



Holy Family Reunion

The 1934 graduating class of Holy Family School poses for its portrait. Members of the class will gather for their 50th anniversary, beginning with a memorial Mass, 5 p.m. May 12, at the church, and followed by a reception and dinner at Dandrea's Party House, 1713 Lyell Ave. Reservations are being accepted by calling Margaret Imhof St. John, 254-9238; or Mary Cisterna Schwartz, 328-5404.



Photographer, Theater Unit Win Grants

The Nazareth Arts Center Children's Theater Program and Lawrence Merrill, a member of the college's Art Department faculty, were awarded \$1,000 LIFT grants for local performances, publications and art works.

The grants are from Arts for Greater Rochester and represent funding from Monroe County and area businesses. The LIFT (Local Incentive Funding Test) program was designed by the State Council on the Arts.

The Nazareth theater program was awarded \$1,000 in support of a production of "American Folktales" to be presented next Fall in area elementary schools by the TIC/TOC Players.

Merrill received his grant to produce a series of photographs to be taken in Monroe County parks for Fall exhibit at the Little Gallery.

Father Drinan Speaker At Bar Group's Dinner

Father Robert F. Drinan, SJ, will be the featured speaker for the Monroe County Bar Association's Law Week Dinner, and a jointly sponsored series of legal presentations cosponsored with Monroe Community College, today, May 2.

Father Drinan is professor of Law at Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C., specializing in international human rights, constitutional law, civil liberties, legislation and arms control.

For a decade, until 1981, he was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, stepping aside from that role in accord with the discipline of the Church.

He also is an author and has written five books including the widely read

"Vietnam and Armageddon." He will speak to students and the public, noon today at Monroe Community College. The address is free.

He will address the topic, "Can Law Make Freedom Work for World Peace?" at the bar association's dinner, 7:15 p.m., today at the Mapledale Party House.

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Jews, Arabs Subject at Corpus Christi

Father Elias Chacour, an Arab who is also a Talmudic Scholar at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, will deliver a presentation, "Being Nonviolent in a Violent Situation: Can Jews and Arabs Get Along?" at 7:30 p.m., Friday, May 4, at Corpus Christi School, 800 E. Main St.

Father Chacour, a Catholic Melkite priest, has doctoral degrees in theology and ecumenical studies. His talk will be co-sponsored by Genesee Ecumenical Ministries, Pax Christi of Rochester and Corpus Christi parish's Family Ministry.

More information is available from John Engels at 325-2424.

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Religious Educators Surprised At Vatican Rejection of Book

By NC News Service
 Religious educators in several U.S. dioceses reacted with surprise to the April 16 announcement that after 17 years Paulist Press was halting circulation of the book "Christ Among Us" at the request of the Vatican's doctrinal congregation.

Some questioned how the congregation came to its conclusions about the book, which the educators said was used for preparing catechumens to enter the Catholic Church, for high school religious education programs and in classes for people inquiring about church faith and practices.

(Editor's Note: Sister Mary Ann Binsack, director of Religious Education for the Rochester diocese, said "After so many years of use with general satisfaction, I find it curious that it be withdrawn now. It was never intended to be the only source for learning about Catholicism. Many parishes in the diocese find it adequate. It will be very hard to replace.")

The director of religious education for the Diocese of Steubenville, Ohio, Dominican Sister Matthias Sterner, said the book "must have some merit" because it "sparked so much learning and questioning over a 17-year period."

Several religious educators were concerned by the Vatican's apparent reaction to Catholic for the Faith complaints about the book without feedback from catechists using it.

"I find it amazing that one particular group or organization could have such an influence while it appears that those of us involved in the education of adults throughout the United States have little or no influence," said Father John Norman, director of vocations for the Diocese of Salt Lake City.

After using the book for five years, Father Norman said he has "seen new members of the church actively and enthusiastically involved in the local parishes. I have seen people strive to make the Gospel a part of their daily

lives." Referring to CUF complaints that the book was a "poisonous fountain of neo-modernist errors," Father Norman remarked, "Neo-modernism it is not; a vibrant and dynamic ecclesiology it is."

Sacred Heart of Mary Sister Ann Walsh, director of religious education for the Diocese of Raleigh, N.C., said she wondered about "the Vatican congregation's responsibility to the catechetical community to wait 17 years before finally informing us" that the book was unsuitable for catechists.

"If there were such serious doubts about the book, why weren't those people working in the field contacted for feedback? The Vatican's action seems more like a reaction based on disagreement or dislike rather than a concerned response toward the catechetical community," Sister Walsh said.

Mercy Sister Jeanne Marie Kienast, director of religious education for the Diocese of Charlotte, N.C., said the book "certainly isn't contrary to what other theologians are saying."

Father Robert Coerver of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Plano, Texas, said he used the book in his basic doctrine classes. The book "gave a thorough presentation of the faith and

provided an opportunity for people to probe the faith at various levels."

Every work "is going to have holes in it," he said, but "Christ Among Us" was "one of the best contemporary presentations of post-Vatican II theological thinking" available.

Father Ronald Lewinski, director of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults program for the Archdiocese of Chicago, said "pastors and catechists found the book to be comprehensive and popular in style and, so, suitable for catechizing new Catholics."

"But, most pastors and catechists would readily agree that the text has limitations like any catechisms and so they naturally supplemented the text with other material," he said.

However, Father Lewinski added, "too much concern over a catechism text could give the impression that becoming a Catholic Christian is simply an academic exercise."

Father Lewinski also said he hoped the doctrinal congregation would make its specific objections to the book available "so that we might all have a better sense of what is expected in the official teaching."

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