

COURIER-JOURNAL

Southern Tier - Auburn Geneva

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Fr. William Smith:

Family Under Many Stresses

By Martin Toombs
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira Heights — "Who can be against the family?" Father William B. Smith, dean of St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie, asked; "no one is really," he said, although actions designed to deal with society's problems can adversely affect the family.

Speaking on "Family—Strength and Stresses Today," to the St. Patrick's Women's Club May 6, Father Smith noted that currently the family is getting "a great deal of attention," some of which is good, and some of which is not.

Approximately 120 women attended the annual Communion Breakfast, which began with Mass at St. Patrick's before moving to Pierce's Restaurant.

Attending to the needs of families can be difficult, he noted, pointing out "certain stresses on both marriage and family life." They include the fact that of those persons conceived in the United States "25 percent of them never see the light of day" because of abortion; 40 percent of all marriages "end up in divorce;" one in eight births are illegitimate; suicide is the second most common cause of



Father William Smith speaking to the St. Patrick's Women's Club.

death among teenagers; and one of nine youngsters will have been in court by the time they turn 18.

Such problems deeply affect marriage and family life, he said.

It is important, he stated, to "foster and encourage" the "moral values" that "make authentic family life possible."

He noted that a person's attitude toward family and family life is more fundamental to views on human life than specific religious

attachment, he stated, comes from "real Church-goers" of whatever religion. He said that 97 percent of the Right to Life supporters are "avid Church-goers."

What has happened, he said, is that two philosophies of the family have collided. The "knowledge class," in which he included newspaper editors and other writers, believes that the family is obsolete, and "is an obstacle" that "retards or prevents achievement." In their writings, he noted, the family is "disparaged as some kind of cultural leftover."

Disparagement of the family has led to things such as the presentation of views to children without respect for the wishes of their parents, he said.

But, he asserted, that is "not the way most people see reality."

They see family as an institution that "combines self-interest and altruism" and many other positive human values, he said.

He also asked why society considers "professional" work so prestigious, while work in the family is not. If the family is worth studying, he said, "it strikes me as worth living."

St. James Active During Hospital Week

Hornell — A national campaign to contain health care costs was the focus at St. James Mercy Hospital during the May 6 to 12 observance of National Hospital Week.

Paul Shephard, associate administrator and chairman of the hospital's Cost Containment Committee, said "because of the cooperation of our employees, large and small savings contributions are adding up."

"In addition," he said, "St. James is also attempting to hold down on consumer's health costs by helping to reduce the consumer's need for hospitalization." This is being accomplished by ac-

tivities such as prenatal classes and monthly blood pressure programs which are free of cost.

The National Hospital Week celebration started with the Ninth Annual Awards banquet Saturday, May 5, when 65 employees were honored for continuous service for five years or more, in five year increments.

Using the theme, "Your Hospital Cares," events saluted patients, hospital personnel, physicians, volunteers and visitors. On Patients Day Sunday May 9, all patients received tray favors made by Activities Committee volunteers.

St. Joseph's Hospital Honors Employees

Elmira — A Sister of St. Joseph with 45 years service, a mother and son with a combined work record of 20 years, and a judge receiving recognition of 20 years of involvement were among the 106 men and women honored at the annual service awards dinner of St. Joseph's Hospital.

Sister Ellen Teresa Connelly was awarded her 45-year pin by Sister Martha Gerbach, hospital administrator.

Among the recipients were Mrs. Cecelia Cummings, administrative secretary, 15 years, and her son, James, a five-year veteran in the Communications and Per-

sonnel Departments. Judge Daniel J. Donahoe who also participated in the program received his 20-year pin. The judge, who is Board of Directors chairman, assisted in the presentation of an award to a 15-year board member, N. Jackson Learned.

Those recognized also included Carrie Herman, Environmental Services, 30 years; Rose Mekos, Nursing Service, and Emma Merrill, Radiology, 25 years.

Employees who have retired within the past year also were presented certificates.

Monday was Volunteers Day with a program and recognition in DeSales Hall. Candy Strippers also received awards and the Candy Stripper of the Year was named.

Tuesday, Employees Day, saw treats being served during coffee breaks on each shift. Also, the Women's Board and Explorer Post 98.6 observed the week at their respective

St. Ann's Students Visit Toronto

Hornell — After several months of planning and raising, the St. Ann's School eighth graders went on a class trip to Toronto May 2-4.

The 33 students, their teacher Mrs. Marguerite Mauro, and chaperones made the trip by school bus. They took sleeping bags and stayed at John XXIII School in

meetings.

Employees who have completed continuing education courses were honored on Wednesday; Thursday was Doctors Day, and the week's events concluded with a party for the children of employees on Saturday sponsored by the School of Nursing and the Activities Committee.

Toronto.

While in Toronto the class visited the Science Center, the zoo, and other points of interest.

Chaperones were Sister Mary Jude, Mr. and Mrs. James Davis, Dr. and Mrs. Paul Wolfgruber, Robert Brown, and the bus driver, Francis Beaver.

Annulments

All interested persons are welcome.

AIM to Meet

Auburn — Emilio Monti, an Argentinian teacher and pastor, will address Auburn Interfaith Ministries (AIM) at its annual dinner meeting on Wednesday, May 23 at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. He will speak on "Liberation Theology, the Changing Scene in South America." Reservations for the 6:15 p.m. dinner should be made by calling Meals on Wheels.

CWU Sponsors Fellowship Day

By Martin Toombs
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira Heights — More than 150 women participated in the May Fellowship Day sponsored by Church Women United at St. Charles Borromeo Church May 4.

The luncheon and prayer service also included a talk by Sister Josepha Toomey, chaplain at the Elmira Correctional Facility and Reception Center.

The meeting at St. Charles is part of an attempt by the largely Protestant organization to increase its Catholic participation. Several active Catholic women from the area were present.

During the business meeting, chapter officers detailed a trip they recently completed to a national convention, and Mrs. Joan Geldmacher, chapter president, noted the progress of several other activities.

During the prayer service following the luncheon, those present participated in the "Fellowship of the Least Coin" — an international tradition in which the least

coin of each country is collected to benefit programs to aid the poor. Parish representatives presented the proceeds of several such collections.

Sister Josepha discussed her role as a female chaplain in an all-male maximum security prison.

She noted that when dealing with inmates, it is important to distinguish between "the error, which always needs repudiation," and the person who made the error.

"Christ loves and forgives," she noted, adding that a challenge to prison chaplains is to "hate the crime, but love the person who committed the crime."

She also described the reactions of prison staff to her appointment as chaplain, noting that many corrections officers were surprised by her, and added that they also were surprised when they found out that her father had been a corrections officer at Auburn prison for 32 years. And, she told the women, she believes that her father's death at the age of 56 was related to the years of pressure that the job entailed.

CWU in Auburn

By Mary Ann Ginnerty

Auburn — Addressing a May 4 meeting of the Cayuga County Church Women United Mrs. Herbert Gordon, religious education administrator at the Liverpool United Methodist Church, said: "When we think of the family as a close knit unit living together, we are thinking of an image from the past. A totally different concept of family is evolving which must recognize the existence of the broken family."

Mrs. Gordon made her remarks at the Westminster Presbyterian Church here during a special "Fellowship Day" sponsored by the CWU.

She pointed out a different pattern of life has come upon society from a time when families raised their own food to the days of the supermarket. Even church school teachers have changed their methods from one that emphasized memorizing from textbooks to helping children relate to one another in a broken world. Hopefully, she said, the new method encourages the child to know the love of Christ deeply and to become an advocate for taking bible material to make the world a better place to live.

parents and their children and how some of the world's children suffer daily injustices.

Gordon cited the United Nation's "Year of the Child" as a good example of how children should be treated in our society.

"We have to remember the leadership of the world will soon be passing to these children," she said.

Gordon stressed that in our country there are 66 million children under 18. Ten million have had no medical care, 20 million have never seen a dentist, and one million suffer physical or emotional abuse each year.

She quoted other statistics on children and families in need in our country. Supports for family life must be forthcoming as more mothers enter the work force, she said.

"I hope we as Christian women can influence children in our own communities whether it be a one to one basis or supporting such organizations as Parents Anonymous.

"Perhaps we can't turn the world upside down, but we can look to love the children in our own neighborhoods," she concluded.

She then addressed herself to problems faced by today's

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