

COURIER-JOURNAL

SOUTHERN TIER-AUBURN GENEVA

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Confirmation Retreat

Father Albert Cason, St. Patrick's, Owego, co-pastor, conducting the retreat program his parish's Confirmation class participated in at Watson Homestead, Campbell, March 12. The class, half at a time, spent a day at the retreat center as part of their preparation.

Session to Explore Family Programs

Elmira — The first of five Family Ministry Resource Programs conducted by the diocesan Family Life Office will be from 2 to 5 p.m., Sunday, April 5, at the St. Peter and Paul Church Hall.

Open to all, but with a special invitation extended to parish committee members, the sessions are designed to provide a review of the findings and recommendations from the Family Ministry Task Force survey, and to provide information about various family programs which are available.

The program will be conducted by Susan and Frank Staropoli, directors of the Family Life Office.

The agenda includes a filmstrip "Sounds of the Family," which is available for parish use; a discussion of the Family Task Force Ministry survey, and presentations on family support programs.

The presentations will

Administrator Gets Membership

Hornell — Paul E. Shephard, St. James Mercy Hospital associate administrator, has been admitted to nomineeship in the American College of Hospital Administrators (ACHA).

The organization is composed of the leading chief executive officers and their administrative colleagues serving hospitals and health

Performers Sing 'Good News'

Seneca Falls — "The Good News Singers," a group of 20 parishioners from St. Michael's Parish have scheduled two performances with musical selections that range "from Mozart's Alleluia to numbers from Godspell."

The singing group will perform at 6:30 p.m. on

cover 22 programs, including marriage preparation and enrichment, family renewal, programs for parents, Natural Family Planning, and programs for single persons and those who have returned to the single state.

Following the presentations, the office staff will survey interest in the various programs, so it can plan future activities.

The Elmira meeting is being sponsored by the regional Family Life Committee, chaired by John D. Frawley, with Father Joseph Gaynor serving as moderator.

The program will be offered four other times, with those sessions all taking place from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. On Wednesday, April 29, the session will be given at Holy Trinity, Webster; Thursday, April 30, at the Pastoral Center, Rochester; Wednesday, May 6, at St. Patrick's School, Seneca Falls; and Wednesday, May 13, at St. Mary's Parish Hall, Dansville.

service facilities in the United States, Canada and other countries.

ACHA membership consists of three categories: nomineeship, membership and fellowship. To advance in status, an affiliate must pass a stringent written and oral examination and contribute to the health field's literature by writing a thesis or case reports.

The Good News Singers' performance "weaves a tapestry of the life, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus through scripture passages, songs and slides," according to a parish release.

Another Success Recorded By Parish Retreat Program

By Martin Toombs
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira — The Lenten program at St. Patrick's Parish this year includes an effort which may make a permanent impact on the more than 200 parishioners who will participate.

St. Patrick's is in the midst of five offerings of the Parish Retreat Program, a 26-hour, three-day retreat conducted in the parish by parish priests.

Introduced to the diocese by St. Patrick's, Owego, and St. Margaret Mary, Apalachin, the program is better known in the Syracuse diocese; but it is growing in the Rochester diocese.

More parishes making the program available to their parishioners would be a good idea, according to Jack Ryan, one of those who attended the weekend at St. Patrick's, and who, with his wife, returned to work on other weekends, including the one March 20-22.

He signed up for the weekend, Ryan said, because "we needed it," including his wife, Barbara, in his answer. She agreed, adding that they thought it would be important to their spiritual lives.

Another participant who returned to work as a presenter, Steve Wasielewski, explained that his knowledge of the Catholic Church wasn't that extensive, and he saw the weekend as an opportunity "to learn a little bit more.

Legion Sponsoring Pilgrimage

Elmira — The Southern Tier Curia, Legion of Mary, is sponsoring a pilgrimage to the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and other places in Washington, DC, and a stop at the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Shrine in Emmittsburg, Md., June 5, 6 and 7.

A bus will leave Elmira at 7 a.m., Friday, June 5, and return at 9 p.m., Sunday, June 7. Friday and Saturday will be spent in Washington; the tour will stop at the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Shrine on Sunday.

The cost, \$57.50, includes bus fare and accommodations at CARA House in Washington. Reservations should be made by April 30. Further information and reservations may be obtained by contacting Florence Hughes, 732-7150.

Recollection Scheduled

Elmira — The Ladies of Charity of Elmira are sponsoring a day of recollection with the theme "Tiptoe through the Gospel," on Sunday, April 5, at the Dominican Monastery, 1310 W. Church St., Elmira.

Father David Gramke, chaplain at the Elmira Correctional Facility, will be the moderator.



Father Joseph McCaffrey, St. Patrick's associate pastor, delivering a talk at the Parish Renewal Weekend.

about myself and about my Church."

As for the weekend's impact, Mrs. Ryan said that she felt like a different person, and that she "wanted to do it over." She even envied those who had signed up for the following weekends.

Ryan agreed, noting that you "want to come back," a feeling which led them to volunteer to work on subsequent weekends, first on food preparation, and then as presenters.

Wasielewski commented that the information presented during the weekend was too much to absorb at first. He "got a lot more out of this one than the first one," he said.

All three said that since their first weekend, they have been encouraging others to attend.

Mrs. Ryan said that all the participants seem to benefit from the retreat, and she hasn't "heard of anyone being sorry" they signed up. Some don't actively participate at first, she said, but their involvement increases as the weekend goes on.

Ryan noted that for that reason, the final Mass on Sunday is especially meaningful.

Wasielewski wants participants to get together again, and suggested a picnic. Participants said a special bond grew during the weekend.

About 45 persons attended the first two programs at St. Patrick's, and about 50 were at the March 20-22 weekend. The sessions begin Friday evening and run through Sunday evening, and are built around 11 talks given by a priest. A married couple and a single person respond to the talks, and the participants discuss the subjects in groups.

Father Daniel Holland, pastor, noted that being able to switch off talks with his assistant, Father Joseph McCaffrey, made the program easier than it would be for a parish with only one priest.

But while discussing the time the program requires, it was obvious that he felt the program would more than repay the commitment to it.

CCGEB Examines Budget

Elmira — The Chemung County General Education Board (CCGEB) heard preliminary registration figures and a presentation of its proposed budget for the coming year at its meeting March 12 at St. Casimir's School.

The registration showed declines in all four buildings, with 727 pupils signed up for the coming year; 838 are currently attending classes in the system. The need to pursue those students in the system who have not yet registered was expressed, as was the need for more pre-kindergarten and kindergarten pupils.

Curran Sekella, Finance Committee chairman, explained the budget proposal, which, following a promise made last year, does not increase tuition. With the system's pre-school considered separately, the 1981-82 budget calls for expenditures of \$755,670, an increase of \$49,070 over the current year. Assessments to the seven participating parishes will increase \$43,225 under the plan, with all seven parishes getting increased assessments.

"The budget provides for continuation of the system's current program without significant changes. The separate, self-funded pre-school budget of \$12,330 provides for classes to be offered at Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Casimir's. Currently the program also is operating at St. Mary's, but with lower enrollment than at the other two schools.

Sekella also presented a five-year budget projection, and offered his committee's suggestions for dealing with impending deficits. They included capital projects to reduce utility expenses; exploration of additional sources of income; rental of underutilized buildings, and preparation of a long-range plan for the system.

Father Daniel Holland, pastors' representative on the board, reported the concern of the pastors that the system closely monitor expenses. He pointed out efforts parishes are making to extend their financial resources.

Father Henry Adamski criticized some of the board's discussion as being too pessimistic, and called for

more optimism in looking at the system's future.

Voting on the budget was deferred to the April meeting, allowing parish representatives to consult with their parish councils.

Pay increases as recommended by the Personnel Committee were approved. The proposal called for increases for most system personnel, including a \$570 plus step increase for the system's lay teachers.

Father Richard Kinsky, diocesan acting superintendent of schools, who attended the meeting, briefly addressed the board at the meeting's conclusion.

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