



Rev. John S. Walker, OBM director; Patsy Sims, keynote speaker; and Amefika D. Geuka, in charge of workshop information, at the conference on the KKK.

KKK Is Growing, Conference Told

By Carmen J. Viglucci

"I found out that the Klan is definitely not a thing of the past."

Thus Patsy Sims, the keynote speaker at last Friday's conference on the Ku Klux Klan, sounded the theme of her address.

The conference, sponsored by the diocesan Office of Black Ministries, drew some 270 participants to Immaculate Conception in downtown Rochester to hear several talks and take part in workshops.

Sims, a journalist and author of "The Klan," began her talk by revealing that until she began research for her book, she had assumed that the Klan had all but disappeared. But she "began to feel that the Klan was growing."

She cited figures compiled by the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League which supported her sentiment. They showed that the Klan grew from 6,500 members in 1975 to about 10,500 by the end of 1979.

That is not the whole story, she said. What is important is not so much the membership but that there are probably as many as 100,000 Klan sympathizers.

Now, Sims said, the Klan calls itself the new Klan but it is not new. Its beliefs, goals and ways of doing things haven't changed.

She said "figures are hard to come by" concerning the KKK "because there are maybe 20 or 30 splinter groups." She said three men are the main KKK figures in the country — Robert Sheldon, Bill Wilkinson and David Duke. She also declared that the Klan exists "across the country, not just in the South."

The keynote speaker also noted that the mere number of Klansmen is not that important, quoting Dore Schary, former head of the Anti-Defamation League, as saying, "It doesn't take many men to bomb a church... or commit other acts of violence."

In answer to a question from the audience, Sims said, "I think counter-demonstrations only ask for bloodshed and more violence. Often they (the Klan) come out looking like the abused."

"Klan leaders," she said, "are power hungry, money hungry, manipulating their own people as well as their victims. Most do nothing but plan... getting their money

from the Klan."

Answering another question from the audience, she said that the media too often "does a once over lightly treatment of the Klan... they don't dig into the membership and what they have done. We need more investigative reporting."

Bishop Matthew H. Clark spoke briefly to the gathering. He said that "racial harmony and peace" should be a "community priority."

"I offer my own assistance in whatever way possible," the bishop said.

Thirty-eight community and religious agencies joined in co-sponsoring the conference titled, "The Ku Klux Klan: Past History/Present Menace."

WHA Asks for Code On Infant Formulas

By Jay Merwin
Religious News Service

New York — Acting on controversial recommendations made last October, the World Health Assembly in Geneva formally called for the enactment of an international code to govern infant formula marketing practices by 1981.

Members of the United Nations agency and UNICEF sponsored a conference last October in which infant formula producing companies agreed to discontinue all mass advertising and to limit promotions to "factual and ethical information" about their products.

The vote in Geneva "elevated the October meeting and its recommendations to an official resolution of the World Health Assembly," said Leah Margulies, who directs the campaign against infant formula promotion at the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility here.

The proposed code, which has undergone two preliminary drafts, will be revised a third time after U.N.-sponsored meetings with company representatives, activist groups and Third World health and government officials are completed sometime this fall, Ms. Margulies said. The third draft will be submitted to the World Health Assembly executive board next January and a final code will come up

for ratification in May.

Representatives from the U.S. State Department and from other Western industrialized countries dissented from the Geneva vote, preferring general guidelines to legal codification, Ms. Margulies said.

The Interfaith Center and the Infant Formula Action Coalition launched a boycott two years ago against the Swiss-based Nestle, S.A., the world's largest producer of infant formula.

The movement, which enjoys wide church support in the United States, contends that infant formula has been promoted to the detriment of breast-feeding in the Third World and thus has been a major cause in infant malnutrition and death.

The boycott, however, is not universally accepted in the religious sphere. The Rev. Paul Minus of the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church has led regular dialogue on formula promotion, and said "under controlled circumstances there seems to really be a proper use" of formula. "This particular controversy has reached the point where boycott is not the way to go."

Since the October recommendations were made, the debate has centered on what is the permissible "factual and ethical information" companies can

provide about their products. Nestle and other firms believe that promotion samples to medical clinic officials are permitted within the language of the agreement.

Diocesan Appointments

Father Charles A. Bennett to pastor, St. Agnes, Avon; from associate, St. Mary's, Rochester.

Father Joseph P. Brennan to dean, St. Edmund's House, Cambridge, England; from St. Bernard's Seminary.

Father Peter A. Deckman to Maryknoll Fathers Priest Associate Program, South America; from co-pastor, St. Michael's, Newark.

Father John Dillon to pastor, St. Michael's, Rochester; from St. Mary's, Elmira.

Father Bernard F. Dollen to pastor, St. John of Rochester, Fairport; from pastor, St. Andrew's, Rochester.

Father John Hempel to pastor, St. Andrew's, Rochester; from chaplain, VA Hospital, San Francisco.

Father Robert Kanka to pastor, St. James, Trumansburg; from associate, St. Patrick, Elmira.

Father William Leone to pastor, Holy Redeemer, Rochester; from associate, St. Jerome, E. Rochester.

Father Robert J. Miller to rector, Sacred Heart Cathedral; from co-pastor, Good Shepherd, Henrietta.

Father Daniel O'Shea to pastor St. Bridget's, Rochester.

Father Edward E. Steinkirchner to pastor, St. Michael, Newark; from pastor, Holy Ghost, Gates.

Father Eugene P. Sweeney to pastor, St. Pius V, Cohocton, Sacred Heart, Perkinsville; from co-pastor, St. Michael, Newark.

Father Thomas J. Valenti to director of Vocations; from associate, Blessed Sacrament.

Father Gennaro J. Ventura to pastor, Holy Ghost, Gates; from pastor, St. Francis de Sales, Geneva.

Father George Wiant to pastor, St. Joseph, Weedsport; from associate, St. Mary, Dansville.

New Priests

Diocesan priests ordained this year are: Father Joseph E. Larrabee, Father Timothy J. McCluskey, Father Michael J. Schramel, Father Gary Schummer and Father Michael J. Sullivan.

Retiring Priests

Diocesan priests who are retiring this year are: Father Elmer Heindl, pastor of St. Joseph's, Weedsport; Father Raymond Heisel, associate, St. Anne's, Rochester; Father James O'Connell, associate, St. Mary's, Bath; and Msgr. James McAniff, pastor, St. Mary's, Rochester.

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

Forgiveness

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Lk. 7:36-8:3. (R1) 2 Sm. 12:7-10, 13. (R2) Gal. 2:16, 19-21.

The theme of Sunday's readings is forgiveness.

A major theme in Luke's gospel is also that of the mercy and forgiveness of God. The entire fifteenth chapter of Luke (the lost sheep, the lost coin, the lost son) is called the gospel of mercy — for it is one of the loveliest commentaries upon God's mercy toward us (lost in sin). Of the four evangelists, Luke alone shows us Jesus upon the cross praying to the Father for forgiveness for His executioners. Luke even goes so far as to provide an excuse for them (24:34). Where Matthew uses the word "perfect" in the Sermon on the Mount to express Jesus' command "to be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Mt. 5:48), Luke uses the word "merciful" — sometimes translated as "compassionate."

Compassion colors every event in the life of Jesus. Luke tells us that Jesus accepted at least three invitations to dine in the home of Pharisees. For He had compassion on them, too.

That is why He was in the

home of Simon the Pharisee in Sunday's gospel. In light of the hostility between Jesus and the Pharisees, Simon had courage to invite Jesus. Though he seemed interested in learning about Jesus, he did not offer Him even the ordinary courtesies.

In contrast to Simon, the unnamed woman did. She is a sinner. What her sin was, we do not know. Nor do we know her name — a gracious omission by Luke. Most certainly she is not Mary Magdalene.

The money-lender in the gospel is the key figure. He stands for God, since He readily forgives the debts of two others (who thus stand for Simon and the woman). Neither one can pay, for only God can forgive sins.

The question has been raised: did the women's loving actions earn her forgiveness or did she perform her actions of love because Jesus had already forgiven her? Very likely, it was the latter reason — her great love proved that her many sins had already been forgiven. The fact that Jesus did not turn away from her as "everybody else" did showed her she had been forgiven. Her tears were tears of grateful love as well as tears of repentance.

As for Simon, our Lord probably intended his comments as a kindly

warning to a self-satisfied host. It was not Simon who invited Jesus. It was Jesus inviting Simon to accept God's gracious invitation to dine with Him and be at peace with God.

Each day we pray to the Father, "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." By these words we commit ourselves before God to forgive one another just as we are forgiven through Jesus. We commit ourselves to struggle against the resentments we often feel when wronged, to forego revenge, to forgive instead. We commit ourselves to be forgiving in our marriages, our families, our work, our parish and our civic life. Without the daily miracle of forbearing forgiveness, life together not only would not thrive — it would hardly survive.

Nativity Roasts Pastor

More than 300 parishioners and friends toasted and "roasted" Father John J. Philipps last Saturday, celebrating his 25th anniversary of ordination.

The dinner was held at Seymore College Union on the Brockport Campus.

The following day, the pastor of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Brockport celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving and was again feted, after the Mass, with a reception on the church grounds.

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