

Good Neighbors

'Let's Start on Our Own Street'

St. Charles Borromeo parish was established in 1925 in anticipation of a home building boom in the Kodak Park area. Its first church was built on orchard land.

Today, with the population virtually at the saturation point, Father Emmett Halloran and his staff look hopefully to a new communications device — a network of "neighborhood communities."

The concept is explained in a booklet that carries a map of 23 new parish sub-divisions, each of them named for a place in the Bible. Some family in each of the neighborhoods will put on an open house from 2 until 4 Sunday afternoon.

"The Christian relationships strengthened in the smaller units will become a living witness of the Gospel message within the total parish community," the booklet states.

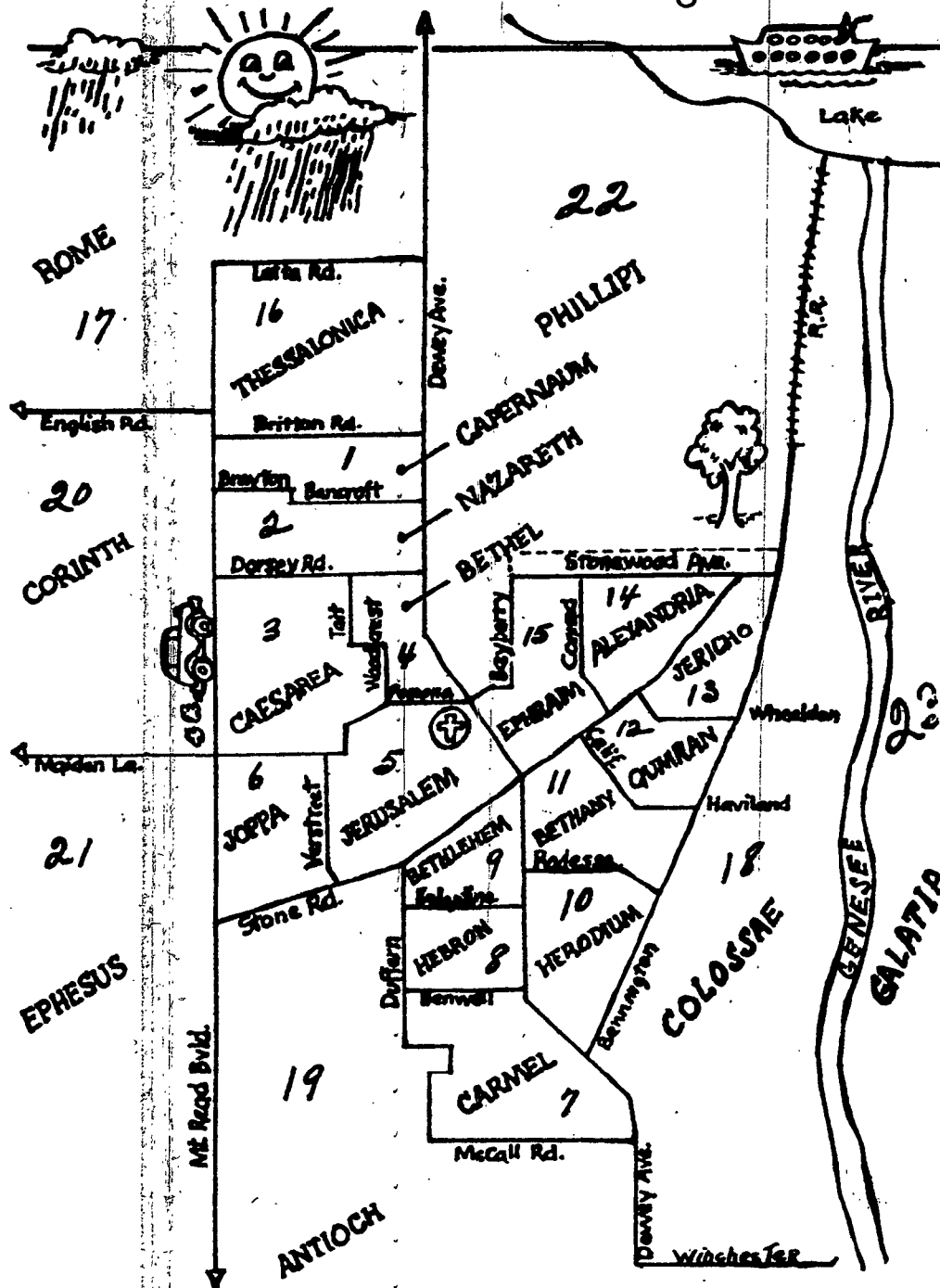
"Neighborhood communities have been growing. Neighbors have been helping with parish activities, having sharing suppers, sending get well cards, praying together, discussing priorities of their neighborhood, visiting the sick, having get-togethers, sending letters of communication, having home Masses, getting to know the St. Charles family . . . It's working."

The project grew from Brother Charles Varnak's invention for keeping in touch with the senior citizens in the parish — a network of neighborhoods. Coordinators were enlisted after a successful parish meeting in November 1977 that underlined the parish council's commitment to "discover the diverse needs and desires of the parish family through direct communication."

In a letter to his people, Father Halloran uses the words of Christ recorded by St. Matthew: "The greatest among you will be the one who serves the rest."

"Most people are afraid to make the first move," the descriptive booklet says. "We must all learn to step out and reach out to each other; let's start on our own street!"

Where is your community?



At Your Parish...

Holy Cross, Dryden

Dryden — The Human Development Committee at Holy Cross Parish here recently sponsored a three part series dealing with the problems of alcohol, drug and child abuse, and truancy and where help for these problems can be found.

The ecumenical program brought together representatives from the Dryden

Central School District, Dryden Presbyterian and Methodist Churches, the Freeville Methodist Church, Etna Baptist Church, Parents Anonymous and other interested lay people.

The three presentations showed that peer pressure is most influential with Junior and Senior high school students and that the use of

common drugs to alleviate emotional stress (aspirin, alcohol etc.) often leads to an acceptance by youth of other chemical aids.

Child abuse was reported to be more common than usually thought of by program participants and truancy was described as a "call for help" from a troubled child.

Holy Ghost, Gates

The Sacred Heart Society at Holy Ghost Parish, 220 Coldwater Road, will hold its annual Spring Banquet on May 15 at the Gitis Party House. All women of the parish are invited.

This year's banquet will feature a birthday celebration for Father Edward Steinkirchner, pastor, and a comedy skit presented by the parish's "Plucky Players" directed by Ann Gunn. The

celebration will also include Father Michael Huerter as Master of Ceremonies.

For reservations (due by May 6) interested persons may call Teresa Davis, 594-2420 or Kathy Mitchell, 889-4279.

Holy Rosary, Rochester

Holy Rosary Parish, 414 Lexington Ave., will be the site of a Family Sunday celebration on Sunday, April 29 from 1 to 6 p.m. The day's theme is "Family Unity and Love is only possible through the love Christ has for us." James and Donna Fitch of

the Office of Family Life will be guest speakers. Following the Fitch's presentation special activities have been planned including a family liturgy and a pot luck supper. For more information those interested may call Sue Hargather at 458-3526.

Good Counsel, Rochester

Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish has scheduled a community dance for Saturday, April 28 from 9 p.m. to 1 p.m. in the school hall, 630 Brooks Ave. Admission is \$4 per person. Those who wish to attend may call Marguerite Caufield for reservations, 328-6567.

St. Thomas the Apostle

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish's Rosary and Altar Society will hold its April business meeting today beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the

school hall. Co-chairwomen for the event are Alice Clagens and Nancy Murray. A \$2 grab bag gift is requested.

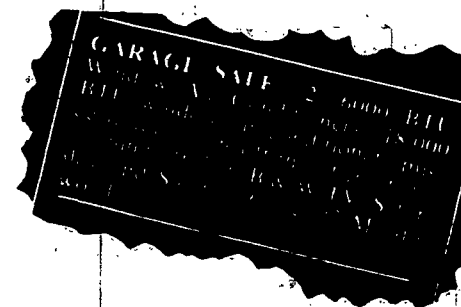


Chow Wagon

The Charlotte Nutrition Center has a new van to carry people to lunch at Holy Cross. Here, Father John O'Malley blesses the van in the presence of James Borrelli, driver, and Barbara Cady, nutrition coordinator.

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