

# COURIER-JOURNAL

## Southern Tier-Auburn Geneva

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The St. Vincent DePaul Senior Citizens Club had its second meeting April 25. At the head table are, from left, Chauncey Bulkley, Father Joseph F. Hogan, Eleanor Dowd and Edna Bulkley.

### Senior Citizens Form Club

Corning — St. Vincent DePaul Parish's Stewardship Drive last fall revealed an interest in the parish in a senior citizens club. Approximately 100 parishioners expressed interest in either joining a club or working with senior citizens.

An organizational meeting in March drew 34 people interested enough to form the club, elect temporary officers, and draw up a constitution. And the group's second meeting, April 25, drew even more members to the fledgling organization.

Organized for the social, spiritual and educational benefit of its members, membership is open to parishioners 60 years of age or older, and their spouses.

Serving as president is Chauncey Bulkley. The other officers are Francis Reidy, vice president; Eleanor Dowd, secretary; Jean Houston, treasurer, and Father Joseph F. Hogan, chaplain.

During the meeting April 25, the club approved a constitution and planned programs for the coming months, as members expressed interest in picnics, traveling to a local monastery for Mass, and other possibilities for the group.

The meeting concluded with Mass celebrated by Father Hogan.

The club's meetings are scheduled for the fourth Friday of each month, from 3 to 5 p.m. in the school hall.

### Fair to Spotlight Maintaining Health

Elmira — A personal approach to staying healthy will be featured in hospital week observances May 12 through 16 at St. Joseph's Hospital.

A "Wellness Fair," to be conducted each day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Doctors Meeting Room, will offer a variety of health-related exhibits and booths.

The Pillsbury Baking Company will display a computer to which participants can provide information on their previous day's diet. The computer will offer an analysis of the nutritive quality of the diet, and suggestions for improvement.

On Thursday and Friday at the Market Street entrance there will be an ongoing demonstration of an air-bag equipped car, through the

cooperation of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

An exhibit from the State Department of Health will join with the Chemung County Health Department, Finger Lakes Dental Hygienist Association, Info-Line, Vial of Life, and other local agencies to round out the event.

Several films also will be shown, including the one on alcohol abuse inspired by state Senator William T. Smith.

Reservations for group visits may be made by contacting the Community Relations Office, 733-9137. The fair is free of charge.

Access for the handicapped is available through the lower level Twin Tier Rehabilitation Center or the emergency entrance.

### 'Teen of Year' Prizes Awarded

Five teens from the Finger Lakes region received Teenager of the Year awards from Finger Lakes Life Underwriters at a banquet on Saturday, April 26.

Robyn McWilliams, a student at DeSales High School, won the Outstanding Teenager of the Finger Lakes award. Bernard Lynch, from DeSales, received the Outstanding Teenager of Ontario award. Patty Dendis, also

from DeSales, won the Outstanding Teenager of Seneca Falls award. Robert Dalton, of Wayne County, and Kathy Stewart, of Yates County, were also recipients of awards.

The awards, presented annually, are "given to kids who give of themselves to their community," said Arthur Mearns, spokesman for the Finger Lakes Life Underwriters.

## Public Reaction to Cancer Discussed at Nursing School

By Martin Toombs  
Southern Tier Editor

Hornell — Attitudes toward cancer and the cancer patient, and handling of patients near death were two issues discussed by a panel on cancer at St. James Mercy Hospital School of Nursing April 25.

Those attending the three-hour session, primarily nurses and nursing students, heard the subject addressed from four perspectives. The panel included two nurses, two doctors, two clergymen and two patients.

Father Eugene Emo, St. James chaplain, noted that cancer is "almost a four-letter word," pointing out that it isn't listed as a cause of death in an obituary. And patients who are told they have cancer assume they are going to die from it, he said, although that may not be the case.

Dorothy Wilson, director of inservice education at Roswell Park Memorial Institute in Buffalo, noted that people sometimes apply to work at the cancer hospital because they "like to work with dying patients." They don't work with "dying" but "living patients," she said.

And Laverne Taylor, a cancer patient, reported that following his surgery, many of his friends stayed away, just at the time he needed them.

Attitudes toward cancer sometimes cause information about the disease to be withheld from the patient, something several panelists criticized.

Dr. Stoner Horey noted that if a patient finds you withholding information, he or she will never completely believe you again, and the important doctor-patient relationship is permanently damaged.

Asked what he would do if the family asked him not to tell the patient he or she had cancer, Dr. Horey noted that his practice is to first tell the patient, and then the family. He noted that some "well-intentioned" families will try to withhold information, but it is "very important to acknowledge what is going on and where things stand."

Several questions were asked about handling of patients' near death, and the nurse's responsibility if "DNR," meaning "do not resuscitate," is written on a patient's chart.

Dr. Horey and Dr. Robert Hammond both addressed the issue, and Dr. Hammond called for the process to be more formal, to insure that everyone understands the course that is to be followed. One person from the audience commented that common practice in all cases is to resuscitate patients when their heart stoppage is unexpected, but not those for whom death is imminent.



Serving on the panel on cancer treatment were, from left, Dr. Robert Hammond, Laverne Taylor, Barbara Bohomey, Rev. Carlos Mooney, Dorothy Crawford, Dorothy Wilson, Father Eugene Emo and Dr. Stoner Horey.

Responding to a question on the nurse's right to resuscitate a patient even though "DNR" has been prescribed, Dr. Horey stated that no nurse has the right to violate the order of a doctor, which would have been made after consultation with the patient, if possible, and the patient's family.

Dorothy Crawford described her experience with cancer treatment, which began 10 years ago. Rev. Carlos Mooney, pastor of the Canisteo First Baptist Church, described his experience as the husband of a cancer patient, noting that his wife was found to have cancer

15 years ago. Soon she will be completing her college degree, he noted.

And Laverne Taylor recounted the fact that they were unable to remove his tumor because of possible brain damage, but following chemotherapy, a recent scan failed to show the tumor.

Barbara Bohomey, who specializes in cancer nursing at St. James Hospital, noted that she works as a "liaison" with the patient, family and doctor, often helping explain the diagnosis.

And Taylor praised the personal care he received,

such as that given by Mrs. Bohomey.

Father Emo invited those nurses present to be willing to share their religion with patients. He noted there is no law which prevents nurses from praying with patients.

Asked about changes in their outlook because of their disease, Mrs. Crawford reported that she is more tolerant than she was before and takes things more easily.

And Taylor stated that since his surgery, it irritates him to hear people complain about getting old.

## Special Religion Teachers Must Show Compassion

By Martin Toombs  
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira — Providing religious education to those who aren't comfortable in regular religious education classes and then tailoring the programs to the students' needs was the theme of a workshop at St. Patrick's Junior High April 27.

Twenty-five persons representing most parishes in Chemung County attended the session, conducted by two persons with experience in religious education for handicapped children in the Buffalo diocese.

Special religious education isn't new in the Buffalo diocese, which has 35 centers for such instruction, a fact which brought exclamation from those attending the workshop. Sister Mary Norine, RSM, one of the speakers, commented that Buffalo started its program with the same type of effort they were beginning.

Sister Norine identified two roadblocks to starting special education programs: fear of the unknown and lack of experience. The fear can be broken down by training, she said, which may be available from agencies such as the Association for Retarded

Children. What is necessary for teachers of special education, she noted, is love and compassion.

Bill Willis, who is the coordinator of one of the Buffalo centers and is on the Diocesan Council for Handicapped Persons, related several of his experiences with educating the handicapped during the past 10 years.

He noted one instance when a 15-year-old boy was brought to the center who had received no religious education in his parish, because he was one of "God's little ones," and didn't need to receive the sacraments. Willis called that "poppycock," stating that due to Baptism, everyone should be growing in faith.

The teacher's job is to build on what the parents have given the children, he noted, but he warned that such growth often can't be measured with special children. Progress may be hard to identify, he noted, but often the work will suddenly and unexpectedly bloom.

Willis said that prospective students for such classes include anyone who doesn't fit comfortably into regular classes. For some, he said, their participation may be

brief, for others it may be continuing. Students include those with physical handicaps, including those with poor eyesight or hearing, the learning disabled, and the retarded.

Sister Norine commented that parents who are concerned about having their children labeled "special" should be assured that the program's goal is to prepare them to enter regular classes.

The best way for such a program to operate, Willis said, is on a one-to-one basis; therefore, one student is all that is necessary to start.

He also noted that a variety of materials is available, and commented that instructions should not be curriculum centered, but "student centered."

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