

Black Churchmen Join to Study Common Problems

The Office of Black Ministries and the Office of Ecumenism last week convened the first in a series of unusual meetings with leaders from United Church Ministry to seek common solutions to mutual problems.

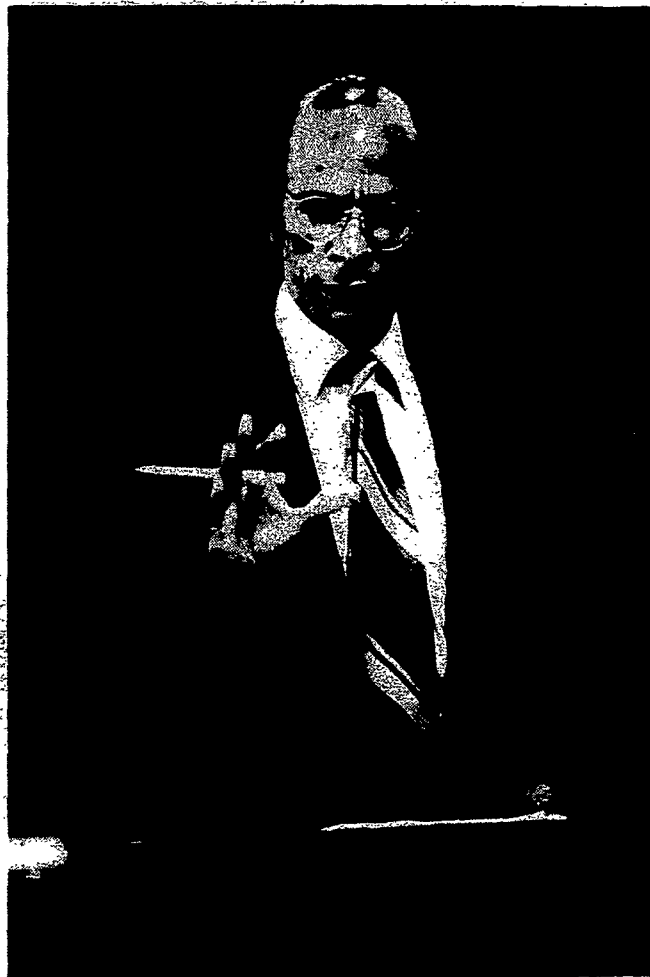
United Church Ministry is a coalition of evangelical pastors and leaders in the black community.

About 25 persons attended the first meeting. Dr. John Walker, executive secretary of OBM and the convener of the assembly, proposed a future agenda which would tackle such diverse concerns as tuition tax credits, abortion

and birth control, and strengthening the family.

He said that the diocese feels that a coalition with the "black churches and institutions would be a very formidable one." He said he felt the time had come to "chart ground on those issues that affect us in our communities."

He told the assembly that the two groups shared not only social concerns but also such dogmatic affirmations as the immortality of the soul, the immediate judgment, heaven and hell and the Trinity.



Photos by Terrance J. Brennan



Participants in last week's meeting included (clockwise, above): Dr. Walker, Minister Franklin Florence and Thomas Higgens, an attorney from Mineola.



Sarah Child

All in the Family

Saddled with A Problem

"Look at it this way," said the head of the house. "If nothing else you'll get a column out of it."

"Or maybe a broken neck," I muttered a couple of hours later as I tried to mount my horse, a large black animal which rose high above my five feet.

The others in our party, smiles ill-concealed, waited patiently until a stablehand finally led the beast over to a concrete stoop and somehow I managed to throw a leg over.

As I tried to right myself I grabbed for the pommel, but there was none.

When I protested, the young trail guide said briskly, "It's an English saddle, no horn. Western saddles have them so cowboys can wind their ropes around them during round-up."

"You," she added blightingly, "won't need one."

A quick survey showed that the other horses all had western gear, but the guide, following my gaze, said as if it decided everything, "English saddles are more comfortable. Hold on to the blanket if you have to." And we were off.

Every so often my tongue gets me in more than I can handle and this was one of those times, the result of a remark to the 12-year-old who like most girls her age is crazy about horses and riding.

"Tell you what," I'd said carelessly, "I'd like to try it myself some time so if I want to write a scene about riding I'll have some first hand experience."

Constantly reminded of my promise, I finally gave in to her delight but as I had approached the horse she had whispered in my ear, "If you're scared just say a prayer."

Actually there were only a couple of bad moments and I was too busy to pray. The first came when the horse broke into an unexpected run and I slid three-quarters out of the saddle barely managing to stay astride. The other came when the guide announced after a half hour or so that we would now trot. But, even prepared, I bounced two feet above the horse to the accompaniment of my own screams.

The rest of the ride in the hilly, wooded park terrain was not bad, my horse proving more docile than either of those ridden by my daughter or her friend Paulette.

The only remaining problem — how to get off the horse — was satisfactorily solved by another stablehand who offered me an arm.

Congratulating myself that I had neither fallen off my mount nor spooked the others with my yelling, I looked to my daughter for approval. She looked me over critically, then announced: "Not too bad, Mom" and then added, "Now, the next thing we do is get you on a roller coaster."

At Your Parish...

St. John

Newark Valley — A vacation Bible school with the theme, "Bloom and Grow with Mary," recently ended with an unusual event at St. John the Evangelist Church.

At the conclusion of the school week, Father Ralph Fraats, pastor, said, the children built a stone rosary, modeled after a similar structure at Our Lady of Martyrs Shrine in Auriesville, on the hillside next to the church.

Father Fraats blessed the rosary and marker at a Mass attended by 100 people.



Father Fraats blesses the rosary as school children led by Mrs. Mary Zimmer, chairperson for the school, look on.

Blessed Sacrament

Father Dennis Bonsignore will celebrate Mass to honor the sacred Heart, 7:30 p.m., Sept. 3, at Blessed Sacrament Church. Confessions will be heard at 7 p.m. The monthly Friday devotions are sponsored by the parish evangelization committee and the public is invited.

Mother of Sorrows

"Focus on Family," a seven-week film and discussion series by Dr. James Dobson, has been slated at Mother of Sorrows Church. The first film, "The Strong-Willed Child," will be shown 7:30 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 12 in the hall, and challenges parents a better understanding of discipline and authority. Admission is \$1.

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