



Listening attentively to their instructor at one of the educational workshops conducted by RIT are St. Ann's residents, from left, Mrs. Elizabeth Poole, Miss Carmen Lucia, Mrs. Mary Beachman and Miss Pauline Siebert.

RIT Reaches Out

The Rochester Institute of Technology has scheduled a continuing education program for the residents of St. Ann's Home on Portland Avenue. The seven-week series of classes is conducted at St. Ann's, every Thursday afternoon in the Bishop Kearney Auditorium.

The residents were offered a comprehensive curriculum to select topics that would be most beneficial and interesting to them.

Topics selected include "Lip Reading," "Bible as Literature," "An Explanation of NTID (National Technical

Institute for the Deaf)," "Hearing Loss," "Poetry" and "The Art of Calligraphy."

So far the program has attracted about 60 residents per class, each of whom will receive a certificate of accomplishment on graduation day.

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

Words From The West

"You have brought joy to a very dear friend and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you. Mrs. X has been a friend of ours for almost three years. Her life's ambition is to see our children raised as Catholics, and to see us return to the Church. She told me you had taken the time to send her the Sheen tapes, and commented that maybe you could answer questions for me.

"Father, my family background is Irish Catholic from the midwest. My parents were good with their eight children. We were taught Catholicism through 12 years of school, and went to Mass every Sunday, sometimes driving through wintry blizzards of Nebraska and Missouri. They were good times and it is impossible to forget my first Holy Communion, Confirmation, but most of all the thrill and wondrous bliss of becoming an altar boy, kneeling at the foot of the altar of God and being part of the splendor and miracle of the Mass.

"Father, what has happened to the Catholic Church I knew as a boy? Two weeks

ago we went to Mass and I had to stop a man in the parking lot and ask him if we were at a Catholic Church.

"Let me digress to relate what happened to me in Seoul, Korea, in 1956. There were seven of us marines. We were a close bunch, and we made a pact to go to each other's church each Sunday. I was the only Catholic. The first service we attended, nobody, including the man whose church we were attending, knew what to do. We did not understand Korean. It was the same with the others. When my Sunday came around all the men knew beforehand what to expect. I had described the Church and the Mass in detail enough. The Korean priest began Mass in Latin, and each marine could follow through the missal I had provided. Father, two of those guys took instructions and later became Catholics. How do you think they feel today?

I haven't left the Church. The Church has left me. It has left me and millions of Americans like me to seek out other forms of worship. My best friend in Hawaii is a born-again Christian, fallen away from the Church. Unless somebody, somewhere, does something, were will Catholicism end?"

'Science and Morality' Theme Of Nazareth College Program

Medical and moral issues related to death and dying will be explored at Nazareth College's second annual "Science and Morality" program at 8 p.m., Wednesday, April 16 in the Forum of the Otto A. Shults Community Center. The program will be free and open to the public.

Father Richard A. Mc-

Cormick, SJ, acting director of the Kennedy Institute of Ethics, Georgetown University, and Dr. Paul Millard Hardy, a neurologist and a member of the Harvard University Interfaculty Program in Medical Ethics, will discuss aspects of the program theme "The Prolongation of Life and Euthanasia."

Comment: While Vatican II and many liturgical changes have been good, those who manipulated the documents of Vatican II and introduced sleazy innovations into the Mass are guilty of two terrible things: a callous indifference to the psyche and emotions of Grass Roots Catholics; an undercurrent of hostility toward the Pope and the Holy See. In the Knights of Columbus April Bulletin from Irondequoit, referring to the pope's convening the recent Dutch Synod in Rome, we read:

"Some Catholics see the action of the Pope as one more instance of heavy handed, unwarranted meddling, in purely local matters. What the critics did not mention was precisely the reason why Rome did take the initiative. The blunt truth is that Dutch Catholicism has grave problems. According to America magazine and Crux magazine, the Dutch bishops were deeply divided. I list here four statistics which should remind us that a house divided will not endure. 1. Private confession has virtually ceased in the Netherlands. 2. The number of Dutch priests and religious who have returned to lay life is three times greater than the world average. 3. In 1960, 318 priests were ordained in the Netherlands. In 1977 only 16 were ordained. 4. In 1961, 70 per cent of Catholics attended Sunday Mass regularly. In 1979, only 27 per cent attended.

"Through courageous leadership of the Pope, the Dutch bishops have agreed upon a common pastoral policy. More importantly, they have returned to shepherd their flocks in union with each other and the Universal Church."

Many priests and sisters and laity are reading "The Battle for the American Church," by Msgr. George Kelly. It documents the evolutions accomplished by strategically placed persons these past years. One pastor read it and told me: "I have given it to one of our deacons-in-training. I think he should know the background of anti-Romanism in the Church."

Appeals Court Upholds Brother Fox Decision

New York (RNS) — A New York State appeals court has unanimously ruled that a comatose terminal patient has the right to refuse extraordinary life support systems, and that a guardian can order the respirator removed under certain guidelines.

The decision came in the case of Brother Joseph Charles Fox, an 83-year-old Marianist in Mineola, who was sustained by a respirator after he fell into a coma Oct. 2, 1979. He died Jan. 25 of a heart attack, but the Appellate Division of State Supreme Court went ahead and ruled on legal questions of the case.

A court order to disconnect the respirator was sought by Father Philip K. Eichner, president of the Marianist community in Mineola. The move was supported by Brother Fox's family and leaders of the Catholic community, including the Rockville Centre diocese and

the Catholic Lawyers Guild of the diocese. The petition said the respirator was "an extraordinary measure which need not be used to prolong life" in accordance with the doctrine enunciated by Pope Pius XII in 1957.

State Supreme Court Justice Robert C. Meade, on Dec. 6, approved Father Eichner's request to be appointed Brother Fox's legal guardian, with authority to disconnect the respirator if medically approved. The decision was appealed by Dist. Atty. Denis E. Dillon of Nassau County.

The five-justice Appellate Division upheld the Supreme Court ruling, but went further than Justice Meade who said the individual had the "right to control his own person."

The appeals court said it agreed with the "constitutional right to privacy" cited by the New Jersey Supreme Court in its land-

mark 1976 decision in the Karen Ann Quinlan case.

"As a matter of constitutional law, a competent adult who is incurably and terminally ill has the right, if he so chooses, not to resist death and to die with dignity," the justices said in a decision written by Presiding Justice Milton Mollen.

"We conclude that by standards of logic, morality and medicine the terminally ill should be treated equally, whether competent or incompetent."

Extraordinary life-support systems may be withdrawn, the appeals court said, only if attending physicians of the patient "certify that he is terminally ill and in an irreversible, permanent or chronic vegetative coma, and that the prospects of his regaining cognitive brain function are extremely remote."

'PET' Training Set

The Rev. Karl Johnson, a minister in the United Church of Christ, and a certified teacher in Parent Effectiveness Training (PET), will conduct an introductory workshop for parish leaders and interested parents on Wednesday, April 16 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Pastoral Center, 1150 Buffalo Rd.

The session, sponsored by the Family Life Office of Catholic Charities, will focus on basic principles of the PET method, including some group participation, and a presentation of ways to introduce this or similar programs at the parish level.

As a follow-up, Rev. Johnson and the Family Life Office staff will conduct a 20-hour training session for those desiring to become PET trainers in their parishes or local communities.

The Wednesday session is open to any parent interested.

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