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Southern Tier Editor:
Martin Toombs
 266 W. 13th St., B-1
 Elmira Heights, N.Y.
 14903
 (607) 732-3371

King Memorial: 'Keeping the Dream Alive'

Elmira — "Keeping the Dream Alive" was the theme and the purpose of the prayer service commemorating the birthday of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., at Ss. Peter and Paul Church Jan. 15.

Four choirs and 175 persons observed what would have been the civil rights leader's 52nd birthday.

Featured speaker Rev. James R. Josey, pastor of the Frederick Douglass Memorial AME Zion Church, stated that the group "assembled here in the memory of a great American," who dedicated his life to the poor and oppressed.

"One of the most brilliant

young men of our time," Josey said, King "came to believe that the Gospel at its best must deal with the whole man."

And with the recent setbacks of racial violence and activities by the Ku Klux Klan and the American Nazi Party, people have to work to "keep the dream alive."

He emphasized the need for blacks to develop self-respect and the respect of the society. He scorned the repeated studies of poor persons, saying that they reduce the poor to "things to be studied," instead of "people whose opinions mattered."

He also stated that it is "no stigma to be on welfare;

Chrysler is on welfare."

But, he said, just because people are on welfare, they "don't have to stay there."

Everyone must work to keep the dream alive, he said, and work toward the day when "brotherhood will be more than a word on the end of a prayer."

Host pastor Father Richard O'Connell was master of ceremonies for the program, which was sponsored by the Alliance of Interdenominational Ministers. Choirs from Ss. Peter and Paul, All Saints Home Church, and two choirs from the Monumental Baptist Church offered selections and led the singing.



A youth choir from Monumental Baptist Church, Elmira, sings during the service marking the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., at Ss. Peter and Paul Church.



Bishop Yaekel speaks to the 900 who filled St. Mary Our Mother Church, Horseheads, for a prayer service observing the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Methodist Bishop Yaekel Addresses Unity Service

By Martin Toombs
 Southern Tier Editor

Horseheads — Bishop Joseph H. Yaekel told of his "certain sense of awe" at being the speaker in a Roman Catholic Church and of his effort to un-learn some lessons of his youth at the prayer service marking the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at St. Mary Our Mother Church Jan. 18.

Bishop Yaekel is a bishop in the United Methodist Church and presiding elder of the New York West Area.

As a youngster, Bishop Yaekel said, he spent a great deal of time with his grandmother, who imparted to him her definitions of sin, which included going to movies, playing cards, and throwing stones into a stream. She also "taught me all about certain Protestant Churches and EVERYTHING (his emphasis) about the Catholic Church."

As a result, Bishop Yaekel said, he has been working ever since to un-learn those lessons, adding that he considered it

an honor and a privilege to be the speaker for the event.

He expressed gratitude to those who started the ecumenical movement, noting the Graymoor Ecumenical Institute's work, and the important advances made by the Second Vatican Council. He noted that since Vatican II, some of the doors have been closed, but that progress in the ecumenical movement is still possible.

The theme for the service was taken from Paul's letters to the Corinthians, where he instructs the Christians of Corinth on the "variety of gifts" which they possess.

Bishop Yaekel described Paul's relationship to the Christians at Corinth, noting that the letters were written as the result of a great controversy within the Church there. When at first Paul went to Corinth to try to mediate the crisis, he was thrown out. Bishop Yaekel said.

He then sent the letter on the variety of gifts to them, and started a slower journey once again to his troubled

flock. During the trip he received word that the situation had been resolved, and this time he would be welcomed with a spirit of reconciliation.

While persons possess various gifts, so do denominations, Bishop Yaekel said, and as Paul told the Corinthians not to compete for honor or power, Churches also should avoid competition, which "has no place among the sisters and brothers in Christ."

Many local clergy joined the procession for the annual event, which has had increasing attendance for the past several years, with 900 persons joining in the prayer for Christian Unity this year.

Participating were Father Bartholomew O'Brien, host pastor; Father Paul McCabe, Our Lady of Lourdes; Rev. R. Kurt Traugott, First United Church of Christ; Sister Joanne Cullen of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish; and Mrs. Virginia Sale of Park Church.

The Cantata Singers, directed by William Payne, led the singing and performed special musical selections.

Notre Dame 'Dedication' Praised by Educators

Elmira — Notre Dame High School has renewed its application for membership in the Middle States Association, an accrediting association whose purpose is to advance, assist and preserve the achievement of quality education.

Before the application, the staff entered a period of self-study which followed a designated guide, "Evaluative Criteria." The self-study serves as a stimulus for change in the school's program and services and thus improves educational opportunities. The study has been continuing over the past year.

Hibernians To Honor Coach Devine

Waverly — The Waverly Ancient Order of Hibernians is sponsoring a "Dan Devine Appreciation Dinner" at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, at the Elks Club, Sayre, Pa.

The just-retired Notre Dame University football coach will be the honored guest at the event, which also will feature Tony Bubniak, a mainstay of Colgate's offensive line the past three years who was named first-string center on the All-East team.

Devine, who had head coaching jobs at Arizona State, Missouri, with the professional Green Bay Packers, and with Notre Dame, led the Fighting Irish to a national championship in 1977. He announced at the beginning of the 1980 season that it would be his last.

Tickets may be obtained at Hill's Cafe, Waverly; at Johnny's Tavern, Athens, Pa.; at the Sayre Grill and Sayre Motors, Sayre, Pa., or by calling (717) 888-3911.

analyzing the school's strengths and making recommendations for improvement.

As a follow-up to the study, a group of 13 educators, with Rev. George Brembos, chairman, visited the school last October for three days. The educators, from New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, reviewed the self-study and made commendations and recommendations.

The committee recognized that "the academic program corresponds to the needs and expectations of most of the student body. The school has witnessed many changes in society and in education in its years of service to the community. The school is aware that change will continue in the years to come."

The committee said that "the school should be involved in long-range planning, especially with reference to student enrollment, curriculum, staffing and finance. The administration, Board of Trustees, and Board of Governors should take advantage of the resources and resource persons to aid in this planning."

"The administration and staff are not only understanding of the needs of their community but also dedicated in their efforts to fulfill these needs. The friendly manner and unstrained discipline of the students are indications of their desire for learning in a conducive atmosphere. The support of the parents,

especially the Board of Governors, has helped Notre Dame to continue as that viable alternative in the Elmira area," the committee said.

The educators saw the library as an outstanding component of the building — "a sophisticated facility in the school and would be an outstanding asset in any educational institution of this size. Every teacher in the building should know this library and use its facilities for the benefit of the students, and every student should be made aware of the fact that the library is a center for research rather than using it as a study hall."

The dedication, cooperation and open spirit of the staff was commended. This was "shown in the report which is evident in the school as well as by teacher interest in student growth and understanding of student potential."

Winter Festival Scheduled

Elmira — Ss. Peter and Paul Parish is sponsoring a winter festival beginning at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 8, in the parish hall. The parish is promoting the event as a family affair and activities face painting will be available for the children. There will be no admission charge.

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