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Joan M. Smith, Editor

Bishop and Students Meet in Discussion

By Joan M. Smith

"You sure know how to wake your bishop up!" Bishop Matthew H. Clark exclaimed when a group of St. Agnes students hit him with a barrage of questions at 8:30 a.m. on a Friday, questions dealing with their confusions and frustrations about faith and Church issues.

The questioners were seniors participating in a forum coordinated by Kathleen Mahoney, theology teacher. The session featured a formal question-and-answer period during which five students presented questions on sexual reality and the Church, Sunday Mass, the role of women in the Church, separation of Church and state, and the role of the pope.

Heavy questions for a 90-minute program, but the bishop saw them as reflecting important and complex issues to be addressed. However, he

reminded his audience that he isn't a computer which could answer all the complexities in the allotted time.

In discussing the question on sex, which had focused on birth control, the bishop reaffirmed the Church's stand against artificial birth control. He told them that God's gift of giving life had to be respected. In reference to student skepticism about the rhythm method, the bishop mentioned Natural Family Planning, the new scientific birth control method which is acceptable to the Church.

To a student's cry, "What do we do when Mass gets boring?" the bishop encouraged the young people to visit their parish priests and tell them that the Word of God is important to them and that they don't think "you're moving on it right, Father." The bishop, however, reminded his audience that "we don't run on a high peak of excitement everyday." He said the Mass

was like an assembly, and compared it to the meeting that morning where everyone present was sharing a function, only in different ways. "If you and I are going to get something out of this assembly," he said, "we have to participate."

On the questions of the separation of Church and state, the bishop reminded his audience that the Church is universal and that the world contains a wide variety of political systems. Although the Church is equipped to live in all types of systems, the Church's duties are to speak the Gospel convictions to each and every society and to avoid partisan politics. But, the Church must speak out on issues that transcend politics such as abortion and capital punishment.

The young ladies were concerned about their place in the Church. They told him they wanted to remain loyal to the Church, but that it is difficult to accept the

current stand of the pope regarding women priests.

The bishop explained that the pope wasn't formulating a new idea regarding women priests, but was reaffirming a 2,000-year-old practice from the time Christ established His Church. He chose the 12 apostles and commissioned them to take His Church into world. Therefore, he noted, while deliberating the issue, it is imperative that it is Christ's intentions which are expressed and not social changes.

To questions about the pope's role in their lives and the extent to which they should follow his words, the bishop differentiated between the pontiff expressing a personal opinion only, and when, as head of the Church, he speaks on core issues of faith, when they must listen.

After the formal session, the bishop answered personal questions that ranged from how he liked his job ("It's interesting meeting the different people; it's the



Photo by Joan M. Smith

During a break in the proceedings, Bishop Clark and Peg Crowley discuss information found in a book on the Vatican Council.

greatest joy in the ministry" to where he has traveled (Greece, Cuba, Western Europe and the Middle East).

Since becoming the Bishop of Rochester, Bishop Clark has spent time visiting the Catholic high schools to

become acquainted with the students. His visits have offered the young adults the opportunity to tell him how it is with them. This personal touch, according to the St. Agnes students, is important. "The fact," said one, "that he takes the time to come and answer our questions is great!"

DeSales Spreads the Spirit

By Joan M. Smith

It was a case of team work that resulted in a successful "Spirit Day" at DeSales High School a few weeks ago. Once Sister Mary Maywalt, assistant administrator, started her new recruitment idea rolling, everyone from Edward Tracey, principal, to Student Council members, to students, joined in working for the event that would show off their school to eighth grade students.

According to Sister Maywalt, recruitment in past years has meant a group of DeSales students visiting the various elementary schools. This year she thought it a good idea to bring the students to DeSales and let them see for themselves what the school is all about. Over 200 eighth graders from area schools such as Blessed Trinity, Auburn; St. Michael's, Newark; Geneva Midlakes; and St. Mary's, Waterloo, just to mention a few, accepted the invitation.

The Student Council, under the leadership of Lisa Toole, and aided by the student body, put together an array of activities to show the visitors the versatility of student and teacher capabilities. An insight into the intrigues of learning a foreign language was given those who chose Mrs. Bartel's Spanish class. A puppet show, depicting the arrival of the Mayflower at Plymouth, was presented in Spanish and featured Miss Piggy as one of the pilgrims. Down the hall the school's Clown Ministry team, members of the National organization, "Holy Fools," were demonstrating the performing techniques they use when they visit orphanages and nursing homes.

In Mrs. Tracey's English

class, her visitors received a taste of Shakespeare. DeSales students performed the Bard's "Julius Caesar," complete with togas, with Mark Tette as Marc Anthony and Robert Evangelista as Caesar.

Math, science, French, and art classes also had their individual demonstrations and there were presentations on religious issues and current events. John Englert, director of the music department and composer of the "DeSales Spirit" song written for the occasion, took his young listeners through a musical segment.

Sister Maywalt said that the planning for Spirit Day had taken weeks and the most difficult jobs had been coordinating visitor interests with the right class demonstrations and keeping to the timetable. The hard work paid off, however, when at the end of the first half hour of classes, the youngsters, aided by



Photos by Terrance J. Brennan

In art class, Patrick Avon demonstrates linoleum block art.

DeSales hosts and hostesses, made a quick and efficient change to their next activity. The day ended with a pizza and Coke get-together in the cafeteria.



John Englert explains music, instruments, and the DeSales musical department to his audience of eighth graders.

On The Go

- BISHOP KEARNEY**
Thursday, Dec. 18 — Senior girls Pax Day; Kabaret tryouts, band room, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 19 — Christmas recess begins, 2:30 p.m.
- CARDINAL MOONEY**
Thursday, Dec. 18 — Senior girls retreat; Christmas Concert, auditorium, 8 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 19 — Bishop to celebrate Christmas Liturgy; senior class rose sale.
Tuesday, Dec. 23 — Last day of classes; dismissal at 2:35 p.m.
- McQUAID**
Thursday, Dec. 18 — Social Studies exam.
Friday, Dec. 19 — English and Psychology exams.
Monday, Dec. 22 — Math exam; faculty dinner.
Tuesday, Dec. 23 — Science exam; Christmas recess.
- NAZARETH**
Thursday, Dec. 18 — Assembly schedule; Penance service; department meetings.
Friday, Dec. 19 — Homeroom parties.
- Christmas formal; Christmas recess begins.
- NOTRE DAME**
Friday, Dec. 19 — Golden Mass.
Saturday, Dec. 20 — Christmas basket delivery.
Sunday, Dec. 21 — Faculty Christmas Party, 4 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 22 — Christmas Dance, Downtown Holiday Inn, 9-11 p.m.
- OUR LADY OF MERCY**
Friday, Dec. 19 — Golden Mass.
Dec. 22-Jan 2 — Christmas recess.
- ST. AGNES**
Thursday, Dec. 18 — Freshmen orientation, outlining skills; big/little sisters Christmas party; aerobic classes.
Friday, Dec. 19 — National Honor Society Baked Food Sale.
Monday, Dec. 22 — Christmas Concert, 7-30 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 23 — Christmas Concert assembly, 1:30 p.m.; Christmas formal; aerobic classes.
Dec. 23-Jan 5 — Christmas vacation.

Trip To Europe Planned

On Feb. 13, Nazareth Academy students will be flying off to Europe. Their first stop will be London and then Paris for guided tours of historic places in the city as well as in the countryside. While in the city they will have an opportunity to visit the famous, Comedie Francaise. Leaving Paris for the suburbs they will visit the Palace of the Sun King, Louis XIV, at Versailles and then the Cathedral at Chartres.

When they return to Paris the girls will visit a suburban French high school where they will have an opportunity to visit teachers and students. They will also tour the Louvre Museum and the Chateau at Fontainebleau. The travellers will return to the U.S. on Feb. 21.

Anyone wishing to join the tour may contact Sally McMahon at 458-8583.