

# Bishop Establishes Handicapped Study

Text of Vatican letter on integrating the handicapped into society, Page 15.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has established a diocesan task force to study the responsibilities of the parish, the region and the diocese in serving the needs of the retarded and to make recommendations to him for pastoral initiatives on the behalf of the retarded.

The task force members all at present work with retarded persons in one way or another. Members are: Sister Jane Geiger of the Department of Religious Education, consultant for special religious education programs; Sister Seraphine Herbst, principal of the School of the Holy Childhood; Father Robert Kennedy, director of the Department of Liturgy and provider of liturgies for the retarded; William Privett,

associate director of Catholic Charities and coordinator of the opening of two group homes in the diocese; Sister Clare Roland, director of Institutional Ministries and coordinator of chaplaincy services to institutionalized persons; Father Paul J. Ryan, chaplain to the Newark Developmental Center.

The task force has already surveyed pastors in the diocese on present and projected programs for the retarded. The survey also asked what community programs are offered and available.

The results of that survey, coupled with the results of personal interviews and experiences, will be presented to the Diocesan Pastoral Council in a forum in March next year for further development.

The completed recommendations will be given to Bishop Clark by May 1, 1981.

The task force, through Privett and Sister Roland, last week made special mention of religious education programs for the retarded already established in the diocese. The St. Ambrose Special Education Center for Religious Education, under the direction of Mrs. Marjorie Hart, and the St. Charles Borromeo Parish regional center, under the direction of Mrs. Dorothy Malone, and an Elmira program coordinated by Sister Mary Roberta, were cited as "noteworthy" examples of regional programs for the retarded.

Also noted was the recent opening of a group home for the retarded in Lyons and the projected opening of a similar home in Penn Yan in Spring, 1981.

# Pontiff's Journey Seen Conciliatory

From: Courier-Journal Services

In what was seen as a significant ecumenical gesture on the second day of an ecumenically troubled journey to West Germany, Pope John Paul II last Sunday told Catholics he wished "to encourage you above all to seek and intensify contacts with Lutheran fellow Christians in sincere faith."

The statement was made during the celebration of Mass outside of Osnabruck, West Germany, and was hailed by Protestant leaders who had earlier complained about the lack of time afforded them to meet with the pontiff.

The pope's five-day journey marks the first time in 200 years a pontiff has visited the nation in which the Reformation arose.

The pontiff was greeted by an estimated 300,000 shortly

after his arrival in Cologne on Saturday. On his arrival, the pope said that his visit was intended to "honor the entire German nation," a phrase which echoes the West German intention for a united Germany.

That day the pontiff visited the tomb of Albert the Great,

and had a private audience with West German Chancellor, Helmut Schmidt.

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# Does Pope Support Capital Punishment?

By Daniela Iacono  
Religious News Service

Rome — Has the Roman Catholic Church made an official stand supporting capital punishment?

Is Pope John Paul II in favor of the death penalty?

Some Vatican watchers say yes, but others vehemently deny the Church has come out in favor of capital punishment.

The recent controversy centers around the Nov. 10 address the pontiff made to 100 judges and lawyers. In the prepared text, the pope is quoted as citing an article on the death penalty, one of three articles adopted in 1950. The article said: "The right of all

persons to life is protected by the law. Death cannot be inflicted intentionally on anyone except in carrying out a capital sentence pronounced by a court, in cases where a crime is punished with the penalty by law."

News reports indicated that the pope had "indirectly acknowledged" the right of governments to hand down the death sentence.

In fact, it turned out that the pope omitted reading the article when he spoke, due to "lack of time," according to the Vatican Secretariat of State.

Father Bernard Haring, CSSR, professor of moral theology at the Academia Alfonsiana in Rome, said he

thought the pope did not read the section on capital punishment purposely so as not to affirm the death penalty. He added that he thought the pope had omitted the article because it ran counter to the pontiff's "strong defense of life."

## Cenacle Sets Basic 'Living'

The popular Basic Effective Living Seminar will be presented at the Cenacle Center for Spiritual Renewal, 693 East Ave., Nov. 28-30.

Sister Sadie Nesser, RC, a native Rochesterian now living in McLean, Va., will conduct the program with Sister Shirley Kitagawa, RC.

The seminar, open to men and women of all faiths, is a series of lectures and discussions on developing one's potential. Registration opens at 7:30 p.m. on Friday evening. Meals and lodging are provided. Further details and reservations are obtained by contacting the Cenacle Ministry Office (716) 271-8755.

## NFP Info

A Natural Family Planning information session will be held Sunday, Nov. 23 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at Brockport's Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish center. Norm and Sandy Pawlak will give the presentation which is open to the public.

## Report Hits Drug Usage

St. Louis — America is losing the war against drug usage among its youth, according to the Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation's newsletter, The Mindszenty Report.

Citing recent statistics by the National Institute of Drug Abuse, the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan, and other agencies, the Report notes that the use of marijuana by young people has risen 56 percent since 1976, snuffing cocaine by 50 per cent since 1972, and that

an estimated 5.5 million youngsters have tried PCP, a drug called "angel dust" which can cause brain damage and death.

The Report speaks strongly against legalization or decriminalization, especially of marijuana, quoting Pope John Paul II, who said recently that "the painful experience of many nations" indicates that changing such laws "serves neither to prevent nor redeem drug addiction."

## Chesterton Celebration Planned

"The Chesterton Celebration," a three-day tribute to the late author, poet, playwright, essayist and raconteur Gilgert K. Chesterton, will take place at Nazareth College Nov. 19-21.

Lectures, discussions, exhibits and the first dramatic reading in the United States of one of Chesterton's plays will be presented by the college in collaboration with the Rochester Chesterton Society. All events will be in the Otto A. Shults Community Center and are open to the public without charge.

Father Leo Hetzler, CSB,

will open the three days with a discussion, "G.K. Chesterton — the Man and the Writer," at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 19.

Wednesday's program will feature selections from Chesterton's British Broadcasting Company radio broadcasts in the 1930s which include book reviews and witty commentary. A wine and cheese reception will follow.

The public is invited to the November meeting of the Chesterton Society, the first chapter in what is now a worldwide organization. The

meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m.

After greetings from Robert Knille, society chairman, Thomas Seahill will discuss "The Comic and Satiric Poetry of GKC" and Lewis Meisenzahl will lead a discussion on "What Would Chesterton Think of the Church Today?"

The final event will be a dramatic reading of Chesterton's play "The Judgment of Dr. Johnson" — the first presentation of the drama in the United States — at 8 p.m., Friday, Nov. 21.

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