



School Benefit

The sixth annual fund-raising dinner to benefit Auburn's Blessed Trinity School will take place Oct. 16 at the Owasco Country Club. Entertainment will be provided by pupils and proceeds will be used to support the school. Above, Brownie Troop 801 members make table favors for the dinner.

Dorothy Day Biographer To Headline Charities Anniversary Celebration

William D. Miller, author of "Dorothy Day, A Biography," will address the 65th anniversary dinner of Catholic Charities of Rochester, 7 p.m., Friday, Oct. 15, at St. Boniface School Auditorium.

Miller, a professor of history at Marquette University, will discuss, "Dorothy Day: Her Relevance to the Catholic Charities Movement."

(A review of Miller's biography of Miss Day ap-

pears below.)

Besides Marquette, Miller has held teaching positions at Upsala College, Memphis State University and Florida State University. He is the author of "Memphis During the Progressive Era," and "A Harsh and Dreadful Love," the latter a history of the Catholic Worker Movement, as well as numerous other articles and professional papers.

In addition to Miller's discussion of Dorothy Day,

the anniversary dinner will include a report on the year's activities by Robert J. Burke, president of the local Charities board; the presentation of the Vincent De Paul and Louise De Marillac Awards by Bishop Matthew H. Clark, chairman of Rochester Charities; and a perspective on the Charities movement by Bishop Clark.

John W. Oberlies, vice president of Public Affairs and Purchasing of Rochester Gas and Electric Co., will be master of ceremonies.

Dorothy Day: A Biography, By William D. Miller. Harper and Row (San Francisco, 1982). 543 pp., \$18.95.

By Nancy Roberts

The literature of the Catholic Worker Movement is burgeoning as many recognize its subtle and pervasive influence in awakening Americans to issues of social justice and to the peace movement. To his earlier, indispensable history of the movement, "A Harsh and Dreadful Dream" (1973), William D. Miller, a history professor at Marquette University, has now added the first full-length biography of Dorothy Day.

With painstaking research Miller primarily based the book on Miss Day's private papers (contained in the Dorothy Day/Catholic Worker Collection at Marquette) as well as interviews with surviving Catholic Workers and other sources.

The author interweaves historical events and social movements into his narrative. This provides a thoughtful perspective on the life of the woman The New York Times called "the most influential lay person in the history of American Catholicism."

Dorothy Day (1897-1980) was born in Brooklyn, the daughter of an agnostic itinerant sportswriter. As a young journalist for The Masses, the Socialist Call and The Liberator, she belonged to New York's jazz-age literary and social avant-garde. Aspiring playwright Eugene O'Neill recited poetry to her in a Greenwich Village speakeasy, and her other friends included Malcolm and Peggy Cowley, Hart Crane, Caroline Gordon, Allen Tate, John Reed and John Dos Passos.

After the birth of her only child in 1927, Miss Day underwent a profound conversion experience and became a Catholic, a pacifist and a crusader for the oppressed.

At the height of the Great Depression she

founded (with Peter Maurin) the Catholic Worker Movement, with nationwide Houses of Hospitality and farming communes which still feed and shelter the poor. In 1933, Miss Day founded The Catholic Worker newspaper, a penny monthly graced with the illustrations of Fritz Eichenberg and Ada Bethune, and with articles by such writers as Thomas Merton, Jacques Maritain, Lewis Mumford, and Daniel and Philip Berrigan.

Simultaneously an unwavering Catholic traditionalist and a secular radical, Dorothy Day never criticized the church's teachings, only its failure to live up to them. To the end of her life her primary concern was protecting the downtrodden while challenging the institutional powers that threatened them. For her trouble, she found herself arrested nearly a dozen times.

Miller's portrayal reveals the private Dorothy Day, whose spiritual journey was at least as arduous as her struggles with the social and political powers that be. He deals straightforwardly with matters so private that Miss Day never discussed them in any of her writings; for example, the details of her youthful, preconversion days in Greenwich Village and the true tribulations of rearing her beloved daughter in the sometimes tumultuous Catholic Worker community.

Yet "Dorothy Day: A Biography" is neither expose nor gossipy memoir but rather an informed, impartial presentation. The scholarship that shaped it is clearly evident, though, unfortunately, it lacks footnotes.

Eminently readable, and sustained throughout by careful contemplation, this book will soon become a classic.

(Ms. Roberts, a journalism professor at the University of Rhode Island, recently completed a PhD dissertation on Dorothy Day and The Catholic Worker at the University of Minnesota.)

Mercy Sisters Slate Vocations Programs

An evening of prayer and a weekend retreat will be sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy as part of their year-long Faith Sharing Program. The events are open to women discerning their state in life.

The prayer evening will be led by Father Thomas Valenti, diocesan vocations director, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 14, at St. Louis Convent, 64 South Main St., Pittsford.

The retreat is slated for Nov. 5-7 at Notre Dame

Convent in Elmira, and will be centered on the theme, "Our baptismal call to build Christian community wherever we find ourselves."

Retreatants will participate in Eucharist and Compline at Mount Saviour Monastery in Pine City.

Further information is

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Auxiliary Benefit Scheduled

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus Council 178 has slated a charity benefit card party, 2 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 17, in the K of C Clubrooms, 670 Thurston Road.

A donation of \$1.25 is asked and refreshments will be served.

Miss Anne Nary is chairman, assisted by Mrs. Eleanor Reisinger, Mrs. Dorothy Farrell, Miss Jean Szembrot, Mrs. Betty Szembrot, Mrs. Catherine Tedone, Mrs. Louise Roth and Mrs. Jay Ochs.

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