

COURIER-JOURNAL

SOUTHERN TIER-AUBURN GENEVA

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Episcopal Priest To Be Speaker at Lenten Mission

Elmira — Rev. John S. Ruef, dean of Nashotah House, an Episcopal seminary near Milwaukee, Wis., will be the featured speaker for the Lenten Preaching Mission March 8-11 at the First Presbyterian Church at W. Clinton Street and Rambler Road.

The annual preaching missions are sponsored by many parishes and other organizations in Elmira and Chemung County. This year's mission will begin Sunday, March 8, and run for four evenings. The services will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Guest clergy will serve as liturgists for each night's service, and a local choir will perform.

On Sunday evening, Rev. Ruef will speak on "Faith," Bishop Matthew H. Clark will be the liturgist, and the Cantata Singers will be the musical group participating.

"The Church" will be Rev. Ruef's topic on Monday; Rev. Jack Ziegler, host pastor, will

be the liturgist, and the Horseheads High School Chamber Singers will provide the music.

On Tuesday, Rev. Ruef's topic will be "God's People." Bishop Ned Cole of the Episcopal diocese of Central New York will be the liturgist, and the Thomas Edison High School Concert Choir will perform.

On Wednesday, Rev. Ruef will conclude with a talk on "His Kingdom," and Rev. Bruce Cummings, president of the American Baptist Churches of New York, will be the liturgist. The Southside High School Concert Choir will provide the music.

A coffee hour will follow each of the evening services.

An Episcopal priest since 1950, Rev. Ruef has served pastorates in Illinois, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Virginia. A New Testament scholar, he has publications titled "The Gospel and the Teaching of Jesus," and "The First Letter of Paul to



REV. RUEF
Corinth."

Rev. Ruef will make several other appearances while in Elmira. He will preach at the 11 a.m. service Sunday, March 8, at Christ's United Methodist Church at a service sponsored by the Interchurch Cluster of Elmira.

At noon on Tuesday, March 10, he will address a joint meeting of the Rotary and Kiwanis at the downtown Holiday Inn. He will address a luncheon sponsored by the Church Women United at noon Wednesday, March 11, at Temple B'Nai Israel.

And Rev. Ruef will conduct seminars with local clergy at 10 a.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at the Centenary United Methodist Church.

Training to Begin For Hospice Volunteers

Elmira Heights — Southern Tier Hospice, established to provide hospice care in Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben Counties, has scheduled its first volunteer training session for the second week of March.

Martin Schaefer, project director, said that the 20-hour training session, running March 7, 10, 12 and 14, has been filled, drawing 40 to 45 prospective volunteers who will be trained to work with terminally ill patients. Another training session will be conducted in May.

The volunteers are being asked to commit two hours a week to the program, and Schaefer explained that no special skills are needed before the training.

Volunteers will be an important part of hospice care, Schaefer said. They will work with patients as well as other family members during illness and bereavement. Responding to the patient's needs will be the volunteer's primary function. An

example, Schaefer said, is that he hopes volunteers would be able to pray with a patient who requests that, but wouldn't press a patient to pray who didn't want to.

The volunteers will receive professional support, as well as support from fellow volunteers in group meetings. Other volunteers could assist the program with administrative tasks, Schaefer said.

Many of those who have volunteered so far have nursing backgrounds; Schaefer said that another common element is a bad experience in the treatment of a terminally ill relative or someone else known to the volunteer.

Southern Tier Hospice is a demonstration project. Schaefer explained that the group has applications pending for a three-year grant from the Apalachin Regional Commission and with the state for funding. The money would provide for professional staff and for such things as mileage for

volunteers. The money needed for the training session is being raised by the Elmira Junior League.

At the end of the three-year project, Schaefer hopes to be able to determine if hospice is "the best way" to treat terminally ill patients, and also to measure its cost-effectiveness.

Southern Tier Hospice has been established to serve three counties and the seven hospitals in them, Schaefer said, and to that end he expects to conduct the training sessions in various locations.

Prospective volunteers need to apply to attend a training session. They can receive further information by contacting Schaefer at 175 Grand Central Ave., Elmira Heights, NY 14903; the telephone number is 734-1570.

The project also is interested in referrals of terminally ill persons who wish to be part of the program.

Admission Policy Approved By Chemung Board

By Martin Toombs
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira — The Chemung County General Education Board (CCGEB) approved a revised admission policy and heard plans for its festival at its meeting Feb. 12 at St. Casimir's School.

The admissions policy, as revised by the principals, adds a provision which calls for an additional session to be provided when the number of students in a grade in all three elementary schools reaches a multiple of 25. The additional class would be added in a school where room exists. The policy continues the provision that "Generally, the maximum class size will be between

25 to 30 students in grades 1-8."

Negotiations are under way, Thomas Klotz reported, for the festival at Dunn Field Saturday, June 20, and Sunday, June 21. The Saturday program would involve a softball game, he said, and the Sunday event would be tailored to families, and include crafts and competitions for children.

Klotz conducted a lengthy discussion of the plans, being worked on with the 100 persons who have volunteered their assistance. The board also discussed the difficulty in scheduling such an event so it won't conflict with other festivals and community activities. Klotz assured

Martin Tracy, board president, that "we won't lose you money."

The board unanimously approved three capital expenditures. The first, for \$2,500, will pay the second half of the cost for plumbing work at St. Patrick's School. Also approved were outlays of \$900 for fire escape repairs at St. Patrick's, and \$300 for shower repairs in the Our Lady of Lourdes convent.

The board also approved a new policy concerning long-term substitutes. Such replacements will receive \$25 for each of the first 20 school days, and then be placed on their correct step for the remainder of their service.

St. Mary Our Mother Adding Kindergarten

Horseheads — For the first time, St. Mary Our Mother School will welcome a kindergarten class when school opens in September.

Both educational and enrollment considerations led to the addition of a kindergarten to the school's current grade one through eight program, according to Sister Catherine Gibbons, principal.

Since the school opened in 1960, its pupils have had to attend a public school for kindergarten, and then transfer to St. Mary Our Mother. That caused some problems when they started first grade; Sister Catherine noted that this year's first grade has 18 children who come from eight different elementary schools.

And while St. Mary Our Mother School draws most

of its pupils from the Horseheads School District, it also has students from the Elmira Heights, Corning, Odessa-Montour and Spencer-Van Etten districts, further compounding the problem. Reading readiness programs, for example, vary from school to school, and therefore the pupils would have differing preparations for first grade.

The provision of a kindergarten at St. Mary Our Mother will eliminate the need for transfer, and provide better continuity. In turn, it is hoped the provision will attract increasing enrollments.

A committee began examining the need for a kindergarten in June 1980, Sister Catherine said. The group had to find space for the program, and assess the need for it. They received 130 responses to a survey of families in the Horseheads school district expected to register a kindergarten pupil in September 1981 or 1982. Seventy expressed interest.

And more than 50 parents attended an informational meeting Jan. 29, at which the curriculum, teaching methods and other policies were discussed.

The kindergarten will be a half-day program, and whether it will have one or two sessions will depend on enrollment. Sister Catherine said she expected the class size will not be allowed to exceed 25.

A certified teacher, not yet hired, will teach the class.

Registration for the entire K-8 program will be conducted after Masses on the weekends of Feb. 28-March 1 and March 7-8. Registration also will be taken from 7 to 9 p.m., Monday, March 2, or any day that week, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Kindergarten students should be born on or before Dec. 1, 1976; first graders' birthdays must be on or before Dec. 1, 1975.

CHARISMATIC MASS

A Charismatic Mass will be celebrated at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 27 at St. Michael's Church, South Main Street, Newark. Father James Conolly is the charismatic coordinator. All are welcome to attend.

Parish Announces Lenten Series Speakers

Elmira — St. Peter and Paul Parish is sponsoring a Lenten Educational Program in the parish school on the Wednesdays during March. The four programs will feature outside speakers on various topics.

The first program, on Ash Wednesday, March 4, will begin with a soup supper at 6 p.m. A program titled "The Earth is the Lord's" will begin at 7 p.m.

Parish organizers quote Father John McRaith, former director of the National Rural Life Conference: "Nearly every country in the world

could feed itself if the land were owned by many, and proper food were grown on it." The program will discuss the impact of land monopolies, possible extinction of the family farm, and control of food production by big business. Pam McCane of Project REACH of Cohocton will present the program.

The following week, at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 11; the Biblical story of the woman at the well will be the topic for Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz of Rochester, a member of the Women's Ordination Conference. Program publicity

notes that women comprise 51 percent of the human race, and asks: "How do institutions, patterns of behavior, and values enhance or hinder the development of women as full persons?"

At 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 18, Lee Griffiths and Gary Kline, former members of Jonah House in Baltimore, will speak on "They Shall Beat Their Swords into Plowshares."

The final program, at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 25, is titled "To Live as Jesus Lived," and will be presented by Mary Heidkamp, director of the diocesan Office of

Justice and Peace, and Jim Lund, a Catholic Family Center staff member and theology student at Colgate-Rochester Divinity School.

The discussion will involve Christian conscience formation through understanding of scripture, papal encyclicals and pastoral statements of the U.S. Bishops.

Reservations are requested for the soup supper on Ash Wednesday and for the educational programs. Those wishing to attend the programs can contact the St. Peter and Paul Rectory, at 732-2132.

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