

COURIER-JOURNAL

Southern Tier-Auburn Geneva

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Youth Ministry Program in Full Swing

By Martin Toombs
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira — A youth minister has begun her duties heading the project aimed at high school students of three Northside parishes.

Chris DeSocio, a St. Anthony's parishioner, began work Feb. 1 as the full-time youth minister working for the Tri-Parish Youth Board, which has been formed by the neighboring parishes of St. Anthony's, St. Casimir's and St. Patrick's.

On Feb. 18, a Monday when the students were out of school, several teenagers spent the day cleaning the first floor of the house on North Main Street where Miss DeSocio's office will be.

Miss DeSocio, a St. John Fisher College graduate, where she studied psychology and religious studies, related her feeling that "the Lord directed me to this job through my prayer."

She worked for several years on the Camp Stella Maris staff, she said, and is

looking forward to her work with teenagers.

"I hope to build a community of the teens," she said, "and integrate them into the larger faith community" of their parishes.

Father David Gramkee, a chaplain at the Elmira Correctional Facility, has been celebrating Masses every other week as part of the program since last fall.

The first addition to the program will be a Reality Group, Miss DeSocio said,

which is both a follow-up to the Teen Seminar program and open to others who wish to join the weekly meetings. She pointed out that many local teenagers have made Teen Seminar.

Any program additions after that will be determined by how well things are working and the interests of the teenagers, she said.

Currently she is working with a "core group" of 20 teenagers already involved in the program, seeking their ideas on what can be done.

She also noted the future possibility that two members of that group might meet with the nine-member Tri-Parish Youth Board that runs the program.

To date, she reported, the teenagers she has met have been "really open," and "eager to learn." The program is something "that's really needed in the area," she said, and something the teenagers themselves want.

She pointed out that religious activities will always be an important part of the program, and other events

such as social gatherings, trips and community service projects will be included.

To publicize the program, she expects to begin a newsletter, and is now compiling a list of teenagers from the three parishes by contacting Notre Dame and Elmira Free Academy, the high schools local students would be attending. She also is working on Confirmation and parish religious education lists. She added that although the program is primarily aimed at students from the three parishes, it is not restricted to them.



Thomas Costello and his wife Beverly and their three sons following the swearing-in ceremony.

Instructor Earns Advanced Rank

Elmira — A St. Joseph's School of Nursing instructor became a captain in the Army Reserve in ceremonies Feb. 19 at St. Joseph's.

Thomas Costello received a "direct appointment" as a captain although he has had no military experience due to his professional qualifications and experience, according to Colonel Richard Nichols, who conducted the swearing-in ceremony.

Curriculum coordinator for the school, Costello holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy, a diploma in nursing from St. Joseph's, and a masters degree in nursing from the University of Rochester.

One of the first males to graduate from St. Joseph's, Costello joined the faculty in 1971, later marrying a

student, Beverly Bush. They and their three sons are members of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish.

In addition to parish activities, Costello also has been a member of the Diocesan Pastoral Council and president of the Chemung-Schuylar Regional Assembly.

Costello noted after the swearing-in that he looks forward to the training and experience possibilities in the military reserve, and also to the chance for more clinical work, something he misses now working as an instructor.

His weekend duty will be at the Seneca Army Depot in Romulus, where he will help



Col. Richard Nichols swears in Thomas Costello as captain.

staff the dispensary. Next August he will serve two weeks duty at Fort Benning in

Georgia, working as either a medical-surgical nurse or an operating room nurse.

Palmyra Parish Sets Lent Seminar

Palmyra — "Issues in Family Life," a two-seminar program on family living, has been slated by St. Anne's Parish the Sundays of March 2 and 9 beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The special Lenten program attempts to "provide persons involved in family living, with insights and skills to more effectively face the challenges to the family in today's society," a parish announcement stated. Special emphasis will be given in the seminars to the marriage

Registration Scheduled

Elmira — Registration for new students entering the Elmira Catholic schools in September, pre-school through grade eight, will be Wednesday, March 5 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at St. Patrick's Junior High School. Baptismal record, birth certificate

relationship, the role of family, parenting, adolescent development and environmental stress on the family.

The program will be given by Dr. Janet Foy, an associate counselor at the Pastoral Counseling Center and special lecturer at St. Bernard's Seminary in Pastoral Theology. Dr. Foy is also a consultant to the diocese in its ministry to separated and divorced persons.

and a letter from the parish are needed. There is a \$15 per family registration fee. For more information, contact the system business office at 734-4414.

Re-registration for current students is being conducted by mail.

Gospel Music Concert Set

Horseheads — A 50-voice choir from Rochester will perform in a Lenten concert of Gospel Music at St. Mary Our Mother Church Saturday, March 1 at 8 p.m.

The United Inspirational Choir of the Powerhouse Church of God in Christ of Rochester along with the C.J. Lewis Singers and the Living Psalms will perform as guests of Celebrate Life. They also will join Celebrate Life at the 12:30 p.m. Mass the following day at St. Mary Our Mother.

There will be a free-will donation for the concert.

Chaplain to Be Speaker at Phelps Church

Phelps — Father James Kelly, chaplain at Hobart College in Geneva, will lead special Lenten devotions at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 28 at St. Francis of Assisi.

Father Kelly will explain how Holy Scripture can be applied to daily life and why it is important to the spiritual life of parishioners.

Auburn Parish Hosts Evenings for Parents

Auburn — The first session of Evening for Parents will be held at St. Alphonsus Church cafeteria, Friday, Feb. 29.

The program, which begins at 7:30 p.m., will feature a discussion of "Memories."

Baby sitters are available in the school. The program is open to all parents regardless of the age of their children.

According to an announcement in the parish bulletin, the session will deal with such questions as

"What will your children say about you in 20 years? What would you like them to say? What will be their fondest memories?"

The program is a project of the parish Religious Education Office.

Resignations Received

Elmira — The Chemung County General Education Board (CCGEB) received the resignations of two of its principals at its meeting Feb. 14 at St. Mary's.

Sister Joan Cawley, St. Patrick's Junior High principal, and Sister Diane Marie Erskine, Our Lady of Lourdes principal, submitted their resignations effective after the current school year.

Sister Diane Marie gave personal and family reasons for her action; Sister Joan expressed her wish for a change after 15 years working in the area.

In other action, the board heard reports from its

committees as the budget is being prepared for submission at the March meeting.

A program was announced that will be sponsored by the four schools on the sex education curriculum that is used in the diocese's schools. Sister Anne Michelle of the diocesan Education Office will explain the curriculum Thursday, March 27 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Casimir's School.

The board also approved a new admission policy for the coming year which will provide more flexibility to the principals than the one used this year.

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