

Department of General Education Explains Tuition Subsidy Program

The diocesan Department of General Education recently issued a paper on the "Diocesan Tuition Subsidy Program and Wilson Foundation, 1984-1985." Following is the text of that release.

The purpose of the Diocesan Tuition Subsidy Program begun in 1974 continues to be to extend aid to children of the most economically poor to receive the benefits of Catholic Secondary and Elementary education. This year the subsidy totaled \$165,532.

Committees exist to review applications for the allocation of the subsidy. The criteria which is used is that applicants must submit a standard form that shows income and holdings. All properly documented applications are reviewed. A per cent of funding is usually granted to those whose income is below \$3,500 per person in the family. (That includes children under 18 and parents or guardians. Exceptions are made sometimes as each application is reviewed on its own merit.

The high school subsidies are 25% or 40% of an average tuition. The elementary is 25% or 50%.

Once applicants have been awarded the subsidy, the receiving schools is notified of this award. The school then directly notifies the applicant. Payment is made from the Diocesan Office to the education institution to be credited toward the tuition of the family receiving the subsidy.

Allocation for 1984-1985			
Type of Grant	# of Applicants	% of Applicants	# of Subsidies
Secondary	247	62%	151
Elementary	276	76%	211
Elementary (Out-of-City)	225	75%	168

Total Subsidies: 748
Number Awarded: 530 or 71%
To reach 530 or 71% of the applicants was not the end of the story this year. The Joseph C. and Marie C. Wilson Foundation awarded a diocese a \$75,000 grant to be directed to middle income families. Because of this aid another 144 families were reached. Thus a total of 674 families were helped in providing a Catholic Education for their children. Are there more families to help? The answer is a resounding "Yes."

Committee members this year included: Sister Mary Louis Whalen SSND, Andrew Boone, Sister Nancy Kelly RSM, Rose Boice, Pilar Vilar-Glassow and Mary Walker. Sister Virginia Steinwachs SSJ was chairperson. The committee meets once a week for about eight weeks and reviews about 100 applicants each session. It is demanding but members are well rewarded with the final report of families helped.

Process will begin again next March. Parents may obtain application forms at that time from Catholic School where child is registered.



CYO Points Way

Maryellen Sinicropi of the Catholic Youth Organization's training service staff, makes a point during her presentation, "So You Want a Job," during a recent career day held for the entire student body at Nazareth Academy. The day had workshops for each class level, and is part of the on-going careers program at the school. According to Sister Carol Cimino SSJ, school spokesperson, "Small-group sessions, resource materials and even computer software are available to students to help them to a head start in the career search."

Portanova Will Chair Criminal Justice Unit

Carolyn Portanova, director of Restart Substance Abuse Services, a program of Catholic Family Center, has been elected to chair the board of directors of the New York State Coalition for Criminal Justice, Inc.

The coalition is a state network of public policy reform advocates with a main office in Albany. Founded in 1971, the coalition claims membership of more than 50 members and hundreds of individuals.

Engaged in lobbying, public education and criminal justice research, the coalition advocates for an end to imprisonment in certain cases, increased services for crime victims and a further understanding of the criminal justice system. Issues such as prison overcrowding, the death penalty and sentence

reform make up much of the coalition's annual legislative agenda.

According to Van Zwisohn, the coalition's executive director, "Ms. Portanova is an excellent choice for the organization's leadership. She has knowledge, experience, and a very strong commitment to a safe, effective and fair criminal justice system."

Ms. Portanova is also a board member of the Rochester Interfaith Jail Ministry, a member of the Genesee Ecumenical Ministries Judicial Process Commission, a member of the New York State Catholic Conference's Criminal Justice Advisory Committee and a member of the board of the Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency.

Cenacle Sets Prayer Retreat

Father William Connolly SJ will direct a "Prayer of Relationship with the Lord Retreat," Feb. 8-10 at the Cenacle Renewal Center, 693 East Ave.

Father Connolly, a noted retreat director, author and spiritual director is with the Cambridge Center for Religious development.

The agenda includes conferences, personal reflection and faith sharing.

Further information is available from the Cenacle Ministry Office, (716) 271-8755.

Charismatic Mass

Elmira—The Charismatic Renewal groups in the Elmira area have invited the public to a Mass, 7:30 p.m., Friday, Jan. 11 at St. Cecilia's Church.

Ithaca Parish Observes 25th

Ithaca—St. Catherine of Siena Church began the observance of its 25th anniversary Dec. 28 with a special Mass, followed by a dance and closing with a continental champagne breakfast.

The Mass was celebrated by Father Michael Hogan, pastor; Father John Maloney, pastor emeritus; Father Thomas Cleary, pastor of Holy Cross Church in Dryden and brother of the founding pastor of St. Catherine, Msgr. Donald M.

Clery; and Father William Kelly, who has assisted at the parish for several years.

The Peter Lovi Band played music for the dancing which followed.

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

Celebrating An Idea

Sunday Readings: (R3) Mt. 2: 1-12. (R1) Is. 60: 1-6. (R2) Eph. 2: 2-3, 5-6.

The feast of Epiphany is a feast that relates more to a concept than to a single fact. Christmas refers to a specific event—the birth of Christ; but Epiphany refers to a specific idea—that of God revealing Himself, not just to a select group, the Chosen People, but to all peoples—the world!

The first reading from Isaiah describes in six short verses the future greatness of Jerusalem. The generation to whom Isaiah was speaking still tingled from the slavery of the Babylonian captivity. Jerusalem's temple was still a shambles and the city itself was without walls. Yet the prophet commanded the dispirited returnees from exile to rise up and to awake to their new greatness. "Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem!"

And what was to be the basis of their new hope? Not Jerusalem, but what was to come to Jerusalem: the Light of the World! And this Light was to be not just for the Jews; but in the words of Simeon "a Light (Christ) to reveal you (God the Father) to the nations." The peoples wrapped in darkness were to see Him and walk in the radiance of that Light. From the East (Midian, Ephah, Sheba) to the West ("the riches of the sea"), nations and kings would come proclaiming the presence of the Lord. The presence of the Lord would radically reverse the position of Jerusalem in days to come.

St. Paul, who on the road to Damascus experienced a very personal "epiphany"

of our Lord, called this revelation 'to the nations "God's secret plan."

The Gospel is a beautiful study in contrasts, presaging the different treatment Christ would receive from His own and from the Gentiles. Herod has the Scribes and the Scriptures; the wise men have only a mute star. Yet the star speaks to the wise men; whereas the Scribes speaking Scripture say nothing at all to Herod. The Magi seek truth; Herod tries to destroy the Truth. In Herod fear dominates; in the Wise Men joy predominates. The Wise Men bring gifts; Herod seeks to take the life of the Child. Herod seeks in vain: the Wise Men are warned to return home by another route.

Faith is entry into a new world—the invisible world of reality. The door to faith is God's word.

Angels came to the shepherds; a star came to the Wise Men. Both spoke in the medium familiar to their audience. Both invited their hearers to a search for God. Accepting the invitation meant leaving one's everyday world for a few moments to discover a new world. Both the shepherds and the Wise Men accepted the invitation. For one brief shining moment they found the King of Glory wrapped in the swaddling clothes of a baby. Their hearts and minds were opened. They went back to their everyday world, but they were never the same after that finding. They had discovered that God loves all men and came as a Babe precisely to save all mankind. That fact imposes upon each of us the obligation to be as stars to the unbelieving world by the joyful witness of our lives and to be as angels to our world of faith by celebration of glory to God and our loving kindness to our faith community.

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