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Cooperative Youth Board Activities Beginning

By Martin Toombs
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira— The Tri-Parish Youth Board, organized by St. Patrick's, St. Anthony's and St. Casimir's parishes, has begun sponsoring two programs as it gets its activities underway.

The three churches, only blocks apart on Elmira's Northside, are also involved in other cooperative efforts.

Through the efforts of Father David Gramkee, chaplain at the Elmira Correctional Facility, Masses for the youth are being offered on an every-other week basis, and a study group will be

conducted on Thursday evenings during Advent.

The Masses, on Sunday evenings, began in early October, Father Gramkee noted, and will continue. The next such Mass will be Sunday, Dec. 9, at 7 p.m. in the Christian Living Room in St. Patrick's School.

The Thursday evening study group will run the four Thursdays before Christmas, Father Gramkee said, at 7 p.m., also in the Christian Living Room.

Father Gramkee also conducted a day of recollection for teenagers from the three parishes Nov.

12. Right now, Father Gramkee said, he is working with the nine-member board running the program, and "trying a few things to see what happens."

To date, he noted, the programs have been successful in attracting participation from all three parishes, as well as some other teenagers from the area.

The Tri-Parish Youth Board was organized last February, with statements of support, \$1,000, and three representatives from each parish.

A youth minister, hired by the board, is expected to take over primary responsibility for the high school youth programs for the three parishes. William Caroscio Jr., board president, noted that the board received several applications for the post earlier this year, but eventually all were withdrawn. Now the board is working "under a deadline," he said, to get a Youth Director hired by mid-January. The post can be either part or full time, and the board is willing to discuss arrangements with the applicants, he stated. He explained that they don't want to "eliminate good people" by being too specific.

Firm budgetary com-

mitments for the board's second year have been received from two parishes, Caroscio said, and he expects the third also will continue its support when asked to do so; the parish council supports the project, he said.

The board also is looking for other sources of funding, he noted, to augment that provided by the parishes.

As soon as the director is hired, he said, the board can proceed further with its goals, which call for development of four types of programs: prayer and liturgy, human development, study opportunities, and recreational and social activities.

This fall when Father

Gramkee came to Elmira and moved into St. Patrick's Rectory he volunteered his services to the board, Caroscio said, and he has been instrumental in getting the program started while the board works to hire a youth minister. He also has been an important source of advice to the board, he added.

Caroscio noted that a lack of parish personnel to work with teenagers was one reason the board was formed, and he sees the efforts of Father Gramkee as being valuable additions to the efforts to reach teenagers in the Northside neighborhood. He added that the board expects to involve the three pastors as well in the board's programs.

Run Will Benefit Homes

Painted Post— A Fun Run to benefit Kinship Group Homes has been scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 15 and Sunday, Dec. 16 at Corning West High School.

Proceeds from the sponsored run will be used to purchase two vehicles for the Kinship group homes, the boys home in Perkinsville and the girls home in Tyrone. Those who would like to run can either gather pledges or pay an entry fee of \$5 to participate, and can run either day. Lap counters will certify the distance each person runs around the Corning West High School gym.

Joseph Weider, Kinship Group Homes executive director, noted that the vehicles are needed to provide

transportation for those living at the homes. The financial support is necessary as the group homes lost \$4,000 last year due to a low state reimbursement, he stated.

Coordinating the event is Ann Maloney of Corning, a Kinship board member. Running will be from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day, she explained, and will be paced, with an eight minutes-per-mile pace on Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon, and a 10-minute pace Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. Live bands will provide music for the runners.

Sponsor cards are available at several locations, including Maloney Pharmacy and Rossettie Pharmacy, Corning; Painted Post Pharmacy,

Painted Post; Rea and Derrick Drug Store, Arnot Mall, Big Flats; and from the Kinship Group Homes office, Pulteney Square, Bath.

Refugee Family

Phelps— St. Francis parish and the United Church of Phelps are preparing for the arrival of a Southeast Asian refugee family. They call their joint effort "We Care II," because "We Care" was the rallying cry in 1975-76, when a Vietnamese family was brought to the Phelps-Clifton Springs area.

The chairmen, Winifred Vittum, Gary Tyman and Patricia Gulvin, have organized 11 committees of volunteers from the two congregations and from the community to work out resettlement details.

Series Scheduled

Corning— An Advent program sponsored by St. Mary's and St. Patrick's parishes will take place on consecutive Thursdays, Dec. 6 and 13, in St. Patrick's School Library. Each program will begin at 7:30 p.m.

The program Dec. 6, St. Nicholas' Day, will be a sharing and learning experience centered on the Advent and Christmas symbols used in the church and the home.

On Dec. 13, the feast of St. Lucy, the program will be a prayerful, social get-together with a tree lighting and Christmas caroling.

Any interested persons are welcome.

Health Seminar To Focus on Lungs

Elmira— The final "To Your Health" seminar in the 1979 series will be Wednesday, Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. in St. Joseph's Hospital's Doctors Meeting Room.

Dr. Earl Robinson, pulmonologist, will speak on "Life and Breath, You and Your Lungs." A specialist in lungs and their diseases, Dr. Robinson is medical director of the Respiratory Care Services Department of St. Joseph's Hospital. He will provide the listener with an overview of known and little-known information on lungs.

December traditionally has

been dedicated to the lungs; the Christmas Seal Campaign is in December. In conjunction with the program, the Finger Lakes Association of the American Lung Association will provide a display of Christmas Seals dating from 1904 to the present.

Refreshments will be served following the question and answer period.

The seminars will resume in the spring with a new lineup of subjects and speakers. The programs have been made possible free of charge through the contribution of time by the panelists.

Hospital Offering 'Hug of Life' Cards

Elmira— St. Joseph's Hospital is offering a "Gift of Life" for stocking stuffers—wallet-sized cards that describe the Heimlich Maneuver (the hug of life) technique to remove food obstructions causing choking.

The offering is timely since choking deaths increase during the holidays. The cards may be obtained by con-

Program Schedule

Elmira— The first two parts of a three-part series on the family by Jesuit Father John Powell will be shown tonight, Wednesday, Dec. 5, and next Wednesday, Dec. 12, by the Chemung County Catholic Network. All programs offered by the network begin at 7 p.m. on cable channel 4 in Chemung County.

Friday, Dec. 7, the final show of Bishop Hubbard Discourses will be presented. Bishop Howard Hubbard is bishop of the Albany diocese.

Party Dec. 9

Elmira— The Ladies of St. Casimir's Rosary and Sacred Heart Society Christmas Party will be Sunday, Dec. 9. Celebrations will begin with devotions in church at 5 p.m., followed by dinner in the school hall.

tacting the Community Relations Office at the hospital by telephone or in person. Orders by mail should be accompanied by a self-addressed, double-stamped (30 cents) envelope.

This is the fourth year the hospital has offered the "Gift of Life" cards. In 1975 a specially-prepared film was made at the request of a local restaurant to train their personnel in the "Hug of Life." Reports indicated that since that time nearly 300 persons have been aided, and possibly had their lives saved, as a direct result of the instructional effort.

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Word for Sunday

By Father Albert Shamon

Original Sin Exists

Immaculate Conception: (R3) Lk. 1:26-38. (R1) Gn. 3:9-15, 20. (R2) Eph. 1:3-6, 11-12.

In the advent season there occurs the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

This dogma was defined: "Mary, at the first instant of her conception ... in virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ (cp. R2), ... was preserved immaculate from all stain of original sin."

This dogma teaches: first, a fetus is a person; second, original sin is a fact!

A fetus is a person because grace or sin attaches only to persons, not to things. If Mary was full of grace from the first instant of her conception (nine months before her birth) then the implication is she was a person from the first instant of conception.

Equally so, then, is everybody else, for Mary was one of us. Therefore, abortion is murder — the killing of a person!

Original sin is a fact. Genesis is in part the Jewish answer to the pagan charge: "If your God is so good, how come all the evil in the world?"

The Jews answered. "It was not always so. In the beginning the world was a paradise. In fact, man had it so good that it took the intervention of a fallen angel — the snake — to lure man away from God. Evil came not from a good God (Sir. 15:11-13), but from a man prodded to evil by a fallen angel" (Wis. 2:24, Rev. 12:9; 20-2).

This original sin of disobedience, like a Pandora's box, unloosed upon the world all kinds of evils. But the worst evil of the original sin is what it did to man. It deprived him of the divine life. This led to alienation, a running away from God, and caused concupiscence, a running toward evil (cp. Rom. 7:24 ff). Doing good is like swimming against the

current; doing evil, like swimming with it.

Francis Thompson pictured man as a fugitive running away from God — "I fled Him" — and God, a hound relentlessly pursuing. Why does man run away from God? Everything else seeks the source of its life: the child goes to its mother, the sunflower bends toward the sun, roots reach out to water — all things move toward the source of their life. Only man does not. Why? Genesis says it was not always so. In the beginning man was in God's good graces — he walked and talked with Him. Only after sin, after he "disgraced" himself, did he run away from God — "I hid from Him."

"Dis-graced," man as a consequence has a strong tendency from God to self, from a God-centered universe to a Me-centered world, leading to a selfishness that ends in death.

Dr. Donald Campbell, president of the American Psychology Association in 1975, shocked his colleagues by stating that original sin may not be so far off the mark as modern psychology has scoffingly assumed. "There is a biological basis in favor of self-seeking, uninhibited behavior," he

said. In other words, a certain amount of ornery selfishness is built into man. He charged that psychologists and psychiatrists assumed "that human impulses provided by biological evolution are right, and repressive or inhibiting moral traditions (like the Ten Commandments) are wrong." "This assumption," Campbell has maintained, "may now be regarded as scientifically wrong." Wow! The lunacy, therefore of permissive education and a permissive society!

William Golding's "Lord of the Flies" supports Campbell. He isolates a group of boys on an island, away from the "corrupting forces of civilization, to grow in innocence. They don't. Evil asserts itself! From whence does it spring? Not from the outside civilization — they are islanded. The conclusion left is, from within the boys themselves.

Only one person, God's own mother, Mary, was conceived with the divine life that caused in her a basic bias toward God and away from sin. Thus Gabriel hailed her "Highly favored Daughter!" And the Church, the "Immaculate Conception."

For further study, read "The Theology of Original Sin," by Edward Yarnold, SJ.