

Southern Tier:
Martin Toombs
 268 W. 13th St., B-1
 Elmira Heights, N.Y. 14903
 (607) 732-3371

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Southern Tier-Auburn Geneva

Auburn-Geneva:
Mary Ann Ginnerty
 294 1/2 South Street Rd.
 Auburn, N.Y.
 (315) 253-2176

Tribunal Procedures Explained in Elmira

By **Martin Toombs**
 Southern Tier Editor

Elmira — Questions concerning tribunal procedures were the ones asked most by the 33 persons who attended the talk given by Father Robert O'Neill, official of the diocesan tribunal, and Father Richard Brickler, vice official, at St. Patrick's School May 20.

Sponsored by the Elmira Divorced and Separated Catholics Group, the meeting attracted several persons who had not previously participated in the group's activities.

The questions had changed since Father O'Neill's visit to Elmira in November 1977. Then, those attending probed the meaning of an annulment,

and the grounds upon which one was given.

This time, the two priests responded mostly to questions dealing with how the tribunal handles cases, especially in situations where the respondent does not cooperate or tries to block the annulment, and how the tribunal contact witnesses.

Father O'Neill also took time to correct a frequent misconception that divorced Catholics are not allowed to receive the sacraments. "Civil divorce is not forbidden by the Church," he stated, and persons who are divorced are "not in bad standing with the Church."

The prohibition against receiving the sacraments, he said, is for those who remarry without first receiving permission from the Church.

Responding to a question, he also noted that children born of a marriage which is later annulled are not made illegitimate by the annulment. That is provided for specifically in Canon Law, he noted.

The best witnesses are persons who knew both spouses from the beginning of the marriage, especially non-relatives and friends with "no ax to grind," Father O'Neill said. Witnesses are asked to describe the relationship, he noted, and not to judge the case or to assess blame against one party or another.

Annulment, he reminded those present, is a "statement that no marriage ever existed," and is granted based on the situation at the time of the marriage. Those events which preceded the divorce are less important than the situation at the time of the wedding.

The questions followed a formal presentation in which the two priests explained the basis for annulments, and the changes that have occurred in the past decade relating to how annulments are handled. They also listed the grounds on which annulments can be granted.

Pre-Natal Classes Set

Elmira—A series of classes for couples anticipating a Caesarean birth will be offered by Arnot-Ogden Hospital June 2, 9, and 16. Classes will be in the L. D. Clute Education building from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

The instructor will be Martha Hoodak, RN, Nurse Practitioner. Expectant parents may register by contacting the Arnot-Ogden Community Relations Office at 737-4454.

Family Marks 99th Year of Attendance

By **Mary Ann Ginnerty**

Seneca Falls — The 11 children of Paul and Eleanor Shaffer have attended St. Patrick's School here, putting in a combined number of years that nearly matches the age of the institution.

Adding it up, the children have received 99 years of schooling at the place celebrating this year its centenary.

The Shaffers think it was well worth the effort to provide for parochial school education for James, Charles, Clare, John, Mary, Ruth, Catherine, Paul, Marjorie, David and Michael.

"We can't even imagine the sacrifices the founders of the

school made a century ago," Mrs. Shaffer said recently. "We definitely believe Catholic education prepares one for the rest of life. If you don't know how to live with sacrifice, you won't be able to meet the demands of day-to-day living," she said.

The Shaffers have been active in school activities and now their son Charles is taking an active role in parish activities.

And a new generation of Shaffers, in the person of their granddaughter, is this year enrolled in the school.

"A good faith is so important," Mrs. Shaffer said, "although we don't realize it at the time."

Corning Cub Scouts Awarded Parvuli Dei

Corning — Four Cub Scouts received the "Parvuli Dei" award in ceremonies during the 9:30 a.m. Mass at St. Patrick's Church Sunday, May 27.

The Parvuli Dei, or little

Tel-Med Adds Service For Blind

Elmira — Arnot Ogden Hospital and the Southern Tier Association for the Blind have made it possible for the visually handicapped to use the hospital's Tel-Med telephone health information service.

Tel-Med is a library of recorded messages on health and medical information which are played to telephone callers. The Tel-Med number is 733-7101.

A Tel-Med tape for the visually handicapped, number 5000, describes the categories of information covered by the 210 tapes, and how the system works.

The complete Tel-Med brochure also has been reproduced in braille. It can be obtained from the Southern Tier Association for the Blind.

children of God award, is a recognition that the Catholic Church gives to Cub Scouts for advancement in religious knowledge and spiritual formation.

The four recipients, all members of St. Patrick's-sponsored Pack 91, were Paul Kapral, Paul Lepkowski, Tommy Feehan and Jim Sonner. All but Kapral, from St. Mary's Parish, are St. Patrick's parishioners.

Father Philip Billotte, St. Patrick's associate, who worked with the boys, noted that the award is designed to help Cub Scouts become more aware of God's presence in their home and community.

They met with him, he said, and visited several places, including Mount Saviour Monastery where they talked with the monks. They also went to a nursing home with Father Andrew Teuschel, where they distributed gifts they had made.

Each boy kept a log, Father Billotte said, which was reviewed by him and by Father Robert Winterkorn, diocesan scout chaplain.

The whole process took six months, Father Billotte commented, lauding the boys for their efforts in earning the award.



Mexican Garb

Members of Mrs. Savino's fifth grade class at St. Mary Our Mother, Horseheads, show each other some Mexican articles. The Mexican dress was part of the concluding event of a unit on Mexico, which also included board displays and a selection of Mexican food. Pictured are, from left, Tom Gough and Danny Lepkowski; back, Colleen Webster, Christine Kenefick, Karen McCarthy and Amy Cox.

Hearing, Speech Month Observed

Elmira—More than 20 million Americans — nearly 10 percent of all children and adults in the United States — have speech, hearing or language impairments which severely affect their abilities to communicate.

In an official proclamation declaring May — Better Hearing and Speech Month, Governor Hugh Carey commended the high level of

speech-language pathology and audiology services available in the state.

"Communicative disorders, as prevalent as they are, still remain as little-discussed handicaps," said Dr. Donna Geffner, state Speech and Hearing Association president. "Tragically, many of these persons are suffering

needlessly since most communicative disorders can be helped by trained professionals."

Information on such assistance can be obtained by contacting the Speech and Hearing Clinic at the Twin Tiers Rehabilitation Center at St. Joseph's Hospital, 733-6541, ext. 360.

Ecumenical Service

Auburn — An ecumenical service marked Nursing Home Week recently at Mercy Health and Rehabilitation center.

Participants in the service were Sister Joan Alice, Mercy administrator; Rev. Roger Rishel, St. Peter's Episcopal Church; Rev. Stephen Parr, president of Auburn Interfaith Ministries; Dr. Thomas Vanderloo, medical director at Mercy; Father Gilbert Wdziedzny, St. Hyacinth's; Rev. Roy Masseur, Protestant chaplain at Mercy; Sister Mary Gertrude, pastoral care at Mercy; Father Herbert Baloga, chaplain at Mercy; Rev. Mrs. Marion Masseur, Troopville. Community Church.

The Mercy Health and Rehabilitation resident choir sang for the event.

Polka Dance June 16

Bath — "Sunshower," rated among the top contemporary polka bands on the East Coast, will be performing at a dance from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at St. Mary's Hall, E. Morris Street, on Saturday, June 16. Proceeds from the event will benefit St. Mary's School.

Also featured will be the colorful Twin Tier Polka Dance group, an Elmira-based unit comprising boys and girls ages four to eight. They will perform beginning at 10 p.m.

Polish food and refreshments will be available. Sponsors of the dance, the Home School Association, have made advance sale tickets available at St. Mary's Rectory, Peterson Drug, Bath; and Fran's Bridal Shop, Corning. Tickets also will be available at the door.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting the chairpersons, Sally and Matt Yaninas (607)583-7358.

A. W. BELBY & SON
 Funeral Home
 James Robial
 Darrell O'Brien
 139 Walnut St.
 Dial 936-9121
 Corning, N.Y.

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