes — all bearing directly on estate matters.

The programs, which are scheduled for April 24, May 1, 8, and 15, are open to interested women. A registration fee covers the cost of the seminar; panelists contribute their services at no charge. Enrollment may be made through St. Joseph's Development Office. The programs begin at 10 a.m. and conclude at noon.

D-S-W Group To Meet In Geneva

Geneva — The Divorced, Separated, Widowed group will meet at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 18, at St. Francis School Conference Room.

The main item on the agenda will be a film called "Prejudice" with Bill Cosby. Other items will be to select a core group for a planning committee, discuss the State Conference for Separated and Divorced Catholics at St. John Fisher College, June 1-3, and introduce the "Theos Newsletter" to the Widowed.



Special Meal

Parishioners at St. Joseph's, Weedsport, took part in a special Sharing Supper recently. Participants donated the cost of preparing a meal at home to the parish's Operation Breadbox program. Younger participants brought in their own contributions which they had saved during Lent. Shown here are (back row, from left) Gertrude Przychodzen, May Wittek, Rose Piascik, Lillian Wiczorek and Alec Wiczorek. In the front row are Brian Brooks, Father Elmer Heindl, pastor, Julie Drury and Jean Drury.

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