

COURIER-JOURNAL

SOUTHERN TIER-AUBURN GENEVA

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Program Aids Parents, Children

By Martin Toombs
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira — Peer pressure among adolescents can be a positive influence.

That conclusion was reassuring to the parents participating, with their junior-high-aged children, in an educational program at St. Patrick's Junior High School.

Building of trust and understanding between the pupils and their parents is a goal of the program conducted on six Thursday evenings at the school, ending May 14. Offered to the families of the junior high pupils, too many expressed an interest to be included in this offering of the program. The 12 families which participated got an opportunity to look at many issues involved in family relationships. The parents and pupils met separately to discuss each night's topic, and then compared and discussed their conclusions.

The fourth session focused on peer pressure. Involved were the relative importance of parental values and peer pressure on such things as academics, dress, and selection of careers.

The discussion seemed to reassure parents, as they noted their happiness with the fact that their children saw peer pressure as encouraging behaviors which they also encourage. In many instances, the two groups agreed about the influences.

The peer pressure discussion was one of six in the program, which was conducted in two groups. One group was run by Lauren Schweizer, a master trainer for the program who works with the Recorder's Court Family Support Program, and Sister Judith Reger, a counselor with the Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry. The other session was led by Elizabeth Clayton, a trainer, and Brenda Peters.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Mrs. Schweizer related the results of studies done by Fred Streit, the program's author, which reveal the positive influences of peer pressure. Adolescents usually chose a group which "confirms their choices," she said, and not one which will force them to change themselves.

The educational program is designed to increase communication, to "be a catalyst" for discussions within families, Mrs. Schweizer explained later. The exercises help adolescents and their parents get a better understanding of the other's perspective.

Sister Judith expressed the program's goals as "prevention and awareness," which Mrs. Schweizer seconded. Sister Judith also noted that the program can build family self-image, and help them see problems and deal with them early.

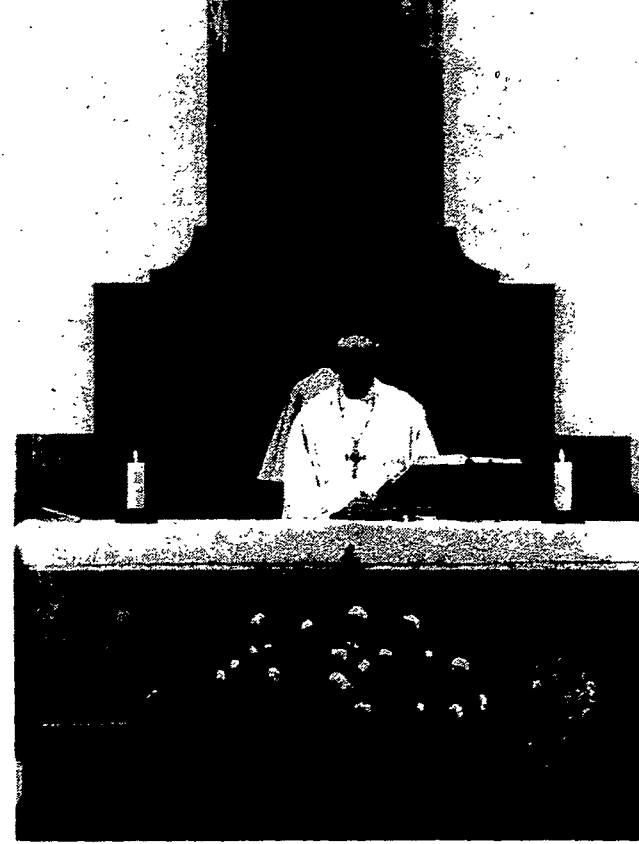
The sessions have surprised some parents, Sister

Judith said, as they've found that their children are less apt to stray than they feared. The trust-building of such learning can be valuable, she said.

Asked about the effects of the program, they noted the difficulty of seeing such changes during a short period, and saw a value in following up in six months to ask about long-term benefits.

The offering at St. Patrick's could be a seed for more such programs, as it provided training for two new leaders, and experience for two principals. Sister Patricia Carroll, St. Patrick's principal, and Sister Mary Walter Hickey, Notre Dame High School principal, participated in the sessions.

Mrs. Schweizer noted her interest in offering more of the programs in Chemung County, while Sister Judith pointed out that she is available to lead the programs across the Southern Tier.



Cardinal Luigi Ciappi celebrating Mass at the Monastery of Mary the Queen in Elmira May 12.

Monastery Busy With Profession, Cardinal's Visit

Elmira — A visit by an Italian Cardinal and a solemn profession made the period of May 9-16 special at the Monastery of Mary the Queen in West Elmira.

Cardinal Luigi Ciappi, O.P., a Dominican theologian on the papal staff, visited the cloistered Dominican Nuns of the Perpetual Rosary from May 9 to 12. He celebrated Mass each day, visited with the sisters living there, and also toured the area with some local residents.

The Solemn Profession took place Saturday, May 16,

at 11 a.m. in the monastery chapel. Sister Joan Sullivan, a member of the monastery for six years, took her final vows. Sister Joan and Sister David Marie, prioress, were in the sanctuary for part of the Mass and ceremony. Sister Joan made profession in the hands of the prioress, promising obedience until death.

Sister Joan, a Canadian, was joined by family members, including her brother who led the singing on guitar. Father Richard O'Connell, Ss. Peter and Paul pastor, officiated at the profession, joined by other local priests. A reception followed in the parlor under the chapel.

Cardinal Ciappi delighted the sisters with his visit. He writes books, lectures, and travels around the world as part of his duties with the Vatican. The 71-year-old prelate also is in charge of getting donations for his order's missions in Pakistan and India. He was in Manila for the beatification of 14 Dominicans during Pope John Paul II's trip to the Philippines.

His visit to the monastery resulted from a correspondence which Sister M. Margaret had established with him.



Wellness Fair

The "Wellness" Fair at the downtown Marine Midland Bank, Elmira, was opened by the signing of a prescription for the Twin Tiers. Signing, above left, for St. Joseph's, the fair sponsor, is John J. Reed, hospital associate administrator. G.F. Scanlon had just signed for Marine Midland. At right, Jennifer Herbst, a St. Mary Our Mother, Horseheads, pupil, prepares to practice mouth-to-mouth resuscitation on a practice dummy at the fair. Showing her and her classmates how it's done is Wendy Gabers of the local Red Cross chapter, in one of the many displays and information booths dealing with aspects of health care and prevention in the bank lobby.



Fun(d) Fun

Crutches and wheelchairs didn't prevent participants from joining the second annual Fun(d) Run May 9, which benefited the Twin Tiers Rehabilitation Center at St. Joseph's Hospital. The runners, walkers, and wheelers collected pledges based on how many laps of the course they could do in an hour. Funds raised will be used for the treatment of disabled children at the center.

Parish Site for ME Weekend

Horseheads — A Marriage encounter weekend took place Saturday, May 16, and Sunday, May 17, in St. Mary Our Mother School.

The format varied from the usual ME weekend, which usually take place at a facility where participants stay overnight. An organizer of the event, Dorothea Watts, explained that the arrangement lowered the program's cost, and increased its accessibility to local couples, who will return home Saturday evening.

Puppet Show Available

Hornell — The Kids Project, featuring puppets with disabilities, is now scheduling summer performances for third grade children.

From March through the present school year, the three volunteer troupes will have performed in 26 schools before 81 classes and more than 1,800 children in

Chemung, Livingston, Schuyler, Steuben and Wyoming counties.

Summer performances may be arranged for library, camp, and recreation programs serving third grade children by contacting Dolly Klee, Kids Project-Coordinator, at the Hornell Developmental Disabilities Service Office, 254 Main St., Hornell, N.Y. 14843, (607) 324-4910.

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