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Prison Guard Strike Discussed in Auburn

By Mary Ann Ginnerty

Auburn — Stephen Chinlund, chairman of the New York State Commission of Corrections, spoke on the recent 16-day prison guard strike and a new program called "Network" when he addressed the annual meeting of the Auburn Hospitality Center on May 8 here, in Auburn.

The Auburn Hospitality Association, formed in 1972, operates a hospitality center for inmates families and friends visiting the Auburn Correctional Facility. Located across the street from the prison, the center provides food, information, babysitting services, and a waiting place for prison visitors.

Chinlund, an Episcopalian priest, spoke mainly of a new program for inmates called "Network". This program would establish semi-isolated living areas in each prison where inmates would continue to be involved in regular institutional programs, but also participate in a special program run cooperatively with the correction officers. These programs would be aimed at helping inmates prepare to return to regular life.

In every prison, the commissioner said, there is a "certain negative force resulting from frustration and bitterness" of inmates and guards alike. This force can have a snowball effect that hurts the institution and

inmate morale. Inmates who try to prepare for a new life, by attending school for example, become targets for other inmates, causing them to become discouraged and drop out of the program. Network would provide a new strength and encouragement, he said.

He said the "Network" program will offer inmates a challenge to make something out of their lives. The challenge will come from people who have concern for them and are living with them.

Chinlund expects correction officers, who also will be assigned regular duties, to provide the primary leadership. Training programs

for officers have already begun in four of the state's correctional facilities — Bedford, Lincoln, Mid-Orange and Ossining.

Chinlund said he was pleased that the Auburn Hospitality Center has led the way as a model for community concern.

A board member of the Auburn Hospitality Center added that the Diocese of Rochester's Office of Human Development was involved in initial funding for the center in 1972.

Turning to the recent guards strike Chinlund said he

and other state officials did not expect it. One of the roots of the strike, he said, was restlessness on the part of the correction officers who feel they have been misunderstood.

He said he sympathizes with the guards' desire for more respect. While there are problems in prison, he said, many correction officers also have demonstrated resourcefulness and caring in their dealings with inmates.

"Now is the time for healing," Chinlund said. He said he hoped that out of the strike would come a new attempt for inmates and

officers to work together to find new ways to make mutual respect blossom.

Auburn prison superintendent, Robert Henderson, spoke briefly about the correction officers strike when the facility was manned by about 40 administrative staff, in addition to National Guardsmen and state police. He termed it an enlightening experience and he was impressed by the response of the staff beyond their normal limits.

Henderson said it took a lot of give and take to return the prison to normal but inmates and prison employees are back to normal scheduling.

CCGEB Registration Down

By Martin Toombs
 Southern Tier Editor

Elmira—Disposition of the mandated services reimbursement from the state and the coming year's registration were items that occupied the Chemung County General Education Board (CCGEB) at its meeting May 10 at St. Anthony's.

The nearly \$17,000 received as a result of court litigation on the state level will be retained for the 1980-81 budget, as recommended by the Finance Committee. The board's agreement came after discussion of specific designation for the money, as well as which year it could be used.

The registration for next year will be 783, seventy-seven lower than at this time last year. Current enrollment is about 900. The Our Lady of Lourdes' registration is the same as it was at this time last year; the losses include drops of 32 at the junior high and 26 at St. Mary's.

The figures caused a discussion of ways to draw more families into the system, and reasons for the drop. Suggested problems included the requirement for a pastor's letter for those who are members of a participating parish, the decline in the birthrate and in the population of Elmira, and the need for the board to better sell its offerings to the city's parishioners. Lack of support of the schools from the pulpit by parish priests also was raised.

Lawrence Stephens, board president, called for a meeting of the principals, business manager and finance committee to discuss the possible need for staffing cuts as a result of the low registration.

Father Kevin Murphy's request for a report on the religious and liturgical activities in the schools raised several issues. In the course of the discussion, he reported that he had heard that the reason he has never been invited to celebrate the sacraments at St. Mary's School was that it was a parish policy that outside priests not be invited.

Several members, including Stephens and Robert Searfoss, St. Mary's parishioners, expressed their concern that all priests should be welcome in all the schools. Martin Tracy offered a resolution, which passed unanimously, that the board "reaffirm the policy" that all priests are welcome in all the schools for liturgical celebrations or other purposes.

The board also received the following reports:

- the new principal of Our Lady of Lourdes School next year will be Sister Diane Marie Erskine, RSM, currently principal at St. Salome's, Rochester;

- work is being done to extend the diocesan elementary tuition subsidy program to the entire diocese in the coming year;

- approximately \$1,000 was raised by the "Whale of a Sale" sponsored by the Welfare and Means Committee;

- St. Anthony's Parish Council has committed itself to its assessment, the last parish to do so.

The board also heard a presentation by Susan and Michael McManon of Lyons on the Rochester Federation of Catholic School Parents, with discussion of the board's participation set for the June meeting.

'Hands' Anointed At St. Joseph's

By Martin Toombs
 Southern Tier Editor

Elmira—A ceremony recognizing their healing function in the hospital was well received by the St. Joseph's staff during Hospital Week.

The "healing hands" of the staff were blessed in ceremonies on all three shifts. Employees throughout the hospital, who all contribute to the healing process, had their hands anointed in the brief service.

Beginning at midnight and working until 2 a.m. Thursday, May 10, Father Timothy McGough and Sister Barbara Gulino, hospital chaplains, visited the nurses stations on the hospital floors. Ceremonies during the day made it possible for those working at that time to participate, and again they visited the hospital's floors beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Father Timothy reported that those working the third shift were delighted to have them come.

Arriving at one nurses station Thursday evening, Sister Barbara explained the purposes of the visit, and asked for the employees to assemble in the station. It took

several minutes before most of them could break away from what they were doing, but those able to participate seemed to appreciate anointing.

The service began with an explanation, which noted that "This signing of your hands with oil symbolizes your willingness to work with renewed dedication in the care of the sick. As your hands are signed, it represents the acceptance by the hospital community of your rededicated service and the importance of every member of the hospital in a united effort."

After a reading, the nurses and aides were blessed with the words "Stretch out your hand to heal and cause signs and wonders to be done in the name of your servant Jesus."

Father Timothy and Sister Barbara individually anointed the hands of those participating.

They reported that the blessing had been well received by the employees and had even spread to the patients. One long-term patient who has done much to help his roommate, asked that he, too, be blessed, as a help for his efforts.

Catholic School Parents Challenged to be Leaders

By Martin Toombs
 Southern Tier Editor

Ithaca—"I'm convinced that we need Catholic schools," William (Pete) Gallagher told the Immaculate Conception Home-School Association May 15.

Gallagher, executive director of the New York State Federation of Catholic School Parents (NYSFCSP), said he has come to believe that the strength and vitality of the schools is "more up to the parents" than anyone else.

If the parents become active, he said, "then we'll preserve the schools."

The parents federation unites Home-School Associations from throughout the state, seeking to assist Catholic education on several levels.

Gallagher, who works from an office in Binghamton, recounted gains which have occurred since the group began operations in 1973, and listed future goals.

The organization's first function is to organize and educate parents, he said, with the goal that each school in the state should have a parents group. When the federation began, he reported, about one-third of the state's 1200 schools had parent groups; now two-thirds have functioning parent associations.

The organization also depends on chapters formed in each diocese, he noted, which began at different times with varying levels of activity. He said that the Rochester chapter, whose president is Mrs. Gina Ouwelen, has been involved in the busing issue in Rochester. He commented that other diocesan chapters have become involved in a variety of activities.

As part of its education effort, the federation has a newsletter that informs parents about pending legislation, as well as educating them on legislation already in force.

Public relations is important, he said, and stated



William Gallagher speaks to the teachers and parents attending the Immaculate Conception, Ithaca, Home-School Association meeting May 15.

that parents are the best public relations agents, for they are the satisfied customers of the Catholic schools.

The federation has achieved recognition at the state level as a parents group, Gallagher said, and now is included when parent groups are invited to state functions.

The third facet of the organization's work is legislative. Noting three important Supreme Court decisions that went against private education, he said that the national parents group intends to "work as a screening committee like any other minority group" when a position becomes vacant on the court.

He also noted that the federal tuition-tax credit legislation, defeated last year, will be re-submitted this year, with action expected in the fall.

On the state level, the federation has been active in getting extended transportation services to students, and in extending BOCES training to Catholic school students.

Gallagher asked those attending to write a letter to the state legislature supporting one pending bill, A3838, which would require public school buses to pick up students who live beyond the 15 mile limit if the students came to a point within the limit.

He also reported that a bill designed to help parents of Catholic school students in Rochester had, just that day,

been reported out of committee. The bill would remove the Rochester city school district's ability to chose not to transport students to schools outside the city. The effort to maintain the busing has become an annual battle that involves 2,000 students, Gallagher noted.

This will be a busy term of the legislature, he said, commenting that "if we get" the two busing changes approved, "we'll help a lot of kids."

St. Cecelia's Bazaar June 3

Elmira — St. Cecelia's Church will have its annual bazaar Sunday, June 3, from noon until 10 p.m. on the church grounds at 950 Lake St. Food offerings will include homemade perogies, tacos, pizza-fritte, Italian sausage and pepper sandwiches, and clams. Music will also be featured and a country store booth of handmade articles. There will be no admission charge.

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