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Tioga Rural Ministry Reports on Activities

Owego — The sisters working in the Tioga County Rural Ministry Project have issued a report for the last six months of 1980, noting their progress during the first half of the third year of the program's operation.

The Tioga County Rural Ministry Project is sponsored jointly by the parishes of Tioga County and the Sisters of Mercy to minister to the elderly and needy of the county.

Two permanent deacon candidates worked with the sisters during the summer, and provided assistance when Sister Mary Kruckow and Sister Sheila Geraghty were away for retreat or vacation.

At Halloween they received a donation of pumpkins, which they gave to children.

They also worked with the senior citizens of Waverly to conduct monthly Masses, followed by a lunch, from July through October.

The sisters list successful food distribution efforts both for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, and for emergencies. During the six months, 126 food deliveries were made.

The sisters also list nine slide presentations; 244 home visits, 65 nursing home visits and 67 hospital visits. They spent 48 hours providing transportation, and delivered needed clothing 36 times.

The project's financial report indicates that in addition to the generosity of food and clothing that has made that part of the work possible, donations have

exceeded the budget expectations by more than \$2,400. The expense listings indicate that the unexpected donations have been put to use covering the unexpected financial problems of many people, including more than \$1,000 spent for food, and more than \$2,000 in other financial aid to the needy of the county.

Seminar Scheduled

Elmira — Thomas A. Page, an alcoholism counselor, will present "Therapeutic Value of the 12 Steps of AA," at the monthly alcoholism seminar Thursday, Jan. 15, at 12:15 p.m. in the Doctors Meeting Room at St. Joseph's Hospital.

Further information can be obtained by contacting the STARS office at 733-5579.

CCGEB Makes Plans

Elmira — The Chemung County General Education Board (CCGEB) heard an update on the swimming program and about the start of its budget process at its meeting Jan. 8 at St. Casimir's School.

St. Mary's and St. Casimir's fourth and sixth grades have been scheduled at the Elmira Free Academy pool, Sister Marilyn Reeves, principal's representative, reported, with the first group to start Jan. 26. Members discussed what will be necessary to reserve a place for the schools for next year.

Curran Sekella, Finance Committee chairman, reported that he is scheduling the meetings for the preparation of the 1981-82 budget. Steve Fesh of the Registration and Public Relations Committee noted that a diocesan registration period has been established for March, and he would discuss details of the CCGEB effort at its February meeting.

Board members also participated in their portion of the St. Mary's School self-study, which involved a discussion of the relationship between the board and St. Mary's, as well as the other three schools the board operates.

Geneva School Consolidation Aired at Meeting

Geneva — "It was very evident that the people of Geneva want quality Catholic education for their children," Sister Patricia Pullman said last week following a meeting at DeSales High School here at which the consolidation of two parish schools was discussed. Sister Pullman is principal of St. Stephen's School.

The meeting drew about 350 last Wednesday. Under consideration were three proposals: to leave the parochial school structure as it now is; to close one building; to use both buildings, but in a stepped fashion.

The schools in question are St. Stephen's and St. Francis DeSales. DeSales High School is not under consideration.

According to Celia McAdoo of St. Stephen's, the proposals were returned to the committee responsible for further development. Joseph Veoli is on that committee for St. Francis and Gerry Cooke represents St. Stephen's.

Sister Roberta Tierney, SSND, director of the diocesan Department of Education, chaired the meeting.

According to Ms. McAdoo, the major questions raised at the meeting dealt with financial details in the consolidation process. Because some of the questions were unresolved, the proposals "were thrown back into the laps of the committee," she said.

The committee has not yet called for another public meeting, Ms. McAdoo said.

St. Michael's Sports Nite

Lou Brock, former St. Louis Cardinals great, will be the main speaker at this year's Sports Night Dinner at St. Michael's, Penn Yan. The dinner is set for Thursday, Feb. 5, will also feature Lonnie Smith of the Philadelphia Phillies, Tony Franklin, place kicker for the Philadelphia Eagles, and American League umpire Marty Springstead.

Tickets for the Sports Dinner are now on sale in Penn Yan for \$8 each. They may be purchased at St. Michael's rectory, 312 Liberty St., Penn Yan, or at Henderson's Drug Store on Main Street.

St. James Graduates 70th Class of Nurses

Hornell — Eighteen members of the 70th graduating class of the St. James Mercy Hospital School of Nursing received diplomas at ceremonies Sunday, Jan. 11, in St. Ann's Church.

Four class members received awards. Terry Meacham of Hornell received the Medical Staff Award for the highest average. He also received the Faculty Award given the student who "best exemplifies the philosophy of the school through demonstrated leadership, professionalism, self-direction and contribution to the health of the community." Miss Loritta Haelele, school director, presented the awards.

The Women's Board Award, for the second highest average, was presented by Mrs. Joyce Kelly, co-president of the board, to Mrs. Susan Erdle of Silver Creek.

Sister Mary Rene, administrator, presented Mrs. Judy Jansch of Wayland the Sister-Mary Aid Award, given the student who "best exemplifies the profession of nursing."

The St. James Alumni Achievement Award, given the "most improved student who has displayed the greatest progress from the beginning to the end of nursing studies," was presented by Mrs. Evelyn Lander, alumni member, to Linda Waite of Bath.

Sister Mary Judith Heberle, superior general of the Sisters of Mercy, delivered the commencement address. Speaking of challenges, she said: "I read recently that the decade of the 80s will present the nursing profession with overwhelming challenges. The complexity of the health care system will call forth from your profession the creation



Prize winners cited at the St. James Hospital School of Nursing graduation ceremonies were, from left, Susan Erdle, Terry Meacham, Linda Waite and Judy Jansch.

of new expressions of healing, ranging from insuring and improving the quality of care to institutional reform. There is no doubt that the growth of science and technology in our age will affect your profession in years ahead.

She went on to say, "I believe more important for you as graduate nurses, a major challenge before you is a personal one: the challenge of how you look upon your call and commitment as a nurse — as one who has committed yourself to care for the sick. Your profession calls you to be loving, merciful and compassionate. Caring for people who are physically ill but also caring for their spiritual and emotional needs."

She noted, "We look to persons for inspiration, and one such person is Catherine McAuley, who founded the Sisters of Mercy in Ireland 150 years ago. In ministering to the sick she emphasized such traits as courtesy,

sympathy, gentleness and cheerfulness. She advised her sisters that they should respect each patient as an individual worthy of their greatest care because each person has been created by God Himself. As a nurse, you have a unique gift to share with others: to touch with gentleness, to speak with tenderness, to understand with deep feeling, to quiet the fears of the lonely, the elderly, the child.

"For me, dear graduates, the personal challenges before you to be loving, merciful and compassionate, far outweigh the scientific and technological challenges of the 1980s."

The graduates were introduced by Mrs. Rosemary Jacoby of the faculty. They then received a class pin from Miss Haelele, and their diploma from Sister Rene and Spencer Crow, board of directors president. Following the ceremony, the faculty gave a reception for the graduates and their guests.

Unity Dinner Hears Sister Pilot

By John Dash

Seneca Falls — "Ecumenism isn't just doing things together. We must include prayer, theological reflection, and then some kind of action," Sister Shirley Pilot, SSJ, said last week, prior to her address Sunday night at the annual dinner celebrating Christian Unity Week here.

Sister Pilot, diocesan director of Campus Ministry and a member of the Lutheran/Roman Catholic Dialogue Commission, also said last week that prior to entering into ecumenical dialogue, one must "know your own journey of faith, and know your own religious prejudices."

Her own journey, she said, began in the "very narrow, old, Roman Catholic tradition." Her first experience with Protestantism, aside from belonging to a Girl Scout Troop headquartered in

a Presbyterian Church, was at Nazareth College. She said that she developed a friendship with a Baptist at that time and that friendship has remained steady through the years.

Her experience as a missionary in Brazil also developed her appreciation for other Christian traditions; but, "The most important development was in Campus Ministry, where I am working side-by-side with Lutherans, Baptists and Orthodox Jews."

In her present position, she said, "We have had interfaith programming for a number of years, both for mutual understanding and looking at problems of morality and technology."

On the counseling side of her work, "Here we are dealing with the problems of everyone — and it's true — we are given the grace to help the problem, which indeed

deepens the faith of the individual and enriches our own faith."

She views ecumenical dialogue as aimed at agreeing on "the basic things we believe in," and not necessarily the disciplines and practices. "We have to ask, 'What is the basic message Jesus is preaching to us?'"

"The basic dynamic," of dialogue, she said, "is that people are freed enough to hear others and to question constructively. Growth means change, whether we like it or not."

Organizers of last Sunday's dinner anticipated about 100 persons attending. Rev. Gary Hake, pastor of the Seneca Falls United Methodist Church, is president of the Council of Churches. Father Michael Bausch, associate at St. Patrick's Church, where the event was held, is the Catholic representative to the organization.

Workshop Announced

Elmira — The Greater Elmira Youth Ministry Board is sponsoring a program on human sexuality Sunday, Jan. 25, from 4 to 7 p.m.

Father Matthew Kawiak and Sue Sullivan of Rochester will present the Teenage Sexuality Workshop, covering human sexuality in relation to the Catholic Church. Also to

be discussed are sex roles, relationships, communication, and how we integrate our sexuality into our faith experience.

The workshop, to be given at St. Casimir's School Auditorium, is open to all teenagers in grades nine through twelve, and is free of charge.

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