

# Map Around Map Around

## Doing What Hurts

On Nov. 20, students at Nazareth Academy did something about world hunger — they gave up eating for a day, as did students at St. Agnes and Bishop Kearney. These students joined the many others around the country in OxFam-America's Fast for a World Harvest. According to Sister Kathleen Weider, Nazareth students organized their fast for two reasons: they wanted to give people a chance to make a personal commitment to the hungry of the world; and through contributions to share their resources with the people in Latin America, Asia, and Africa.

In addition to their efforts to alleviate world hunger, Nazareth students also helped on the local level. As a result of hearing Mrs. Barbara Balla from the Southwest Ecumenical Mission (SWEM) speak about the needs of the Food Cupboard, students contributed canned goods to help provide food for needy families in the southwestern part of Rochester.

At St. Agnes the students went without solid food during lunch and raised over

\$40; half of which will go to OxFam and the other half to the St. Joseph House of Hospitality.

Bishop Kearney students and faculty, through fasting and giving donations, raised \$108 in contributions that will be sent to less fortunate people in Nigeria and Cambodia.

According to Rosa Ferrera, RapAround coordinator, it was through the help of Students Reaching Out members Cece Fischette, Angela Dieni, Bob Fischer, Carole Ferrera, Terry Markiewicz, Kris Eiffert, Ingrid Kaptein, Kathy Brigandi, Anne Florack, Pam Solarek and moderator Mrs. Finn that made the BK students more aware of the fact that world hunger does exist.

The Fast for World Harvest began in 1974 and is always held on the Thursday before Thanksgiving. Last year more than 3,000 groups participated in the Fast and donated more than \$600,000 to OxFam for its development and aid programs.

## First Quarter Effort Rewarded

Certificates of honor were awarded at the first honors assembly of the year to 31 Nazareth Academy students who achieved an average of more than 93 percent in the first marking quarter. Their names and those of the students who achieved an average of between 85 and 92 percent have been posted on the honor roll in the school's front hall. Their names were also sent to their elementary school principals and these schools were praised for the excellent preparation which they have given these students.

Also honored were Karoline Luciano, who recently won a \$4,000 scholarship to Syracuse University; Margaret Becker

and Deborah Lochner, who have been chosen to participate in the State Youth and Government Conference in Albany; and Rosa Solara, recipient of the Bausch and Lomb Science Award.



## A Change Of Pace

From liturgies, to track meets, to classroom discussions, the day before Thanksgiving was one of sharing between Cardinal Mooney students, faculty and administrators. The school dispensed with its daily routine to bring the community together for its annual Prayer, Share, and Care Day. Events included interesting diversions like Brother David Parrish demonstrating the making of cream puffs (300 of them according to one source); ceramic classes; mime workshops; and demonstrations in sign-language. In top photo, Paul Schieb reads at Mass; Sam Lanzafame won the turkey trot; Terri Uttaro and Melissa White preside over a class seminar. On right, the Mooney faculty, sponsored by the students, line up for their track sprint.



Photos by Joan M. Smith



## Speaking Out

By Dan Ritz McQUAID

Next week we will be celebrating, along with all Christians in the world, the

feast of Christmas, a season which has traditionally been a time of good will, cheer, and fellowship among men. In today's world, however, it has evolved into a season of Santa Claus, tinsel, and give!

There is nothing wrong with Santa or tinsel or giving gifts; but something is wrong when these things become Christmas instead of ways to celebrate Christmas. Santa embodies — or used to embody — the love and feeling of selflessness that is so much a part of the holiday; selflessness we experience when we think about Jesus becoming one of us. It is difficult to explain to little children just exactly what He accomplished by

becoming human. So Santa is an easy way of saying the same thing, a parallel. But today, the entire thing has been blown out of proportion. When you ask little kids what Christmas is all about, they immediately answer "Santa Claus," or "getting presents." Something has happened to make us forget what it's really all about.

The obvious culprit is today's commercialism. Ten years ago it used to be a thrill to watch the end of Macy's parade and see Santa make his first appearance. It meant that Christmas wasn't far away. In 1980, Santa arrived at area malls on Nov. 20 — a full week before Thanksgiving. Likewise, I can remember shopping in mid-July and seeing Christmas ornaments on display. It's rushing things, I think.

Another reason we seem to forget the true meaning of Christmas (also attributed to commercialism) is the fact that we're conditioned to believe that gift-giving is obligatory. To some, giving is appealing and the experience of shopping becomes a labor of love. If you give gifts in that frame of reference, they are beautiful things. But to the

modern commercialized family, Christmas shopping is a boring chore. One has to go out into the stores, with all those people and try to find something for Aunt Tillie whom you only see once a year. If gifts have become such a chore that they are merely a habit and nothing else, then why give them? Because, as we've all been told, "The true spirit of Christmas is giving." That's partially true. It is giving, but giving out of love. Gifts do not have to be material things. Little kids realize it before they are corrupted by the commercialized world. A crayoned picture is far more precious than the ornamental ice mold or the hundred of other "perfect gifts."

In conclusion, a word to the commercialists: If you've got to get us ready for December 25 as if it were a big worldwide money-making scheme, can't you at least wait until after Thanksgiving? I honestly don't see what the value is in rushing us. You've made one of the year's most important days into a Mardi Gras. May this Christmas instill in us the true meaning it possesses: love and selflessness. May we learn what it's really all about.

## Christmas Concert Dec. 18

The Cardinal Mooney Concert Band and Chorus, under the direction of Brother Edward Boyer, will perform concerts for Mother of Sorrows, St. Charles, Holy Ghost and St. Theodore school children this week. The evening concert for

and friends will be at 8 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 18 in the auditorium. Selections will include, "Do You Hear What I Hear?" "Rudolph Medley," "O Holy Night," Mozart's "Alleluia," and "Christmas Ballet."



## Work Pays Off

Bishop Kearney's Dec. 1 blood drive, sponsored by the American Red Cross and directed by Red Cross coordinator Norma Alexander and school nurse Debbie Raymond, was the school's 9th such drive. It netted 120 pints of blood. Checking in the student donors were Anne Abel and coordinators John Baccoli and Charlie Johnson. John and Chris, along with coordinator Julie LaRosa, started working on the drive early in September when they attended a Red Cross workshop to learn how to prepare for it and encourage students to become donors.

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