

CCGEB Notes Fund Raiser, Enrollment Increase

Elmira — The Elmira Catholic schools are expecting 852 students in the Fall in grades K-8.

The number is an increase from last September, when 837 students began the year in

St. Casimir's, Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Mary's and St. Patrick's schools.

The increase is the first for the school system since it formed 10 years ago.

The district also is expecting to have 60 students in

its pre-kindergarten programs at Lourdes and St. Casimir's schools.

At its meeting June 10, the Chemung County General Education Board also ap-

pointed Sister Deanna Gears as the new principal of St. Casimir's School. She replaces Sister Yvonne Blind, who is moving to St. Patrick's, Seneca Falls.

Thomas Klotz, Long Range Planning Committee chairman, reported that the system's direct appeal for

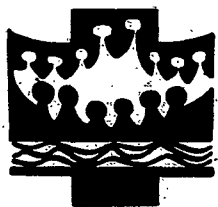
funding during the year raised \$3,775.

He also said the Fund-raising conducted at the end of May at Eldridge Park raised more than \$5,000 for the system. Plans now call for the event to continue at that location, Klotz said, and for it

to expand. Upon the recommendation of Curran Sekella, Finance Committee chairman, tuition for students not belonging to a participating parish was increased to \$1,000. The change was approved unanimously.

Insights In Liturgy

By Father Thomas Mull



The Preparation Of the Altar

Our recently completed diocesan participation in the study of the Order of Mass (Ordo Missae Study) presented the proposition concerning how and when the altar should be prepared. The question of the preparation of the altar before the Eucharistic Prayer was given lively discussion. In many parishes this was a "novel" idea, and they asked, "Why didn't someone think of it before?" Because this question seems to be a prominent one, we are dealing with it this week.

During the Liturgy of the Word, the pulpit (ambo) takes the central focus of the celebration. At the conclusion of the entrance procession, the Book (Lectionary) is placed at the pulpit. It is from the pulpit that the Word of God will be proclaimed. The presence of God is found in the words of Scripture, and through their proclamation, and the homily that follows, the Word becomes alive for us.

As we move into the Liturgy of the Eucharist, our focus moves from the pulpit to the altar. The preliminary rites at this time should enhance this movement and indicate the central role the altar (the table) has for the Eucharist. It is here that the presence of Christ becomes real in His Body and Blood.

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal explains, "... the altar, the Lord's table, is prepared as the center of the Eucharistic liturgy. The corporal, purificator, chalice and missal are placed on it." (No. 49) This action gives substance to the word and action of the rite and also refers us back to the ancient tradition when the early Christians would bring bread and wine from their homes and place them on a table adequately prepared for the celebration.

So, at the time of preparation we bring forth linen to serve as a tablecloth on which our Eucharistic meal is to be celebrated: a corporal and purificator. The missal is brought to assist in prayer, and the chalice and bread and wine, which find their importance in the reality of what is being celebrated. The altar, thus prepared, becomes the point of our sacred action.

A word of warning seems appropriate here. The preparation of the altar should not be confused with a time when all the added extras of a special liturgy are presented and propped up for all to see. The preparation of the altar is a time to tell the story of the

Eucharist, not to tell the story of an individual or an event. The basic gifts of bread and wine are the only gifts that should be placed on the altar. Other objects, as powerfully symbolic as they may be, serve to detract from the true focus of our celebration: the transformation of simple gifts of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ.

Practically, too, "extras" can block the view of the assembly and sometimes cause more questions/misunderstandings than are necessary. We should, then, avoid showy processions whereby flowers, signs, banners, trays, etc., are placed on the altar. Simplicity tells the story.

Done with dignity, the preparation of the altar adds a new dimension to the Eucharistic celebration. Gathering people around the altar, seeing the altar come alive and ready, we celebrate the true mystery of our faith. As it says in the Dedication of a Church and Altar (Chapter IV, 4), "The Christian altar is by its very nature a table of sacrifice and at the same time of the paschal banquet, a unique altar on which the sacrifice of the cross is perpetuated in mystery throughout the ages until Christ comes; a table at which the Church's children assemble to give thanks to God and receive the Body and Blood of Christ."

Rosary Rally Scheduled At Auriesville

A national rosary rally has been scheduled at the Shrine of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs at Auriesville at 2 p.m., Sunday, July 11.

Honoring Our Lady of Mount Carmel, the rosary intentions will be for the renewal of family life, reparation for abortion and for Church unity.

New York State's Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be brought to the rally and Msgr. Charles Sewall of the Syracuse diocese will speak. Following the rosary procession will be a 4 p.m. Mass.

Auriesville is on the Thruway between Albany and Utica, on Route 5S halfway between Exits 27 and 28.

Evans Elected To Crozer Board

W. Carey Evans of Wyoming, Pa., has been elected to the Board of Trustees of Crozer Theological Seminary. President of Wyoming Valley Nursery, Evans is an active layman in the American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware.

Crozer Theological Seminary, founded in 1867 in Upland, Pa., is a graduate theological school related to American Baptist Churches, U.S.A., and is part of the interdenominational seminary, Colgate Rochester-Bexley Hall-Crozer Divinity School.

TOUR TO EAST AFRICA

Kenya... Her People and Natural Wonders

October 13 to 27, 1982

Hosted by Fr. Joseph Reinhart

Through the Masai-Mara Game Reserve, Kenya's richest wildlife sanctuary to Lake Nakuru National Park, known for its million flamingos to Aberdare National Park and its world famous tree hotels to beautiful Lake Victoria, Kericho and its lush tea plantations and, of course, cosmopolitan and bustling Nairobi. We return from Africa to spend two days in Rome... with an excursion to Assisi, the serene hill town home of St. Francis.

This tour has been planned so that you not only see the many natural wonders of this fascinating country but will also have the privilege of visiting the people of Kenya... Your host, Father Joseph Reinhart, the Diocesan Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith has visited East Africa several times and has helped to establish the close ties that exist between the Diocese of Rochester and those in Kenya. An announcement of our tour was sent to the Dioceses of Nyeri, Nakuru, Kisumu, Kakamega and Ngong and to the Archdiocese of Nairobi and in reply a warm welcome is being extended to Father Reinhart and his group giving a most unique opportunity to meet the people... to visit the churches and missions... to worship with them.

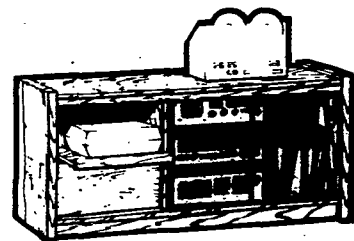
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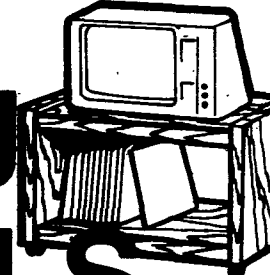
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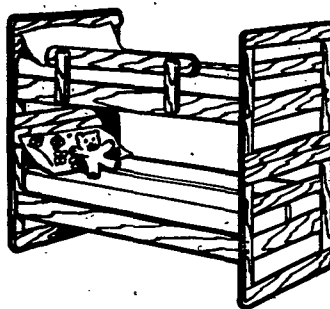


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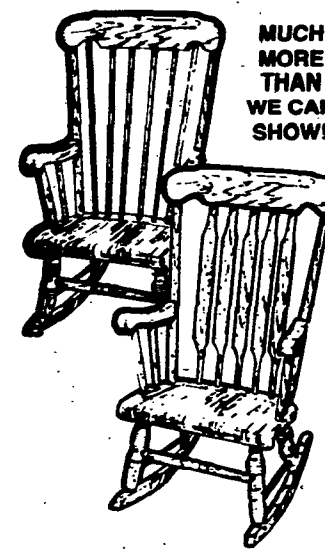
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