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# COURIER-JOURNAL

## Southern Tier-Auburn Geneva

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Here a French group visiting Mt. Saviour receives Communion.

### Monastery Is Host To French Visitors

Big Flats — Thirty-seven French agriculturists made a stop at Mount Saviour Monastery during their tour of the Southern Tier for the celebration, in French, of Mass.

Father James Kelly of the monastery celebrated the Mass Saturday, June 16, for the visitors and their hosts during their three-day stay with Elmira area families.

The study tour was sponsored by the Foundation for International Cooperation (FIC). The visitors, from Agen, a city 50 miles northwest of Toulouse, were provided hospitality by 21 local families.

While in the area, they visited the Cornell University School of Agriculture, the Geneva Experiment Station, the Ann Page plant in Horseheads, Bully Hill Vineyards, and the Corning Glass Museum.

Assisting at the Mass, celebrated entirely in French, were Brother Pierre, who acted as a translator during the visit, and Brother Luke.

The Agen farmers were on a two-week tour of North America, which featured home stays at each stop. Coordinating their local stay were Dr. and Mrs. Francis B. Haber, Dr. and Mrs. Robert C. Hain, and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Nurnberg.

### Three Sisters End 35 Years In Corning

Corning — St. Vincent de Paul parishioners bade farewell to three Sisters of Mercy who are ending nearly 35 years of service in this area, with a reception Sunday, July 1 in the parish hall. The three to be honored are Sister Mary Kruckow, Sister Sheila Geraghty and Sister Ann Elizabeth O'Byrne.

Sister Mary Kruckow, co-director of the regional office of Human Development for the Southern Tier will leave to join the Tioga County Rural Ministry. The group ministers to the elderly and the poor in areas around Waverly and Owego. She will live in St. Patrick's Convent, Owego.

Sister Sheila Geraghty, parish nurse teacher at St. Vincent Catholic School, will also work with the

Tioga Rural Ministry and stay at St. Patrick's. Sister Joanne Deck, now teaching at St. Salome's, Rochester, will succeed Sister Sheila in Corning.

Sister Ann Elizabeth O'Byrne, first grade teacher at Corning's North School, leaves to continue her studies toward her masters degree at Elmira College. No successor has been named.

Attending the reception were Fathers Michael Hogan and Thomas Brennan of St. Mary's, Corning, Father Elmer Schmidt, St. Margaret, Apalachin; Father Jeremiah Moynihan, Holy Cross, Rochester; and Fathers Joseph Hogan, John Brill and Edward Bellotti, St. Vincent, Corning.

### Memorial Mass

## For Deceased, and Their Families

By Martin Toombs  
 Southern Tier Editor

Elmira — A Mass remembering those who died at St. Joseph's Hospital has been well received by the families of those being memorialized.

The memorial Masses are both prayerful remembrances of those who have died, and opportunities for the families of the deceased to receive support during their bereavement.

The Masses, offered every other month, began last December. On June 13, relatives of persons who died during April or May attended a Mass in the Little Flower Chapel in the Dunn Memorial.

The program is being conducted by the hospital's Pastoral Care Department.

Approximately 75 persons attended the June 13 liturgy, at which 53 persons were remembered. Father Timothy McGough and Father Cyril Guise co-celebrated the Mass.

During his homily, Father Cyril noted that there are "moments in our lives when we're filled with bitterness," such as at the death of a loved one. When that happens we look up to heaven and ask "why this has happened," he said, noting that we are not



Shown above is the tiny chapel during a bi-monthly Memorial Mass.

wondering for the person who died but for our own hurt.

He pointed out that in the readings for the Mass, people of faith stated that they couldn't understand why something had happened, but "in their faith, they bowed their heads and said 'Yes, Father.'"

"It's our hearts which are broken," Father Cyril said, "we are the ones . . . who need to be healed."

The congregation in coming together for the Mass said "Let the Spirit heal us," he said; "that's what the liturgy is about this evening."

And so, during the Mass,

Father Cyril commented, those attending should pray "for one another and those who have died."

Following the homily, Father Timothy read the names of those being remembered at the Mass.

Assisting with the readings was Roger Burns, the hospital's fiscal administrator; an administrator is a lector for each Mass. Sister Martha Gersbach, hospital administrator, was the first to participate.

A coffee hour follows the Mass, and Sister Barbara Gulino, a hospital chaplain, noted that "people really do stay and talk."

The idea for the Mass came from a conference Father Timothy attended, Sister Barbara explained and grew from the already-started practice of sending sympathy cards to the families of persons who died at the hospital. To date, the chaplains have "received overwhelmingly positive response" from the families to the Masses, she said.

When they started the Masses, some discussion was given to the willingness of non-Catholics to attend a Mass. The decision was to offer the Mass, Sister Barbara noted, as it is "our expression of sympathy." Many "receive it as a gift," she stated and "there definitely are non-Catholics who come" to the Masses.

### School Board Thanks Departing Members

By Martin Toombs  
 Southern Tier Editor

Elmira — The Chemung County General Education Board (CCGEB) wound up the school year at its June 14 meeting at St. Anthony's

Sister Davidica, principal at Our Lady of Lourdes, was thanked for her service to the system, which she will be continuing next year in another role; she will be teaching at St. Patrick's Junior High.

Lawrence Stephens was presented a gift in recognition of his four years of service to the board, three as president. Stephens' first two years were served as a board member; the last two years he has guided the school system as president without being a board member.

The board also agreed to write a letter to support the inclusion of students from its schools in the program for gifted and talented students sponsored by the Elmira City School District.

And reports on religious activities in the four schools were distributed, in response to a request made by Father Kevin Murphy at the May meeting.

At Father Murphy's request, Martin Tracy, St. Patrick's representative, proposed a motion calling for the system's principals to meet with the regional coordinator, who is Father Murphy, to discuss planning for liturgical celebrations in the schools in the coming year. The motion was approved in a unanimous voice vote.

### Monastery Funds Cut

Waverly — Apparently the state's plans to purchase the Carmelite Monastery of St. John of the Cross and convert it into a secure prison for male juvenile offenders has been blocked.

Funding for the project was cut from the state's supplemental budget just before the legislative session ended June 16.

The monastery has been for sale since it was closed in August 1976. Six Carmelites continue to live in the facility on top of Waverly Hill.

The legislative stop to the project came after local representatives, Senator William T. Smith and Assemblyman George H. Winner Jr., called for public hearings on the purchase. Smith is the assistant majority leader in the state Senate.

Their call came after protests from residents in the Chemung Valley and Tioga County area. Petition drives

opposing the prison plan reportedly had collected more than 2,000 signatures.

Spearheading the drive against the prison were Edwin O'Brien, owner of O'Brien's Inn adjacent to the monastery, Tioga County Sheriff J. Raymond Ayers, and Mrs. David Betcke, an employee at O'Brien's Inn.

O'Brien and his late brother William donated \$1,600 and 93 acres of land that is now part of the monastery's 176 acres when the monastery was built in 1961. He opposed the location of a prison on the site, citing the expensive homes in the area, and he also objected to the conversion of a religious facility to use as a prison.

Speaking in the absence of Father Theodore, the monastery's superior, Father Cyril Guise reported that he has received no official word either from his order or the state concerning the monastery's future.

The meeting covered several topics, with the board reaching consensus decisions on most.

The board agreed to try to find parents to act as liaisons to the Rochester chapter of the Federation of Catholic School parents, as they were asked to do at their May meeting. The agreed-upon plan is for discussion of further participation to come after the liaisons are in place.

The need to establish a procedure for handling staff reductions in the schools was seen as a priority for next year.

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