

Noted Team to Host Religious Ed Workshop

"Parish Religious Education: Focus on Family" will be the topic of presentations by Joseph and Mercedes Iannone this Sunday at 3 p.m. at St. Agnes High School and continuing Sunday through Tuesday noon at Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua. The Iannones will be addressing the eleventh annual winter workshop of religious educators and family ministers sponsored by the Association of Religious Educators (ARE), Office of Religious Education, and Office of Family Life.

Since 1972 the Iannones, co-directors of the National Training Center for Family Learning Teams, Inc., have been involved in a prototype neighborhood community-educator model of comprehensive parish education called "Family Learning Teams" (FLT). The FLT approach offers practical strategies for integrating liturgy, learning, and service at the local level.

Iannone offers a practical, pastoral theology dealing with the intersection of religion and life as they interact within the person, the family dynamic, the mediating communities, and the parish, said a news release. He is a member of the

Holy Hour

The Peoples Eucharistic League will hold a Holy Hour at the Sisters of St. Joseph Infirmary, Monday, Jan. 19 beginning at 7:30 p.m. Father Francis Blighton will officiate.



MR. AND MRS. IANNONE

USCC Committee on Family Centered Catechesis, has taught on numerous graduate faculties across the country, has conducted continuing education programs and, along with his wife, was co-director of Religious Education, Good Shepherd parish, Mt. Vernon, Va. He has a Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame, with his dissertation probing the theology of the Post Vatican II American parish.

Mrs. Iannone has as the focus of her life and ministry the enablement of lay ministry, especially as it is

lived out in the primary community of the family. With her husband she is a popular convention speaker as well as writer. Recent contributions include articles in the Religion Teacher's Journal, Marriage and Family Living, PACE, and Celebration. She has an M.A. from Duquesne University and is a candidate for Doctorate in Ministry, St. Mary's Baltimore.

For information about the workshop call the Office of Religious Education 328-3211 or Rosemary Mahdery 225-5840.

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

Ireland Tour Planned

Are you headed for Ireland St. Patrick's Week?

Hard to tell. The Courier is advertising "A Spring Tour of Ireland During St. Patrick's Week: March 11-18." The first CJ ad on Dec. 17 brought a good number of inquiries but it is unpredictable how many will wish to come. George Doyle, former postmaster of Ontario, and his wife were the first to make reservations. Their children are giving them the trip to celebrate their 35th anniversary of marriage. Nice children. Nice gift.

How do these tours work?

The Courier works with Wydler Travel Agency, Rochester. A tour is advertised, with details. People who are seriously interested and some who are just curious send for the brochure. If they intend to join the group, they send in their deposit, usually \$100; and the balance some weeks before take-off. This is necessary to engage hotels, dining halls, tour guide and bus. Our groups have varied from 15 to over 40, and happily, have been like a family.

Why March? Isn't it cold?

Irish winters are not like New York State winters. The temperatures usually are around 50 degrees, and there is rarely snow. But the March tour is a St. Patrick's week special. Dublin on St. Patrick's Day with the great parade and celebrations. The tour, however, includes Galway with its great Cathedral, Mass at the shrine of Knock, Killarney and the Ring of Kerry, Blarney and its stone, and other highlights of Ireland.

Isn't it expensive?

What isn't, including hamburgs and coffee? Our CJ tours are first class: top-notch hotels, meals, courier service. Costs have nearly doubled these past seven years, when I took my first group to Ireland. Compare today's prices for food, gasoline, transportation, clothing with seven years ago; and also salaries. Like grace and love, it's hard to put a cash value on the memories our people bring back from these trips.

Do you go as a priest or as a guide?

I never go anywhere excepting as a priest. That's what ordination to the priesthood is all about. But my commitment to the group has many other aspects: besides daily Mass for those who want it, my job is to keep the group together, guide them through passport stations, customs, keep the baggage together, coordinate with the professional guides, be alert of the needs of individuals in the groups, and to furnish information — which I can do better now

country. Last year I was able to persuade them to carry the Abp. Sheen tapes, and they have sold thousands of them. This means continuing evangelization by tapes. Besides that I always carry in my suitcase a supply of cassettes and books, and like a clerical Johnny Appleseed, drop them to priests and sisters who use them well.

What do you recommend to travelers?

Be interested in the people and the things they see and meet. Have a good disposition. Be concerned about the others in the group. And have sufficient cash. The best thing about travel is thinking about what has been seen and heard and experienced for the years to come.

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Centering on Service

Office of Religious Education



The diocesan Office of Religious Education is the administration arm of Bishop Matthew H. Clark as he directs the teaching mission of the Church in the areas of evangelization and catechesis.

The aim of evangelization is personal conversion to Jesus and his message. The aim of catechesis is learning the tradition and living the life of the Catholic community.

Guidance for evangelization and catechesis is found in "Sharing the Light of Faith" — the National Catechetical Directory. This pastoral document, published in 1979 by the United States Catholic Bishops, reflects the most extensive consultation with American Catholics ever conducted.

There are six professional and one support staff that comprise the Office of Religious Education. "Because of the experience and expertise of this hard working staff, I can report that we are providing more services, more often to more people in more parishes than ever," commented Father Lewis Brown, director. "I'd like to introduce them to Courier readers," he continued.

Sister Mary Lynch, SSI, administers the diocesan catechist formation program. Last year 1,000 received basic certification. This is approximately 25 percent of the volunteers who catechized over 42,000 children and youth in our parishes.

Sister Mary works closely with the 71 professional parish religious educators and has established a diocesan-wide communication network with them using regional structures and hired helpers we call Field Representatives.

Sister Jane Geiger, MSHS, has an abundance of resource materials and practical tips for parish Adult Education Committees. Besides supplying information on family catechesis, Sister Jane maintains a ready supply of helps for those who catechize developmentally disabled persons. She has been especially helpful for parish and regional centers.

Last year 3,954 youth and young adults participated in retreat programs conducted by Father David Mura in addition to the 65 families who attended Family Camp. Father Dave calls clown ministry a natural extension

for those who want to imitate the self-giving service of Christ.

Joseph Weber sees to the delivery and return of 1,000 annual orders from our AV library of over 500 films, filmstrips and video cassettes.

Through our consultants for Religious Education Programs, formerly Dan McNamara, we alert and make available to parishes many of the published catechetical and sacramental texts and programs. Through the office newsletter we provide regular updates for our professionals and volunteers.

In addition to administering the office, Father Brown has had a hand in coordinating diocesan efforts in youth ministry. "We have taken the United States Bishops' 'A Vision of Youth Ministry' and begun implementation in our diocese. A diocesan level youth ministry group is now formed, a certificate program for parish youth ministers has started and a constituency for youth representatives to the Diocesan Pastoral Council has been identified," he said.

"The work of evangelization and catechesis for all age groups is the concern of all the baptized. We in the Office of Religious Education are privileged to be a part of its growth and development in our diocese," he concluded.

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