

# Hornell Hospice Group Seeks More Volunteers

Hornell — A training session is under way this week at DeSales Hall of St. James Mercy Hospital to prepare volunteers for the area's hospice program.

The course is being led by Martin Schaefer, director, who has been given a year's grant from the Gannett Foundation to establish the program in the area.

According to Father Eugene Emo, chaplain for the past seven years at the hospital, the hospice program was founded out of concern for the terminally ill cancer patient and the family of the patient.

Speaking at the recent annual banquet of the Court

St. Ann, Catholic Daughters of the Americas, the priest, who will take up a new post at the end of the month as pastor of St. Mary's in Geneseo, said that the hospice program started in England about 15 years ago as an alternative to full-time hospitalization.

Trained volunteers and professionals offer home care so that the patient may keep as alert and active as possible in familiar rather than clinical surroundings, he said.

"Education is needed to combat the old fears that cancer is contagious, always fatal, and always painful. There are 30 varieties of cancer and a high percentage of persons affected are walking around leading

normal lives," he said.

"When cure is no longer possible, the emphasis must be on care. The hospice program offers effective services on a 24-hour basis. Professional personnel provide nursing services under the direction of a qualified physician," the priest said.

"Volunteers, not permitted to do nursing care, offer invaluable back-up services by providing companionship and just by being on hand to show the patient and his family that someone cares. Sometimes just sitting with the ill person so the family can take a break for shopping or getting away for a few hours can mean a great deal," Father Emo said.

He noted that the area's hospice program has about 30 volunteers, but that more are needed. He also asked the CDA group to pray for the success of the program.

Principals at the banquet included Mrs. Dolores Andrus, grand regent; Mrs. Carolyn K. Kelly, general chairman; Mrs. Mary Scott of Penn Yan, district deputy.

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

## Saddening Experience In Elmira

Father David Gramkee invited me to take his place at Elmira Correctional Facility Saturday and Sunday, June 5 and 6. The facility has three sections: Reception Center, with 400 men; Population, having 1300 men; and Monterey, near Watkins Glen, with 170. The Catholic chaplaincy is a tripartite with Father Gramkee, ordained chaplain, assisted by Mike Stanley, who has an M.Div. from St. Bernard's, and Auburnian Sister Josepha Twoomey, SSJ. For 40 years the famous Msgr. Frank Lane was chaplain; Father James Collins who succeeded him (19 years) was one-time president of the State Chaplains Association. Father Dan Tormey succeeded him and expanded the chaplaincy to give a wider care in a spiritually and psychologically difficult apostolate. One might consider the inmates and guards two contesting teams, each alert in its own sphere, and the chaplains as persons who have the trust and good will of both teams. Sister Josepha is a fanatical supporter of the Yankees, and her approach to prisoners and guards is feminine without being effeminate. Chaplain Stanley's earnestness keeps a good balance. Father Gramkee's direction coordinates well a delicate apostolate.

Saturday night Mass was at Reception for 130 recruits, who are there for a month or two, for assignment to a permanent prison. I liked being with the men, most of whom were not great habitués of their local parishes. Yet at Mass they participated well and sang creditably. Excepting for their records of dope peddling, muggings, hold ups, stabbings, etc., they were much like the basic trainees whom I served at Lackland A.F. Base, short hair and all. Sunday morning at the

entrance of Population I found a group of some 50 people huddled together with tired, anxious faces, cardboard cartons, paper bags. I enquired of a guard, "What's this?" "Visitors to see the prisoners." I went to the group. A big smile, a cordial greeting and the Roman collar brought ready acceptance. It was heart-rending. Mothers, wives, sisters, children; and only two men: one a father about 45 years old, the other a handsome Hispanic youth about 18 who came with his mother to see his brother. I learned the group meet at a central point in New York City at 1 a.m., travel six or seven hours to Elmira, and stop at McDonald's, Elmira, for breakfast. They bring food and clothes and gifts, all of which have to be searched by guards, especially for dope. They visit from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Then the long return trip. My heart ached for these people who came from love and concern for men who entangled themselves in this haunting maze.

The congregation for Mass at Population — i.e., the permanent party — was like Reception excepting they are older and have longer hair. Fancy Dan liturgists might censure me because I did not unfold the Scriptures of Trinity Sunday. But I doubt that fancy people would quite sense the vibrations of this unique congregation. So I told them about Padre Pio, the Italian Capuchin, and of his miracles and stigmata, and his screaming at an insincere penitent, "You pig!" I said, "The one thing Padre Pio would not stand was people not on the level." The men listened with interest and they will not forget about Padre Pio. They need to know that the power of Christ is manifested in His saints, and the saints are people like ourselves. After Mass, Sister Josepha brought me to the officers' restaurant for coffee, for which I was grateful, because I continued to be saddened by that group of parents, wives, children and relatives from New York City.

## Bishop Hickey To Offer Field Mass

The 65th annual Field Mass of the Knights of St. John and Ladies Auxiliary will be offered at 10 a.m., Sunday, June 27, at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Bishop Dennis W. Hickey will be the celebrant.

The Mass is in tribute to deceased brother and sister members of the Knights, especially those who have died since the last Field Mass. The public is invited.

## Staff Learn To Help Selves

Hornell — More than 100 health professionals, clergy, and health care volunteers attended a day-long "When the Healer Needs Healing" workshop June 10 at St. James Mercy Hospital's DeSales Hall.

The workshop was sponsored by the hospital's Pastoral Care department and the medical staffs of St. James and Bethesda hospitals.

The lecturer was Father George Freemesser, a priest and a staff psychiatrist at the Southdown Institute in Toronto. He also chaired a panel discussion which included Nancy Bartell, St. James social worker; Kay Miles, St. James LPN; Eileen Drake, St. James intensive care nurse; Joan Watches, Bethesda nursing coordinator; Ann Ayres, public health nurse coordinator; Margaret Carey, hospice volunteer coordinator, and the Rev. Al Rogers of the Alfred Seventh Day Adventists.

The course was designed to help participants learn how to cope with day to day problems, using spiritual and physical resources. Father Freemesser concentrated on the causes of frustration, the healing process, inter-personal relationship attitudes and how they affect relationships.



## Mass of a Lifetime

Five priests with local connections concelebrated Mass with Pope John Paul II in his private chapel near his apartment on the feast of St. Augustine of Canterbury, May 27, the day before the Holy Father went to England for his historic visit with the archbishop of Canterbury. With the pope following the Mass are, from left, Father B. Thomas Celso, St. John the Evangelist, Spencerport; Father Robert Schrader, St. Theodore's, Gates; Father Darr Schoenhofen, former St. Bernard's seminarian ordained for Syracuse in Rome on Ascension Thursday, May 20; Father William Spong, St. Thomas More native, now in Fort Worth, Tex., and Father Timothy Horan, Assumption, Fairport.

## Deaths

### Sister Clarita Benedict, SSJ

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated June 15 for Sister Clarita Benedict, SSJ, who died at 85, June 12, 1982.

Sister Clarita, a native of Michigan, entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1919. She had attended Croswell Teacher Training School in Croswell, Mich., prior to moving to this state.

By her own preference, Sister Clarita served as housekeeper in her congregation's convents, serving from 1921 to 1926 at St. Patrick's Cathedral convent, and from 1926 until her retirement in 1969, at St. Monica's convent. She moved to the congregational infirmary in 1970.

Sister Clarita is survived by a niece and several cousins in Michigan.

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