

COURIER-JOURNAL

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Parents: Be Aware Of Media Influence

By Martin Toombs
Southern Tier Editor

Corning — Parents should be aware of the magazines their children read, the music they listen to, and the television shows the entire family watches, warned Sister Therese Dush in a talk at St. Patrick's Parish Sunday, March 1.

Sister Therese, from the Young People Who Care Center in Frenchville, Pa.,

spoke on "Media and How It Affects the Family" as a guest speaker in the St. Patrick's religious education program. Her talk introduced the subject, which will be followed up on at sessions the rest of the month by Father Philip Billotte, parish associate.

The Sunday morning family religious education program at St. Patrick's features monthly programs of speakers and discussions.

One reason it's so hard to be a Christian today, Sister Therese said, is that the media portrays a society in which "nothing's right and nothing's wrong."

She used the events surrounding the television show "Dallas" to illustrate her point. Last summer, she reminded her audience, people spent a great deal of time speculating about who shot "J.R." There was no remorse for the shooting, she said, and even some disappointment that he lived. The program had successfully spent the year telling its audience that he deserved to be shot, she said, and "that was teaching a value."

When such a value is demonstrated on the television screen, she pointed out, the dead character can get up when the cameras turn off. In real life the result is much different. Sister Therese told of a case near where she lives in which a teenager shot his brother to death in a fight over who would get to take the family car.

She also criticized commercials which demonstrate "instant results." The gratification through the use of various medications, or the purchase of advertised items makes one believe that it is consumption that provides satisfaction in life. "We get caught up in that kind of brainwashing," Sister Therese said.

Advertisers will spend \$600 million on commercials aimed at children this year, she said, all of which "teach that happiness comes by consuming."

Commercials never say happiness comes by doing, being or serving, she said, and that is a contradiction of the Christian message.

She also encouraged parents to look at the magazines their children are reading. Banning them will do no good; she urged instead that parents make sure their teenagers understand what is being promoted in them. She scored the declining level of what is acceptable in many popular magazines. She read the promotion of a quiz titled "How Wicked Are You?" from the cover of one magazine, and declined to show the cover of another because of what she called exploitation of the woman pictured there.

She noted that she heard contradictory reactions to the recent television show "The Choice," which dealt with abortion. Parents need to take the time to talk with their children about such programming, she said, so they will understand the parent's views on the subject.

Some of those participating in the program noted efforts under way by some groups to reduce the amount of objectionable material on television.



Participants in a small group discussion considering a point during their examination of programs which could benefit Immaculate Conception Parish. This group and several others discussed various aspects of parish life.

Dr. Teree Fund Begun

Elmira — St. Joseph's Hospital has announced the formation of the Dr. Thomas M. Teree Memorial Fund.

The fund has been established at the request of those who wish to make a contribution to the memory of Dr. Teree and his work in Elmira.

Dr. Teree was a co-founder of Pediatric Health Care Associates and came to Elmira when the practice was founded in 1970. He was dedicated to improving child

health care, and was a concerned and committed teacher.

The fund will be used to further the goals and ideals Dr. Teree held during his lifetime. All funds contributed will be restricted to further physician education and to advance the delivery of quality health care for children at St. Joseph's.

Those wishing to remember Dr. Teree may send contributions to the Development Office at St. Joseph's Hospital.

Eucharistic Ministers Trained

Corning — Forty-five men and women from St. Mary's and St. Vincent DePaul parishes recently participated in a training session for extraordinary ministers of the

Eucharist at St. Vincent's parish hall.

The training session was conducted by Sister Nancy Burkin, SSJ, of the diocesan Liturgy Office.

St. Patrick's Day To Be Celebrated

Elmira — St. Peter and Paul's Parish is sponsoring a St. Patrick's Day Party Saturday, March 14, in the parish hall. A corned beef, ham and cabbage dinner will be served from 6 to 8 p.m., followed by dancing from 9

p.m. until midnight with music by Joey Augustine. Tickets for the dinner and dance are \$5 per person. No tickets will be available at the door; arrangements should be made by telephoning 732-2132.

Eldercraft To Convene

The recently organized 13-county Rochester Regional Eldercraft Conference will hold its first annual meeting 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, March 21, at Rochester Rotary

Sunshine Camp, 809 Five Points Road, Rush. Dr. Russell Barton will be the featured speaker. The day will include an exhibit of handicrafts by members.



To Speak on Shroud

Father Vincent J. Donovan, pastor of St. John's Parish in Oswego, will speak on the Shroud of Turin at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 19 at Sacred Heart in Auburn. Father Donovan was present at the 1978 exposition of the cloth believed by many to be the burial shroud of Jesus, and is widely acquainted with the scientific community investigating the relic.

Parish Charts Future Plans

By Martin Toombs
Southern Tier Editor

Ithaca — More than 100 Immaculate Conception parishioners turned out Saturday, Feb. 28, to help plan future programs for the parish.

The workshop, presented by Sister Jean Rodman and Father Louis Hohman, challenged the parishioners to suggest new programs or ideas that should be carried out in the parish, and provided some suggestions as to how such proposals should be prepared.

Sister Jean, who does parish council education through the diocesan Education Division, presented the goal-defining workshop with Father Hohman, pastor of St. Vincent DePaul, Churchville.

The day-long workshop included talks by the presentors, and small group sessions. The participants divided themselves according to interest area, and each group prepared suggestions which covered the range of parish operations.

The groups put their suggestions on newsprint, and Father Hohman and Sister Jean presented them to the participants, adding comments intended to make sure that the proposals were realistic, had specific time goals, and identified a person or group who could perform



Sister Jean Rodman, left, and Father Louis Hohman look over the suggested programs for Immaculate Conception Parish at the conclusion of the workshop.

the task, or recruit others to do so.

Proposals included changes to the parish's newsletter and its bulletin; establishment of an annual St. Patrick's Day Party; one-day family retreats; a volunteer coordinator; events designed to build community among the parish's youth, and a volunteer-staffed visitation program.

After the suggestions were reviewed, Sister Jean recommended that the group assign a person as a

"sheepdog" to see that the various groups given responsibility for accomplishing the tasks do their work. That would prevent the ideas offered from being forgotten, she explained.

The day's program, originally intended for parish council members, was opened up to the parish, and resulted in a turnout much larger than the organizers anticipated. Sister Jean told the 100 persons present they were the largest group they had ever presented the program to.

Memorial Service Scheduled

Elmira — A memorial service will be conducted at 7 p.m., Wednesday, March 11, in the Dunn Chapel at St. Joseph's Hospital.

The hospital's Pastoral Care Department, sharing in the grieving of those who have experienced a death in the family, holds the worship

service every two months for those persons who have died at St. Joseph's within that period. All the families of the deceased are invited to the service, and to a small social gathering following the Mass.

El Salvador To Be Topic

Elmira — An informational program on El Salvador will be presented at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 12, at St. Patrick's Junior High School.

The Central American country, whose civil strife has brought it to the front pages of American newspapers, will be the subject of a slide presentation titled "El Salvador, a Country in Crisis." The country's problems also will be discussed by Father Jack Podisadle, SJ, and Father Nicholas Menjiver, who are presenting the program.

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