Initiation Sacraments Explored in Workshops

By John Dash

The sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and first Eucharist are intimately linked, Dr. Christiane Brusselmans said last week. And, she noted, the trio of these "Sacraments of Initiation" should be seen first in their significance for adult catechumens before they are applied to children.

Dr. Brusselmans addressed two groups on the "Christian Initiation of Adults/Christian Initiation of Children," in workshops sponsored by the Hogan Center for Continuing Education and the diocesan Office of Religious Education and the Office of Liturgy.

The Belgium-born theologian who is internationally known for her papers and symposia addressed groups in both Our Lady of Mercy High School and, the day following, at Keuka College in Penn Yan.

Pivotal to the present renewal in the Sacraments of Initiation, she said, is understanding of the practice of these sacraments in the early Church.

She cited scriptural texts to demonstrate that in the apostolic Church it was the custom to receive into the Christian community adults who had gone through long periods of the catechumenate. At the time the adults were admitted, she said, only then were their children "and all their households," also baptized, anointed and eucharistized.

It is this emphasis on the adult catechumen that the Church is now renewing, she said. She cited texts in the recent National Catechetical Directory, especially the introductory paragraphs to discussion of the Sacraments of Initiation, to demonstrate her point.

She called the following paragraphs from that document "jewels:"

"Christian initiation is celebrated in Baptism, Confirmation or Chrismation, and Eucharist. Through these visible actions a person is incorporated into the Church and shares its mission in the world. Baptism, and Confirmation (Chrismation) enable recipients, through sharing in Christ's priestly office, to be intimately associated in the offering of the sacrifice of the Eucharist.

"Full initiation into the Church occurs by stages. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (Roman) provides a norm for catechetical as well as liturgical practice in this regard. The intimate relationship of the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist should be emphasized in the catechesis of both adults and children. Such catechesis will involve many members of the parish community who support and pray with the catechized, besides instructing them so that they may grow in understanding of the Christian message."

The opportunity for liturgical and catechetical renewal which the above paragraphs present, she said, will go a long way in eradicating what she called the "Second Grade Syndrome," relegating sacramental preparation and reception to grade levels in the parish school.

She explained that when she once worked in a parish in the South Bronx, she discovered a number of older children who had not yet received their first Holy Communion. When she asked them why they had not, the youngsters, many of them immigrants from Puerto Rico, explained that they had not attended school in the United States for their second grade. Thus, any opportunity for reception of first Communion was lost, Dr. Brusselmans said.

She insisted that the intent of the bishops of both the Second Vatican Council and of this nation is that such a limited catechesis be done away with.

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'Friends' Schedule Sale For Psychiatric Center

The Friends of the Rochester Psychiatrist Center will have their annual Fall Festival and Bring and Buy sale at the center at South Avenue and Elmwood Avenue from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Friday, Oct. 24.

The festival is to raise money for making the patients at the center more comfortable. Proceeds have been responsible for many birthday parties, Christmas celebrations, picnics, theater parties, square dances, etc. The idea is to provide for entertainment not included in the state budget.

Mrs. Margaret Hoffmaster is chairman. Corinne Leis will run Corinne's Coffee Shoppe where snacks and luncheon will be served from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bring and buy is an idea imported from England by Mrs. Russell Barton. It is a popular way of raising funds in that country. People bring items, housewares, garden tools, handbags, etc. and the same people also buy donated items for the charity. Entertainment will also be provided and parking will be free.

Elected

John F. Klein, former acting executive director of the Rochester Catholic Youth Organization (CYO), assumed the office of president-elect for the Kiwanis Club of Trenton, New Jersey, recently. Klein, now a resident of Trenton, has served as executive director of the CYO, Mercer County, since June 1974.

Deaths

Tributes Continue For CHD Worker

Tributes continue to be published on the life of the late Emilio "Joe" Ouellette parishioner of St. Charles Borromeo Church who died Sept. 5, 1980.

Mr. Ouellette was a member of the Board for the Campaign for Human Development for several years, acted as a regional coordinator for parish Human Development Committees in the Northwest Region, and served as a labor consultant to the CHD office staff.

In the most recent issue of Challenge, the newsletter of the diocesan department of Social Ministry, Tim McGowan described Mr. Ouellette's "implacable, almost insatiable commitment to jsutice. He was gifted with a passionate, urgent concern for other people, especially poor and working people that was made all the more notable and powerful for its lack of the spectacular or dazzling, dramatic grandiosity."

Earlier, Mr. Ouellette was cited by Jean Cardinali, the Rochester-based member of the national CHD board, his concern for his family, and for the family structure.

Mr. Ouellette is survived by his wife, Elise; one daughter, Mrs. Robert Gondek; and three brothers, Louis, Maurice and Raymond.

Rose Dissett

Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated Sept. 17 at St. Thomas the Apostle Church for Rose E. Dissett, sister of the late Father Joseph F. and Father Andrew T. Dissett, Miss Dissett died Sept. 13, 1980.

The funeral rites were celebrated by Father Gilbert DeRitis, M.M. and Father Michael Huerter.

She is survived by two sisters, Sister Bernadette Dissett of the Daughters of Charity, and Mrs. James H. (Agnes) Sentner; a niece, Bernadette Sentner.

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