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200 Young Musicians Perform

By Martin Toombs
 Southern Tier Editor

Elmira — The ninth annual combined elementary music concert brought more than 200 students and their families to Notre Dame High School Sunday.

The concert, featuring musicians and singers from St. Mary's, St. Casimir's, and Our Lady of Lourdes schools, was the eighth for Sister Raymond Joseph and Sister Leona.

The two sisters conduct the music program in the Chemung County General Education Board operated schools. The junior high musicians will perform in a concert June 8 at St. Patrick's Junior High.

The annual elementary concerts bring together the third graders as "Tonettes," who play a recorder-like instrument, the choirs from each school, and the bands

from each school, for combined performances.

About 100 "Tonettes," about 100 choir members, and bands of 50 members each performed. Many students participate in both band and chorus.

The "junior band" consists mostly of students in their first year on an instrument; the "senior band" is made up of more experienced musicians.

The concert featured three guest conductors: Paul Holland directed the chorus, Don Holtz the senior band, and Sister Mary Edwina from Notre Dame the junior band. The guest conductors, the sisters explained, are morale-boosters for the students, and make it possible for them to take care of the details.

A few instrumentalists from St. Mary Our Mother School, Horseheads, also joined in the concert.

In addition to the band and school choirs the nuns also conduct individual instrumental lessons and do the music classroom instruction.

Finding time for the groups to meet is a problem. Sister Raymond Joseph noted that the children "really sacrifice their lunch hour one day a week" to be in the choir. And the bands practice a half-hour before school, which means that students must get to school earlier one day each week.

For the combined concert practices are conducted in the early evenings.

Participation is based on interest, Sister Joseph explained. We "don't limit" groups, she said, although "musically we probably could have a better sounding group." The groups are open to any student willing to make the commitment, they said.

The division of classroom instruction, with Sister Raymond Joseph taking the first three grades and Sister Leona 4 to 6, "works fine," Sister Raymond Joseph commented, "because I like the little ones and she likes the big ones."

Sister Raymond Joseph noted that she has always taught music. Sister Leona said that she came to music teaching after 10 years as a classroom teacher. Both have degrees in "public school music" from Nazareth College.

Sister Marilyn Reeves, St. Mary's principal, lauded the sisters and the music program, noting that "they do a super job, those two." She said that the students appreciate the program as well. While they don't always enjoy practice, she said, they get excited about the performances.



"Next to the Family, the Catholic School" was the theme of the combined concert which involved students from Elmira's three elementary schools. Representing both their families and their schools, the above sets of twins are pictured hard at work in preparation for the concert last Sunday. They are, from left, Troy and Todd George, St. Mary's; Peggy and Patty Tolbert, St. Casimir's; and Ellen and Eileen Wayne of Our Lady of Lourdes.



New Chalice

A chalice, designed and made by Patti Wenzel, a senior at Wells College, was presented to Father John S. Hayes in honor of Prof. Patricia Sullivan, former faculty advisor to the Catholic Campus Ministry. The presentation was made Sunday, May 20 at a convocation of members of St. Patrick's Parish, and the faculty and members of the campus ministry group who meet Sundays for Mass on the Wells College Campus.

Tubman Memorial Dedicated May 27

Auburn — More than 500 church and city officials and guests attended the dedication of the new Harriet Tubman Library and restored museum Sunday afternoon, May 27.

Harriet Tubman, a runaway slave was known as

the Moses of her people as she led hundreds to freedom, via the Underground Railroad. She made her mark on the Auburn area when she opened a nursing home here for elderly black people.

Tubman willed two major

houses to the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church (A.M.E. Zion Church) when she died in 1913 in Auburn. The property is just outside Auburn on South Street Road.

Bishop Herbert Bell Shaw, the president of the Harriet Tubman Foundation, conducted the 2 p.m. ceremony. Shaw is the presiding bishop of the Rochester-Syracuse-Buffalo District of the Western New York Conference of A.M.E. Zion Church.

Bishop Shaw announced the idea to construct the library two years ago at the total cost of \$50,000. He said most of the money was donated by the church. No money was borrowed to complete the project, he said. He also announced future plans for a Harriet Tubman Memorial Park which will be developed on the remaining 26 acres of land.

Right to Life Sets Plans

Auburn — The Cayuga County Right to Life Committee has launched its spring-summer program of activities. Plans were developed at the group's monthly meeting on Thursday, May 17 at the Salvation Army Building.

The committee's political action chairman, James Tracy, said "throughout the summer, activity in the Legislature winds down as far as new legislation goes. But we are still working on limiting state Medicaid

funding of abortion by a separate bill from the budget that was just passed. We will be spending more time on the Voter Identification Survey which involves canvassing all the registered voters in the congressional district to identify who will vote pro-life."

Right to life is participating in the New York State Right to Life fund-raiser, and the annual Save-A-Baby campaign. The committee also plans its own fund-raiser with a flea market, rummage sale at the end of June.

Carmelite Monastery Considered for Prison Use

By Martin Toombs
 Southern Tier Editor

Waverly — The Carmelite Monastery near Waverly is under consideration for use by New York State as a secure prison for male juvenile offenders. Father Cyril Guise confirmed May 25.

Earlier that week, he explained, representatives from the state Division for Youth inspected the facility.

The discussions with the state were supposed to remain

private, he said, but after the state inspectors talked to local political leaders, the plans were revealed in the local press.

The Monastery of St. John of the Cross was built in 1961 as a seminary for the Discalced Carmelite Fathers and Brothers. A declining number of seminarians led to its being closed in August 1976, and since then the building has been for sale.

Currently six members of the order live there; three

work at St. Joseph's Hospital, one works on educational projects in the area, and two work at the monastery, maintaining the facility and its 176 acres of grounds on the top of Waverly Hill. Although near Waverly, the monastery actually is in the Town of Chemung, Chemung County.

If the monastery is sold, those members living there plan to move to Elmira and continue their work.

The proposed sale quickly met with opposition. Edwin O'Brien, who donated about half of the land on which the monastery is built and owns O'Brien's Inn adjacent to it, has said that he would fight placement of a prison on the picturesque hill.

Noting the expensive homes in the area, O'Brien says that putting a prison among them will damage property values on the hill, and that he will sue the order and the state if a prison is placed on the property.

Father Cyril, noting that Father Theodore, currently away from the monastery, is the superior, said that as far as he knows, no offers for the facility have been rejected. He reported that a New York City real estate firm is trying to sell the property. A member of the order, whom he declined to name, is working with the firm, he said.

Art Auction June 24 To Aid St. Joseph's

Elmira — St. Joseph's Hospital's Development Council, in concert with the Hospital Auxiliary, is sponsoring an Art Auction/Wine and Cheese Party Sunday, June 24, at the Downtown Holiday Inn, Elmira.

Mrs. Jeanne G. Meacham has been named chairwoman of the event by Richard Evans, Development Council chairman. She is being assisted by Vincent Valicenti and Mrs. Belle Goodman, who serves as the representative of the auxiliary.

Annual Banquet

Auburn — The Rosary and Altar Society of St. Alphonsus Church held their annual banquet May 17. Father Elmer Heindl, Seneca Cayuga regional coordinator and pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Weedsport, was guest of honor. Officers were also installed for the coming year. They are Jean McCarthy, first president; Jay Guter, second president; Sharon DeNardo, third president; and Susan Schillace as treasurer.

Mrs. Meacham was an art teacher in the Elmira schools, and an Elmira College faculty associate in art. At present she instructs an oil painting class at Park Church.

The Wine and Cheese Party will begin at 7:30 p.m.; the auction will be at 8:30 p.m. The Howard Mann Art Center, Lambertville, New Jersey, will conduct the auction.

Health Seminar Tonight

Elmira — Dr. Dominic Romeo, cardiologist, will review the diseases of the heart and then answer questions from those attending the next "To Your Health" seminar at St. Joseph's Hospital tonight, Wednesday, June 6, at 7:30 p.m. in the Doctors Meeting Room.

The program is free; reservations may be made by contacting St. Joseph's Community Relations Office, 733-9137.

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