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Teachers Told: *You're Important To Church Ministry*

By Martin Toombs
Southern Tier Editor

Penn Yan — Elementary school teachers from the Catholic schools of the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes areas, 250 of them, spent the day at St. Michael's Church Sept. 24.

They heard the new superintendent of schools, Father Richard Kinsky, CSB, and Father Richard N. Fragomeni, director of the Liturgy Center for the Albany diocese.

Following the morning sessions, the teachers participated in a Mass the two priests concelebrated with Bishop Matthew H. Clark.

In his energy-filled address,

Father Fragomeni emphasized the importance the teachers have in the lives of their students, not simply for imparting academic knowledge, but for the value of being ready and able to act on their genuine concern for their students. He related how one person he talked to had said that his most memorable moment as a student came not in an academic or sports activity, but when his father was very ill and a nun reached out to him, recognizing that he needed her support.

When Mass started, Bishop Clark commented that Father Fragomeni grew up not far from Waterford, Bishop Clark's hometown. He remarked that the teachers appeared to be in high spirits,

and accused them of being "under the influence of Father Fragomeni."

He noted that he was there to "tell you how important you are" to the life of the Church in the diocese, as the teachers lead "young people from childhood to adulthood."

"You are, in my estimation, my judgment, very powerful collaborators in the ministry of the Church."

He said, "please don't ever underestimate the importance of what you do."

He also commented that he was interested in their ministry to students, and interested in the ministry to



Bishop Clark meets the teachers after the program.

them as well. He said it is important "that you yourselves are renewed and

counseled." He concluded asking the teachers to "please greet your

students for me," and said that he hoped to visit each school sometime in the future.

TV Series Starts Tonight

Elmira — Bishop Matthew H. Clark will open the television series being sponsored by the Chemung County Catholic Network this evening at 7 p.m.

The program will be the first of 36 shows being made available to TelePrompTer subscribers over cable channel 4 by the Chemung County Catholic Network.

Bishop Clark's introduction will precede the

first show of a six-week series "Free to Be Me," on Wednesday evenings by Father John Powell, SJ, which concerns itself with how our personal vision of reality controls our lives.

Three separate series of programs will be running for 12 weeks, one each on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings, all from 7 to 7:30 p.m.

On Friday, Oct. 5, a program titled "Good News for All People," will present

Father John Bertolucci, an evangelist from the Albany diocese, who will discuss the "Good News."

On Monday, Oct. 8, the Monday evening series will get under way, with a program titled "Clown of Freedom: Resurrection." The program is set in Latin America, with the clown faced with a choice between living under oppression or dying free. The cast includes Martin Sheen and Anthony Costello.

And Wednesday, Oct. 10, Father Powell's series continues, as he explores how a person can allow others to influence his or her life and still be free.

Program guides to the series are available to those sending a stamped, self-addressed business-size envelope to Chemung County Catholic Network, PO Box 207, Horseheads, NY 14845, or from many churches and other locations.



Bishop Matthew H. Clark, right, discusses the purpose of the programs being offered by the Chemung County Catholic Network with Father Lewis Brown of the diocesan Religious Education Office, and Hilda Stebbins, co-chairperson of the task force sponsoring the shows.

Safe House Opens in Chemung

By Martin Toombs
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira — After two years of effort, a "safe house" began operation in Chemung County at the end of August to provide temporary housing for wives and children suffering from family violence.

Women seeking aid in such situations have been helped during the past two years; housing was provided at the Salvation Army. But space was limited, and because husbands sometimes knew where their wives were, the situation was not seen as a permanent one.

Last January a core group of eight members from the

countywide task force on domestic violence began the work to get a safe house set up.

The new arrangement involves three agencies and funding from the county Department of Social Services.

The Red Cross contracts with Mennonite Ministries which actually operates the home. Those seeking help can call Info-Line, 737-2077, and they will be referred for assistance. The service is paid for by Social Services on a fee-for-service basis.

Nancy Smith, who works on the program for the Red Cross, explained that the

contracting arrangement makes it possible for other types of emergency cases, such as those resulting from fires, also to be housed there. The home has 10 beds, and can accommodate 13 persons.

Those involved hope that by not identifying the house's location, security can be maintained, Ms. Smith said.

Seven women and six children used the house the first three weeks it was open, Ms. Smith said. Stays are limited to 30 days, but most stay only a weekend or a week, that is up to the person involved.

The women who seek aid all have a low self-esteem, she said, and often don't have any decision-making ability.

For some of the women, she noted, it is difficult to decide what to cook for meals at the safe house; such decisions have never been theirs to make.

Safe house staff help in the crisis situation, Ms. Smith said, and make referrals to Family Services for continuing counseling.

The program's clients are a varied group, she noted, and

are not all public assistance cases. Of the seven women who have used the new facility, she reported, three had good jobs. Also, she said, often those upper-middle class women who call for assistance have the resources to find their own housing.

From April to July, the agencies involved aided 89 families including 134 children, Ms. Smith noted. Of those 27 of the women made use of temporary housing.

Ms. Smith revealed several statistics the task force considered as it worked to set up a safe house. Of the 89 families, 84 percent were white, four percent were black, four percent were Puerto Rican, and four percent were bi-racial. The women reported that they had been beaten on an average of 5.8 years, and 58 percent said they had been abused while pregnant. Alcohol was connected to the abuse in 68 percent of the cases, drugs in 12 percent.

The survey of those women seeking help also revealed that the victims generally have more education than their husbands. Sixty-five percent of the victims had completed high school, but only 37 percent of the abusers had.

Priest Named 'Man of Year'

Auburn — Father John J. Nacca, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church, here will be honored Sunday, Oct. 7 as "Man of the Year" of the Christopher Columbus Commemorative Committee.

Father Nacca was appointed pastor at St. Francis in 1949 at the age of 34. He has served at the same parish since. During his tenure a new school, a shrine dedicated to

Our Lady of Lourdes and a new church have been built.

Father Nacca attended Holy Rosary School in Rochester and Aquinas Institute before entering the seminary. He is the son of Pasqualino Nacca and Alfonsina D'Angelo Nacca, both deceased.

Fall Festival

Elmira Heights — St. Charles Borromeo's Fall Festival will be Sunday, Oct. 7, beginning at noon in the parish hall. Food and crafts will be featured, and the parish welcomes everyone.

**Gerould's
Pharmacies**

S. Main St. and
Church & Hoffman
Elmira

Delivery Service
733-6696

'Growing With Christ' Seminar Oct. 9

Corning — The second annual "Growing with Christ" program sponsored by the women of St. Patrick's Parish will be Tuesday, Oct. 9, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the parish hall.

This year's theme is "Reach Out."

Leading the program will be

Dorothy A. Dobson, a social worker for Monroe County who is active in teen and religious programs.

The guest soloist will be Mrs. Theresa Pierotti. Those attending are asked to bring a bag lunch, beverages and dessert will be provided. Babysitting will be available.

CHURCH FESTIVAL

Food & Fun

**St. Charles Borromeo
Elmira Heights**

Oct. 7, Noon - 7P