

# CYO Has Grown and Changed

By Kevin Foy

Today, when most people hear of CYO, they immediately think of basketball. During the 1950s and 1960s, CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) was best known for its basketball, swimming and dance programs. However, CYO has changed and grown since those days. Now it offers more in addition to basketball.

According to Joyce M. Strazzabosco, executive director, the purpose of CYO is "to foster a sense of community and self-worth among youths and interested adults in their search for a meaningful style of life based upon the teachings of Christ in the spirit of the Catholic faith."

In order to do this, CYO is committed to responding to the needs of youths by providing effective and efficient programs and services. Besides its athletic services (which include basketball, cheerleading, softball, and outdoor swimming), CYO provides training and youth employment services in addition to a Resource Referral Network, which provides information about youth employment programs in the Rochester and Monroe County areas.

Through its training services, Ms. Strazzabosco says CYO provides workshops for youths "designed to maximize a young person's potential and enable individual growth and a sense of self-worth."

She says that there are several types of workshops to emphasize the development of various skills. For instance, Ms. Strazzabosco says that employment readiness workshops teach youths how to look for and keep a job. She says that in leadership workshops "we help young people develop their leadership potential. We also want to build their self-esteem and try to focus their attention on how they think and feel about themselves and others."

Ms. Strazzabosco says that these workshops, along with ones that stress group development, organizational skills, and decision-making, are offered by CYO training specialists and can be held in schools, churches, and neighborhood centers. She also said that CYO provides workshops for adults who work with youths. "These emphasize skills enabling them to increase their effectiveness in serving youth," Ms. Strazzabosco noted that the training workshops request fees, but said that a workshop would not be denied if the group is unable to afford it.

As unemployment rates continue to rise (especially for youths), the employment services provided by CYO play an important role in the lives of city youngsters seeking employment. Ms. Strazzabosco believes that the youth employment services "enhance the development of socio-

Although it is an incorporated subsidiary affiliate of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester, CYO is not funded by the diocese. It is funded by the United Way, government contracts, program fees, and private donations.

Ms. Strazzabosco added that CYO has a six and a half-minute slide/tape show comparing the CYO of the 1950s with the CYO of the 1980s. It is available by calling (716) 454-2030.

economically disadvantaged youths by providing direct services which offer life-skills training. We give them training for career exploration.

Ms. Strazzabosco said one way that CYO youth employment services are helping younger teens explore careers is through volunteer jobs. "They're getting experience and learning behaviors and attitudes that would be helpful later." She also said that although many teens may not realize it, she feels that they are giving of themselves in taking on the responsibilities of volunteer jobs. "In the tight job market, they're also learning how to be more competitive," she added.

Ms. Strazzabosco said the service stresses the importance of a solid education as the key to job success, while at the same time providing skill training. Another goal of the employment services sector is to provide job referral and placement to skilled and trained youths. Ms. Strazzabosco pointed out that CYO placed 21 youths in part-time positions and 30 full-time jobs in 1982. "In several instances, employers called promising to hire any youths CYO referred because of the agency's reputation."

Ms. Strazzabosco said that the lifeline of youth employment programs is CYO's Resource Referral Network. "Every service and program that relates to youth employment is on file," she said.

Ms. Strazzabosco says that the network serves both youths and adults. "We serve youths directly through our 'Job Help Phone' (232-2420). We can get them in touch with someone who can help them and we try to find employment services that are close to their homes and will best serve their needs." The network also helps parents, pastors and youth ministers to find out where they can get job training for their youths.

Ms. Strazzabosco says that the board and staff of CYO look forward to the future's challenges with confidence.

For 1983, Ms. Strazzabosco hopes for "CYO to be better known for all that it is."

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

## On John Henry Newman

Hornell, Canisteo, Rexville and Dansville are special to me. From 1967 to 1972 I was chaplain at St. James Mercy Hospital in Hornell, and was cordially embraced by the people of the area. In 1967 Father James Lane, a classmate, was pastor of St. Ann's and Father Joe Haffey of St. Ignatius. The hospital tore down the chaplain's residence, so I lived temporarily in both rectories and became part of each household. Fathers Vincent Collins and Otto Vogt had me for weekend Mass in Canisteo and Rexville. During my five years tenure, St. Ann's had a diverse assortment of associates, including Fathers Gerry Connors, Lew Brown, Al Delmonte, Lou Vasile, and Hugh Brady, who is with Erie County in Buffalo, and Bob Magin, who is religious coordinator in Albany diocese.

Father MacNamara phoned in November: "Could you give us 10 days before Lent? I'd like our associates to have a few days off before Lent." I was delighted. The associates,

Father Paul Gibbons, long-time Latin teacher at St. Andrew's Seminary, and Father Ron Antinarelli, flaming knight of Catholic conservatism, are friends of mine. The rectory is a second home to me, with Mary Louise Mattie, sister of Navy chaplain Father Richard Mattie, presently stationed in Guam, as secretary; Rena Teller, for 17 years as housekeeper and now the cook, succeeding Clara Sherman who retired to Florida after 25 years as rectory cook. Father Herbert Sturmer assisted from his retirement in 1967 to his death in 1980, and was greatly sought as a confessor.

I reported to St. Ann's Thursday, Feb. 3 for supper and the St. Blaise blessing of the throats; and spend the evening with Father William Gabriel Gibbs of the famed Father Feeney's St. Benedict's Center, who was home to assist his failing 90-year-old mother. Father MacNamara is an exemplar of Cardinal Newman's gentleman, and has a practical concern about an intellectual appreciation of Catholic thought. He had arranged a MR series of Lenten lectures on Catholic authors and phoned: "Since you will be here before Lent, will you start off the series?" "Fine. On John Henry

Newman." "Father John Hayes will talk on 'Newman in Oxford,' our local Andrew Lamb, who is a journalist and teacher will take 'William F. Buckley,' Father Gerry Moynihan will do 'Merton' since he was with the Trappists for six years; and Father Gibbs will do Father Feeney as a writer."

However, in January I gave a slide presentation of Ireland to the Rosary Society of Ontario, and was so pleased with the slides I phoned Father MacNamara: "I just showed slides on Ireland and would like to show them in place of the Newman lecture." There was a silence, a pause. Then I heard his Adam's apple rise and fall in a startled gulp. "But the purpose of the series is to interest people in Catholic authors!" "Well, let's combine. The talk will be 'Newman in Dublin,' followed by the slides of contemporary Ireland. His seven years in Dublin, with all its frustrations, is an interesting period." So it was agreed. The audience was attentive and appreciative. But it puzzles me how few know about Cardinal John Henry Newman, whom some think the greatest mind since the time of Christ: a holy man, an intellectual, a preacher of eminence, an author, a theologian, a historian, a leader of the Oxford Movement, a convert, and truly a dry martyr from the shameful way he was treated by fellow Catholics, many of them fellow converts, after his entry into the Catholic Church in 1845. He is greatly admired by Pope John Paul II and his cause for canonization is being promoted.

## Ball Game To Launch Memorial

A memorial scholarship fund at both Aquinas Institute and Nazareth Academy will be launched at a basketball game between teams of the Press Radio Club and Cullen's Bar, 7 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 27, at Aquinas.

The Peter Connelly Memorial Scholarship Fund is named after the well known defense attorney who died late last year.

A \$2 donation is asked for tickets to the event. Tickets are available from attorney Charles A. Schiano, 500 Wilder Bldg., One East Main St., Rochester, N.Y. 14614.

## Sport Celebration Scheduled

The Nazareth men's basketball team will play St. John Fisher, Friday, Feb. 25. The Nazareth alumni will host a pre- and post-victory party. The pre-game "warm-up" will be in the Golden Flyers Club and Alumni Room and Lounge where a cash bar will be available. The post-game celebration will be held in the Campus Pub at 10 p.m.

Ticket price, which includes game, Golden Flyers Club and victory party, is \$2. Tickets can be picked up at the Otto A. Schultz Community Center Information Desk the evening of the game.

## First Friday

Father Robert Kress, pastor of St. Joseph Church in Rush, will celebrate Mass and be guest speaker at the First Friday Luncheon Club gathering 11:45 a.m., Friday, March 4 at the Knights of Columbus clubrooms on Thurston Road. The club welcomes all who wish to further devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary serves a \$2 lunch.

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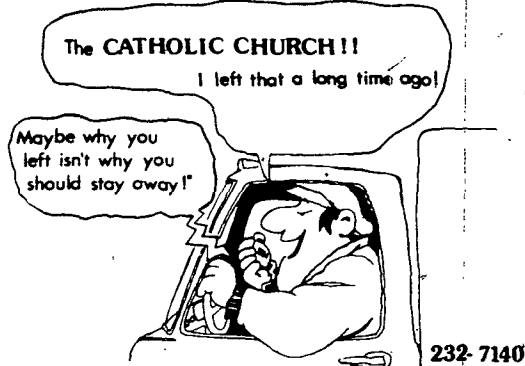
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## THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER



EDWIN SULEWSKI

### Do older people handle grief better?

The loss of a spouse at any age means a change of routine and a change in our relationships with others. Older people may be more aware of death because they see it more often but it is not usually easier to accept. For the older person there may be fewer contacts with friends. There may be more loneliness and depression. It may be more difficult to perform such tasks as shopping or cutting the lawn. As with all grieving people you can help by offering rides, inviting them to meals and by truly making them feel welcome. Offering them a chance to talk about their loved one gives them a way to express feelings.

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