

Students Begin Work With Amnesty International

Juniors and Seniors at Nazareth Academy learned "how they could help change the lives of prisoners of conscience all over the world" this week.

Sylvia Thompson, staff member of the International Justice and Peace Commission's Human Rights Task Force, addressed junior and senior theology classes on Amnesty International, a worldwide movement working on behalf of prisoners of conscience and for the abolition of torture and the death penalty.

Amnesty International (AI) has developed an Urgent Action Network program whereby "persons agree to write letters once a month on behalf of a prisoner of conscience who is in an emergency situation of some kind," Thompson said. The prisoners may be "ill and in need of immediate medical attention, facing torture, facing the death penalty, or may have disappeared without explanation," she said.

There are 450 such groups in the U.S. and more throughout the world.

These groups receive a monthly case sheet with detailed information on a particular prisoner. Each emergency group then sends letters to government authorities urging the improvement of the prisoner's problem or even his/her release.

The Nazareth students worked on a case involving two young Paraguayan girls in prison since March. They were arrested as "subversives" when they attempted to protest the government's appropriation of their land. Both girls were wounded. The students wrote letters to the Paraguayan government asking that the girls be released.

Both girls were recently examined by a church related psychologist who stated that they are not mentally or physically fit to stand trial, Thompson said.

Sister Marilyn Pray, head of the theology department at Nazareth, is coordinating the effort with help from the International Justice and Peace Commission. Some of the students have enlisted the help of Spanish teachers to write their letters in that language, Thompson said.

Thompson also reported, "The response to this work of helping prisoners of conscience was strongly sympathetic and concerned; and many students expressed real interest in Urgent Action letter writing an ongoing project, a project that underlines beautifully the fact that we are indeed our brother's and our sister's keepers."

Art Bazaar

The School of the Holy Childhood, 1150 Buffalo Rd., will have an Arts and Crafts Bazaar from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 25, and from noon to 4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 26 in the school gymnasium.

Baked goods, craft items and Christmas gifts will be available. Food and beverages will be served.



Seniors Karoline Luciano, standing, and Lynn DeGroot, right, work on a letter with their teacher, Mrs. Linda Fox.

Fr. Louis J. Hohman

The Open Window



matter for discussion. There are people who think that encyclicals are automatically infallible. There are others who think that whenever the pope speaks even to a limited group he enjoys infallibility. There is not much point in arguing these particular items because it would be impossible to gain universal agreement on all of them. We might be better off settling for the exact limitations of infallibility and accepting the rest as loyal and obedient subjects of our Holy Father.

Infallible Matters

Dear Father Hohman,

I would like to hear or read your comments on papal infallibility.

(signed) H.N.

Dear H.N.,

The limits of papal infallibility, I think, are rather clearly spelled out in Vatican Council I (1870). The pope is infallible when speaking on a doctrine of faith or morals to the entire church "ex cathedra," that is, officially as the principal teacher in the Church. Then the doctrine he speaks will be infallible.

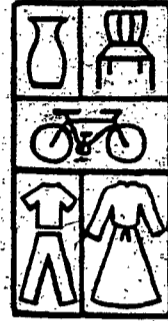
The only formal example of infallibility is the declaration of the Doctrine of the

Assumption by Pope Pius XII on Nov. 1, 1950. We know also that Ecumenical Councils and the entire Church are infallible in reference to divine revelation. Beyond that point the range of infallibility is a

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