



Religious Ed Meeting

Sister Mary Lynch, S.S.J., speaks before a group of religious education teachers of the Southeast Region at a meeting Monday, Jan. 9 at St. Thomas More School. The event was sponsored by the Southeast Region Religious Education Coordinators Association.

Black Ministries Plans 2 Events

Two events have been scheduled by the diocesan Office of Black Ministries. On Saturday, Jan. 28,

Msgr. Leonard Scott of the Camden (N.J.) diocese will make a presentation on "The Significance of the 1983 Canon Law to Black Catholics." The talk will begin at noon at the diocesan Pastoral Center, 1150 Buffalo Road, and is open to the public.

On Saturday, Feb. 11, Brother Robert Smith, president of the national Association of Black Catholic Seminarymen, will be the keynote speaker and workshop leader at the first annual Black Vocations Luncheon, co-sponsored by the OBM, the Department of Vocations, the Urban Services Division and the Syracuse diocesan Vocations Department. Brother Robert, a Capuchin, will speak on "Taking a Walk Where Other People Choose Not to Go."

The luncheon will be at the YMCA Downtown, 175 N. Clinton Ave. Registration will be \$2 a person.

Peace to Be UR Topic

The Newman Community of the University of Rochester is sponsoring talks on the U.S. bishops' pastoral, "The Challenge of Peace."

Jim Lund, Rochester diocesan coordinator of Social Ministry Education and Training, will speak on "Translating the Challenge of Peace into Action," 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 24, in the university's Interfaith Chapel.

Msgr. William Shannon, professor emeritus of Religious Studies at Nazareth College, will speak on "Deterrence or Non-Violence?" at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 31, in the Interfaith Chapel.

Wedding Music Help Offered

Couples planning weddings have been invited to a program designed to help them plan music, 3 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 28, in the choir loft of St. Margaret Mary Church.

The session will include suggestions and excerpts of possible wedding music. Although the program is particularly designed for those having weddings at St. Margaret Mary's within the next few months, other couples are also welcome. Further information is available from Jean Woehrlen, 342-2100.

Reagan (Non)Hunger Report Draws Church, Congress Criticism

Washington (NC) -- As soon as the president's Task Force on Food Assistance issued its final statement Jan. 9 concluding that hunger is not rampant in America, congressional and church critics challenged both the substance and tone of its report.

"We have not been able to substantiate allegations of rampant hunger," the commission stated in its report, approved 9-3. It found that "for the vast majority of low-income people" food programs, public and private, were "sufficient for those who take advantage of them."

As the commission was still meeting to approve the report Sen. Robert Dole (R-Kan.), chairman of the Senate Agriculture subcommittee on nutrition, said in a press conference that Congress "is not likely to favor" the task force's recommendation that states be given block grants to run food assistance programs and determine who qualifies for aid.

The task force recommended the block grants for states but backed off recommendations in an earlier draft calling for overall cutbacks in food assistance. It made no new major proposals but did include a proposal to continue federal aid to private charities.

Father C.B. Woodrich, pastor of downtown Denver's Holy Ghost Church, which operates a daily sandwich line, challenged the commission's conclusions on hunger.

"I don't see how they honestly came up with that report. I guess you have to be starving in the streets before they realize how serious it is," he said. "No, they're not dying in the streets like in India or Ethiopia but they're dying in the apartment houses."

Father Woodrich said in a telephone interview Jan. 10 that even though the Denver area is not as badly hit as other parts of the country, his sandwich line feeds about 600 people a day. "My God, there are hungry people; respectable people who just don't have money."

Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) called the report Orwellian "double speak" and said it was full of "bold, clinical, bureaucratic language."

"The task force draft is an insult to every American who has ever visited a soup kitchen. It is a transparent cover-up of the serious and worsening problem of hunger in America. In effect, this commission says to the hungry: Let them eat block grants," Kennedy said.

Ronald T. Kriemeyer, director of the domestic social development office of the U.S. Catholic Conference, said "it is very upsetting for them to quibble over the definition of rampant and the medical definition of hunger in the face of massive evidence" of real human need. "It's unfortunate they didn't take the problem head on."

Calling the report a smokescreen, Kriemeyer said there needs to be a commitment of more money from the government "and they (the commission) were

set from the beginning not to do that."

Mathew Ahmann, National Conference of Catholic Charities' associate director of government relations, called the block grant proposal "a regressive step." He added that the National Governors' Association, which usually favors block grants, opposes the proposal.

Ahmann said Catholic Charities plans to oppose the block grants and to continue to provide emergency assistance to the needy.

Jesuit Father William J.

Byron, president of the Catholic University of America in Washington and a co-founder of Bread for the World, said there is a special kind of hunger in America. "It's not famine and disease as there is in India or Africa. It's related to economic insecurity, unemployment.

"To see the positive side, I think the commission has put domestic hunger back in the headlines," Father Byron said, so that perhaps political pressure will make sure something is done about it.

Irish Entertainers Set Show at Aquinas

A program of Irish entertainers, featuring Dublin's Danny Justice and Mickey McFadden, currently playing in Toronto, will be staged 3-6 p.m., Sunday, March 4, in the auditorium of Aquinas Institute.

Rounding out the bill will be performances by the Dady Brothers, the Penrose Dancers and students from the Butler Academy of Dancing.

Deadline

Deadline for news in the Courier-Journal is noon on Thursday, preceding Wednesday publication. The Courier-Journal address is 114 S. Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607.

The event was organized by Seamus McGinnity, and advance tickets are available at his restaurant, 534 Ridge Road West, for \$6.

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Sarah Child



All in the Family

Never Twain They'll Meet, Or Alcott

Every time I buy books for our kids I bemoan the fact that I could never get them interested in the ones I enjoyed as a youngster.

It is one bond we will never share and it pains a little because the friends I found in those stories long ago are as dear to me now as when I first met them.

On a brief visit to the family home this past week, I found on the bookshelves a copy of Louise May Alcott's "Rose in Bloom," a sequel to "Eight Cousins."

Inside, in my mother's handwriting, is my sister Thomasina's name, indicating that it had been a Christmas present some 35 years ago.

Since my sister didn't seem particularly interested, I "borrowed" the book and brought it home to enjoy again the adventures of Rose, Uncle Alec, Cousins Mac, Archie, Charlie, and Jamie, etc.

If the author's characters are idealized and their ways of expressing themselves outdated, their foibles are not. Neither are their dreams and aspirations and I suspect that that is why some children are still identifying with the books written more than 100 years ago.

Miss Alcott's "Little Women" was the finest full-length novel that I ever read and at the age of 8 I took Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy to my heart where they remain to this day.

How many times in the intervening years have I cried over Beth's death, become indignant over Aunt March's high-handed treatment of Jo, thrilled to Meg's romance? It was "Little

Women" which decided for me that writing stories and transporting readers had to be the best of all possible vocations.

Years later when my husband suggested we name our first child Johanna, I responded eagerly. It gave me my own "Jo."

Anne, spelled with an E please as the heroine always requested, is another lifelong friend. Green Gables, the farmhouse where she grew up, is as real to me as my own childhood home and I'm still promising myself a trip to Prince Edward Island where the little red-haired orphan came to live with Marilla and Matthew and found her own best friend in the dark-haired, bright-eyed Diana.

Heidi, Becky Thatcher and Tom were other soulmates as was Robinson Crusoe although I never could come to empathize with Jim of Treasure Island.

Later on, I discovered Zane Grey and as far as I can remember read all of his Westerns.

I know better than to suggest them to my kids. Teenage novels about rape, abortion, divorce and gang fights is what is being peddled these days as literature. Younger children are being encouraged to read books with problems almost as harrowing. Grab and hold their attention seems to be the chief criterion.

I am the last one to suggest that kids should go back to the kind of reading which gave me so much pleasure. This is, as I am reminded frequently, almost the 21st Century.

And yet I wonder which character will stay with today's young readers so that 40 years hence they will remember with pleasure their first introduction to a beloved hero or heroine?