

COURIER-JOURNAL

Southern Tier-Auburn Geneva

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Easy Access

Father Albert Delmonte, St. Anthony's, Elmira, pastor, demonstrates the use of the parish's stairlift that was recently installed. With him is Thomas Santulli, parish council president. The stairlift gives easy access to the church to those who have difficulty with stairs.

St. Mary's Hosts R&R Weekend

Canandaigua — The Human Development Committee of St. Mary's Parish is sponsoring its third weekend of Renewal and Reconciliation, popularly known as R&R, March 21-23.

The theme of the retreat is Christ, New Life for All People, and is open to all adults, 18 and over, in the vicinity. The purpose of the retreat is to renew commitment to the Lord through Scripture, prayer, talks, song and discussion.

The weekend opens on Friday at 6 p.m. and closes with a Mass celebrated on Saturday evening. Further information is available by calling Sister Marie Albert at St. Mary's Convent, 394-2325.

Featured speakers for the event include Father Kevin Murphy, Sister Alice Cooney, William Boyle, Robert and Ellen Hoffman, Father James Hewes, Msgr. William Roche and Father James Sauters.

Sisters Issue Report On Tioga Project

Owego — Sister Mary Kruckow and Sister Sheila Geraghty have issued a report on their first six months staffing the Tioga County Rural Ministry Project.

The two Sisters of Mercy began Aug. 1, 1979, continuing the work done the previous year by Sister Carol Wulforst and Sister Kathleen Flaherty.

The project is sponsored by the Tioga County parishes and the Sisters of Mercy, to whom the staff gives regular reports of their activities. They also consulted with Father Albert Cason, regional coordinator, and Father Neil Miller of the Southern Tier Office of Human Development.

In the report the sisters noted that in the fall they contacted many local resource people in the schools and agencies, and visited families that had been identified by their predecessors. By the time of their report, they had made 233 home visitations and had

supplied emergency food on 50 occasions.

The sisters also acknowledged support they received from persons within and outside the county through gifts totaling more than \$1,400 for their work, and for donations of food and clothing.

The parishes were involved directly in various efforts, the sisters noted, especially during the holidays when many items were donated and 91 families were aided.

The sisters also attended several meetings, including meetings of four parish human development committees. They also have shown a slide presentation they have prepared to interested groups. Sister Sheila is now a member of the Human Service Planning Commission Board, and Sister Mary is on the Day Care Center Board and the Tompkins-Tioga Campaign for Human Development Task Force.

Lenten Program Received Well

By Martin Toombs
 Southern Tier Editor

Elmira — A Lenten Bible Study program launched by St. Patrick's Parish Council has drawn a response that exceeded the expectations of those organizing it.

The five-week program drew 114 registrations from parishioners who are now attending 13 weekly meetings in homes throughout the parish.

Father Daniel Holland, pastor, noted that it was the parish council that initiated the program, and parish council members are participating as leaders, hosts or as participants.

Sister Bernarde, parish

religious education coordinator, who scheduled the sessions, noted that parishioners were offered a choice from among three curriculums being offered, and asked a preference on morning, afternoon or evening sessions. She reported that nearly all who signed up were able to have their requests accommodated. Two groups meet in the morning, four in the afternoon, and the remainder meet in the evening, with at least one group meeting each evening Sunday through Thursday.

Sister Bernarde agreed that the flexible scheduling probably made it possible for more people to participate in the program than would have been able to otherwise.

Classes began Feb. 24, and will run for five weeks.

One session leader is Theresa Reidy, a parish council member who has two sessions on Tuesdays. Mrs. Reidy noted that for many, it is something they haven't participated in before, and she added, the meetings have been going well.

The course curriculums were prepared specifically for the program by the parish staff.

Father Robert Kanka, associate pastor, prepared a study of the Gospel of Matthew, which is aimed at those with some knowledge of the Bible who wish to learn more.

Father Holland prepared a program titled "Sample of the Bible," designed for those wishing to begin Bible study. The program includes an examination of the Old and New Testaments.

The third program, prepared by Sister Bernarde, studies the concept of "Covenant," a solemn agreement between God and His people, and how it unifies the books of the Bible.

Sister Bernarde explained that the courses they prepared are designed as references for the group leaders, who can exercise flexibility in the sessions to take advantage of the interests of group participants.

Centennial Dinner-Dance Scheduled

Canisteo — St. Joachim's Church is currently celebrating its 100th anniversary, and several events are being planned by a parish Centennial Committee headed by Father Thomas Burr, pastor.

The first event will be a Centennial Dinner-Dance Saturday, March 22 at the Hornell Knights of Columbus Hall, Main Street, Hornell. Cocktails will be at 6 p.m., and a hot buffet at 7 p.m. Dancing to the music of "Breezin'" will begin at 9 p.m. The event is open to the public. Ticket information can be obtained by contacting the parish rectory, 698-4034, or Mrs. Barbara Banko, 698-4044.

TV Series Stops Parish Meetings

Canandaigua — St. Mary's Parish has been divided into neighborhood groups, and parish families have been asked to open their homes for discussion of the current Lenten series by Father John Powell, broadcast on cable television.

Because of the television program, entitled, "Year of the Family," all parish meetings have been cancelled in Lent, in order to enable parishioners to watch the series.

Reyes Foundation To Meet In Dryden

A meeting of the New York Region of the National Reyes Syndrome Foundation will take place on Sunday, March 16, at the Holy Cross Parish Center in Dryden. The meeting will begin at 2 p.m.

Reyes Syndrome is a serious disease which usually affects children under eighteen years of age. It often occurs after chicken pox. All those interested in attending are welcome.

'Vial of Life' Program Announced in Hornell

Hornell — An elderly man, living alone, suffered severe chest pains and called an ambulance. But when the ambulance attendants arrived, they found him unconscious, unable to speak and tell them his doctor's name, relatives, or medications he was taking.

Another time it took intensive searching by hospital staff to locate a relative of a patient admitted with no identification.

Local health officials note that such problems occur frequently among the elderly, handicapped, and those living alone. But now there is a solution: "Vial of Life," a program now beginning in the Hornell area.

The "Vial of Life" is a relatively new idea which had its beginning several years ago in Temperance, Michigan. The program calls for senior citizens, handicapped individuals, and people living alone to write vital information on a special form, insert the form into a vial and place it on the top right-hand shelf of their home refrigerator.

The purpose is twofold: reassurance for the individual and to provide personal and medical information in an emergency. The forms which go inside the vials, actually plastic bottles, contain the person's name, address, doctor, person to notify, and hospital preference. There also is space to list medications being taken, allergies and medical history.

A round, colored sticker is placed on the refrigerator door so a neighbor or an ambulance driver will be alerted that a vial is inside. Although a refrigerator may seem an odd place, as nearly all households have one, it is a common location that is easy to find.

Similar programs have been started in other cities, but this is the first time for the Hornell area. The program is being sponsored by St. James Mercy



William Huber, St. James Mercy Hospital volunteer, demonstrates where the "Vial of Life" should be placed inside a refrigerator.

and Bethesda Community hospitals in cooperation with the Hornell Housing Authority, the Area Agency on Aging, Hornell SCEOP, and the local ambulance services.

Vials have been distributed by the housing authority to residents of Church Street Court and Sawyer Street Site, and at the nutrition site at the Masonic Temple by the Area Agency on Aging, assisted by Retired Senior Volunteer Program volunteers. They also are available at the Senior Citizen's Center on the Broadway Mall, from visiting nurses, social workers and hospitals.

The vials, labels and forms are given free of charge. The program's cost, which is relatively low, is being underwritten by St. James and Bethesda, although it is hoped

that community organizations will contribute to the program.

Any senior citizen who wishes to get a vial but is unable to pick one up may contact the Area Agency on Aging, 324-4891, and a volunteer will deliver the vial and, if necessary, help make out the form.

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