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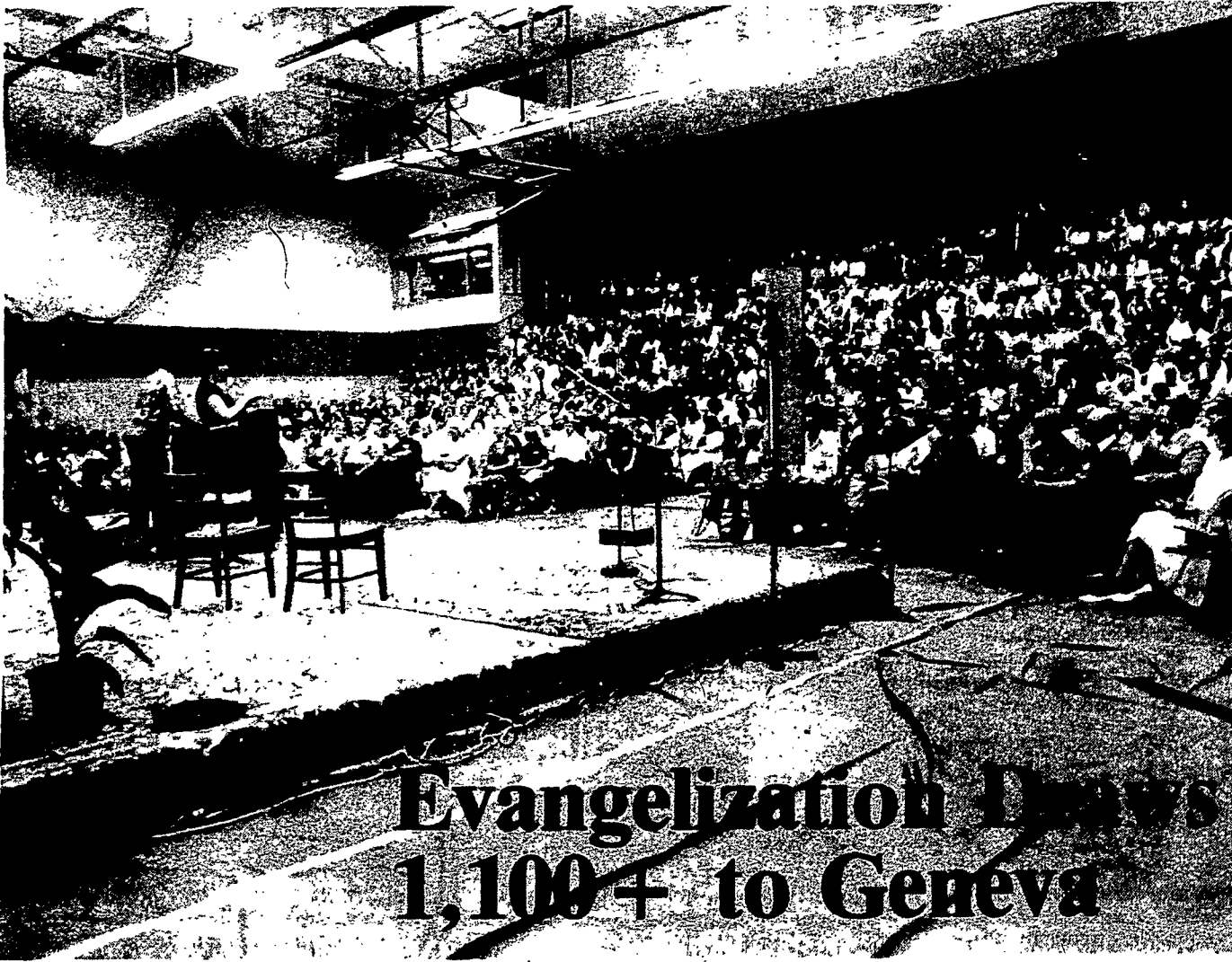
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Evangelization Draws 1,100+ to Geneva

Geneva — More than 1,100 diocesans gathered at Hobart and William Smith Colleges here last Saturday to take part in "Harvest a Hundredfold," a diocesan evangelization "event."

The numbers signing up for the day-long program surprised even the organizers, Sister Mary Ann Binsack said last week. She said that 137 parishes were represented, as well as high schools, colleges, and Monroe County Community Hospital.

She acknowledged that it became necessary to turn late registrants down because of the numbers attending.

Organizers were billing the program as the first diocese-wide event of such magnitude since Bishop Matthew H. Clark's installation as Bishop of Rochester.

The day was put together by the Diocesan Pastoral Council's Task Force on Evangelization, and featured three major addresses, 45 workshops on various aspects of evangelization and two liturgies.

The keynote speakers were Dr. Nathan Jones, a consultant in black Church education and pastoral ministry with Catholic and Protestant churches, editor of Ethnic Communications Outlet, and author of "Sharing the Old, Old Story: Education Ministry in the Black Community;" Father Anthony Bellagamba, executive secretary of the United States

Catholic Mission Association in Washington, D.C., and widely known as a teacher and preacher; and Bishop Clark, who preached the homily at the closing Mass.

Both Dr. Jones and Father Bellagamba presented their audiences with unusual viewpoints on the subject of evangelization.

Jones spoke from the perspective of the black experience of religion and Father Bellagamba presented a perspective on the challenges of evangelization in the Third World and their implications for the Church universal.

Frequently citing texts from the Vatican Observer, the official newspaper of the Holy See, Father Bellagamba stressed particularly the need for the lay person in evangelical ministry, and the need for "inculturation" of the Gospel.

He asserted that soon 80 percent of the world's Catholics will be in the Third World, and that the experience of the Church there will be crucial to the Church as a whole.

He described his vision of ordained ministry as being supportive of lay ministry, recalling a conversation with a missionary who told him his work included: "I search for their leaders, I prepare them to be leaders, I grow with them and I pacify them when they're not happy."

He said that the Church faces a great challenge: "To implant the Church and not

transplant the Church is the great challenge of world evangelization.

Such a challenge, he said, has been called by recent popes the challenge of "inculturation."

Pope John Paul II, he said, has told African bishops that he looks for the day when "Christ himself will be African."

Bishop Clark presided at Morning Prayer, with Pam Schaeffer, assistant, Sister Nancy Burkin, SSJ, cantor; Jim Lund, lector; John Kubinieć, organist; Melissa Schaeffer, flute. With Bishop Clark for the Liturgy of the Eucharist were Thomas Kluchko, deacon; Leah Vitale, St. Thomas Aquinas, Leicester and Paul Kane, University of Rochester Newman Parish, lectors; Sister Edna Slyck, RSM, thurifer; Steve and Judy Graff, St. Thomas, Red Creek, candlebearers; Vincent DeWitt, Sacred Heart, Auburn, crossbearer; Fran and Lois Wieloch, St. Joseph, Penfield, mitre and crozier bearers; Mr. and Mrs. Walter Sendall, St. Mary, Dansville, gift bearers; parishioners representing: Alphonsus in Auburn, St. Francis DeSales in Geneva, St. Joseph in Weedsport, St. Mary in Waterloo, St. Michael in Newark and St. Michael in Penn Yan, eucharistic ministers; Father Louis Vassie, master of ceremonies; choir members from parishes in Geneva, Seneca Falls and Waterloo, choir; Jura Litchfield, director; Jim Lopata, St. Paul, Webster, cantor; John Kubinieć, Barbara Jablonski, Kathleen Doran-Norton, instrumentalists.

Workshops and their leaders were listed as: "The 'What' and 'How' of Individual and Parish Evangelization," Father John Mulligan; "The Family as Center of Evangelization," Sue and Frank Staropoli; "An Experience of Evangelization," Father James Marvia and members of the evangelization committee of St. Ambrose Parish; "Warming up Your Sunday Celebration," Sister Nancy Burkin, SSJ; "RCIA and Parish Evangelization," Maribeth Mancini; "Evangelization through Sacramental Moments," Father Robert Kennedy; "Renewal Groups: An Untapped Ministry Resource for Parishes," Father Robert Kreckel; "Sitting on a Peace with a Burning Heart: Young People's Search for Meaning," John Engels; "Evangelization and the Elderly," Sister Anne Maloy, RSM; "Developing a Bible Study in Your Parish," Kitty and Ted Luna, Father Benedict Ehmanna, Father Michael Costanzo; "Spiritual Gifts' Workshop and Parish Growth," Nancy Martin; "Parent-Teen Communications: The Impact on Family Life," Judy and Ron Platten; "We All Learn together: Family Educational Programs," Claude Lester; "How to Start a Parish Evangelization Committee," Sister Mary Ann Binsack, RSM, Maria Grego, Patty Stein; "Designing a Renewal For Your Parish," Sharon and Jim Tette; "Coming Home for Christmas: Reaching out to the Alienated," Father Paul McCabe; "Effective Sunday Liturgy Begins on Monday," Father Thomas Mull, Pamela Schaeffer, John Kubinieć, Sister Nancy Burkin, SSJ; "Getting the RCIA Started in Your Parish," Sister Nancy DeRycke, SSJ; "Parish Experiences of the RCIA," Ernesta DelPrince, Joyce Snyder; "Evangelizing through Sacramental Preparation Programs," Sister Marie Brown, SSJ; "Marriage Preparation: Moment of Evangelization," Jim and Donna Fitch; "Parish-Centered Prayer Experiences," Ruth Page; "Renewal Groups Can Bring New Life to Your Parish," Father James Connolly, SJ, Phil and Pat Brockmyre, Father Eugene West; "Youth: Evangelizing and Evangelizers," Patrick Fox; "Young Adults: Missing or in Action?" Karen Materna; "Determining the Needs of the Elderly through the Thanks Giving Appeal," Elaine Caso, Carol Charles, Theresa Bucco; "Evangelizing the Elderly in Nursing Homes and High Rises," Father Bruce Ammering, Sister Anne Marie Lennon, RSM, Sister Mary DeChantal, RSM; "The Christ, in All — Ecumenical Evangelization," Margery Nurnberg; "Evangelizing the Imprisoned," Sister



Father Bellagamba challenges the assembly to rethink its ideas on what constitutes evangelization.

Barbara Moore, RSM; "Evangelization and the Black Community," Dr. Nathan Jones, Dr. John Walker; "Evangelization in the Hispanic Community," Father Jack Podsiadlo, SJ, Sister Marie Rivera MGSPS, Deacon Carlos Vargas; "Peacemaking and Evangelization," Michael Rae, Sister Christine Wagner, SSJ; "World Hunger and Evangelization," Lourdes Perez-Albuerne, Sister Carol Cimino, SSJ, Dr. Alan Morton; "RENEW: Spiritual Formation for Evangelization," Msgr. Robert Fuller, Sister Donna Ciango, OP; "Evangelizing toward Justice and Peace," Father Charles Mulligan, Mary Heidkamp; "Welcoming New Parishioners," Colleen and Michael Cooper, Bernard Schneider, Donna and John Jensen; "Evangelizing in a Rural Setting," Father George Wiant, Rural Ministry staff members from Tioga, Steuben and Wayne counties; "Proclaiming and Celebrating the Good News with Children," Sister Mary Lynch, SSJ, Sister Lucille Lenhard, RSM, Sister Elizabeth Snyder, SSJ, Winnie Maune, Joseph Holleran, Donna Jestal; "Reconciling Divorced Catholics to the Church and Community," Kathleen Kircher, Angela Gallo; "Are Disabled People Part of the Body of Christ?" William Privett, Father Paul Ryan; "Actions Speak Louder than Words," James Lund, Father James B. Callan, Sister Marjory Heininger, SSJ; "Evangelizing Begins at Home," Gloria Treis, Patricia Pelino; "Evangelization through Hospitality," Barbara D'Ortenzio, Dr. James Whitford, Sister Alicia Schur, SSJ; "How the Third World Can Evangelize the First World," Father Anthony Bellagamba, Sister Janet Korn, RSM, Father Daniel Torney; "A Practical Program to Reach out to Inactive Catholics," parish representatives from St. Stephen in Geneva and St. Mary Our Mother in Horseheads.

The Diocesan Pastoral Council Task Force on Evangelization includes Father John Mulligan, general chairperson; Sister Mary Ann Binsack, RSM, co-chairperson; Father Robert Kennedy, co-chairperson; Sister Agnes Catherine Battersby, SSJ; Colleen and Michael Cooper; Father James Connolly, SJ; Thomas Kluchko; Father David Mura; Margery Nurnberg; Jackie and Lloyd O'Brien; Andrew Pike; Brother Brian Walsh, CFC; Gene Zulauf.

The task force expressed its gratitude to: Office of Liturgy staff for planning Morning Prayer and the Eucharist; Sister Estelle Martin, RSM, for the logo, brochure and program layout and banner design; Charlotte and Melissa Richardson for processing registration and all secretarial services;

Dorothy Labe and Michael Hanna of Hobart and William Smith Colleges for all arrangements; Patrick Fox, Brian McNulty, and Klaus Schultz for audio and video taping; And the workshop presentors, the volunteers, the regions for partial funding of the event, the Al Sigl Center for printing the program and brochures, and Joseph Shale Inc., for the Allen organ, through Scott E. Clark, Allen representative.



Dr. Jones raises his arms in exultation. Photos by Terrance J. Brennan

'Season of Revival' Comes to Diocese

By John Dash Geneva — It took Nathan Jones about a minute and a half to make 1,100 people fall in love with him.

He had Bishop Clark laughing so hard tears ran down his face

And he had the almighty assembly of sober white Catholics since the last Legion of Decency convention whoopin' and hollerin' and praisin' and carryin' on like how we hope Judgment Day turns out.

And that was just part of what he was all about.

The Indianapolis-born, Los Angeles-bred evangelist was also dead true on target.

He remarked in an interview following his talk, "I hope to see more of a clearer teaching on the history of the Church. People don't know the African origins of the Church. I think it's not random that information is kept from people."

"To teach the true truth..." he mused.

The oldest son of a family that can count up a number of preachers in the Baptist and Holiness Church traditions. Jones springs from a family of "great tolerance and acceptance of diversity and letting people be."

Ten years ago, he became a Roman Catholic.

Rolling easily between parody of stereotypes and sharp skewering of racism, between theological nicety and impassioned call to the experience of religion, Jones announced to the Lord, "I'm teachin' these white folks

some good religion! I'm sooo happy to be here!"

"Springtime. Springtime is a season of revival and renewal. I tell you, Church, all of us are experiencing the very same thing, shedding and sprouting anew."

"We need a revival," he told the assembly, "we need a season of revival."

"The Good News is an event," he said, "something that happens within you."

That happening, he said, transforms the whole person. "I become brand new."

"You know," he told the group in an aside, "a lot of us who are Christians should inform our faces."

He later remarked, "It's so great to see adults glow when they discover that through the power of God, they can make changes in their lives."

"There is a way out of the cavern."

That sense, he said, is at the heart of the black religious experience. "There is a difference between the spirituality of white American churches and black American churches. The reason is based on the social and political status of black people in America."

In the black church, he said, "culture and politics and economy are related with the experience of God. They don't limit that, but they are manifest in the perceptions of God and relations with Him."

"The language is the same, but the experience is different. A touchy point, but important."



Crowd registers its approval of a speaker's words.



Present were Father James Marvin, pastor of St. Ambrose; Bishop Clark; and Father Thomas Mull, director of the Office of Liturgy.