

Bishop to Celebrate Rites of Election

Bishop Matthew H. Clark will celebrate Rites of Election for catechumens and candidates at four prayer services next week.

Liturgies of the Word are scheduled at 3 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 24 at St. Alphonsus,

Auburn; at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 27 and Friday, March 1 at Sacred Heart Cathedral; and at noon, Saturday, March 2, at Our Lady of Lourdes, Elmira.

Within the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), the Rite of Election

marks the beginning of the Period of Enlightenment.

According to the diocesan Liturgy Office, this rite is "the 'election' of the catechumens to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. For can-

didates, this celebration is an affirmation of their journey of faith.

Sponsors and "core communities who have accompanied the catechumens and candidates on their journey of faith" are invited to attend.

Tragedy Raises Issue

Women Can Perform First 2 Readings

By NC News Service
Although the alleged killer of a priest and two other men in a Wisconsin church Feb. 7 reportedly believed that laws forbid women lectors, official church documents

clearly permit either men or women to give the first two Scripture readings at Mass.

Father John Daniel Rossiter, pastor of St. Patrick's Church in Onalaska, Wis., and two parish

workers were killed just minutes after the priest celebrated Mass for 200 school children Feb. 7.

The principal of the school, Franciscan Sister Rose Frances Phalin, said

that the man arrested in the case, Bryan Stanley, 29, had argued with Father Rossiter just before Mass over the priest's use of girls as readers at Mass. She said he claimed the priest had no authority to do that.

Women read at Masses practically everywhere in the United States, however, and the practice is endorsed by Vatican documents.

For example, norms issued in 1980 by the Vatican Congregation for the Sacraments and Divine Worship, known by the Latin title "Inestimabile Donum," said:

"There are, of course, various roles that women can perform in the liturgical assembly: these include reading the word of God and proclaiming the intentions of the Prayer of the Faithful."

The new Code of Canon Law, a comprehensive code of general church laws which took effect in November 1983, says that only "lay men" -- not women -- may be formally "instituted" as lectors (readers) and acolytes (altar servers).

But the same law says "lay people" -- men and women alike, or boys or girls old enough to do the job -- "can receive a temporary assignment to the role of lector" and "can exercise the ministry of the word" where "the needs of the church require and (regularly instituted) ministers are not available."

When the Vatican document establishing lector and acolyte as formal lay ministries was issued in 1972, the Vatican spokesman who explained it to the press emphasized that women could still be assigned to be readers as before, even though they could not be formally instituted in that ministry. The new document made no change in that practice, he said.

When Pope John Paul II visited the United States in 1979, women served as readers at several papal Masses, including one in the nation's capital.

When the pope visited Canada last year, the role of women at papal liturgies -- including Scripture reader at Mass -- was even more prominent.

Addressing Peace

The Rev. George Hill, chairman of the Board for the National Peace Academy Campaign, will speak at 8 p.m., Monday, Feb. 25 at the Third Presbyterian Church, East Avenue at Meigs Street. The event is being sponsored by the Commission on Interfaith Cooperation, a joint agency of Genesee Ecumenical Ministries and the Jewish Community Federation.

Irish Benefit

The Irish Children's Program Class/Club Western Square Dance will be 8 p.m., Friday, Feb. 22 at McQuaid Jesuit High School, 1800 Clinton Ave. Proceeds will benefit the Irish Children's Program which over the past three summers has brought 70 children from Belfast.

Cap Book Sets Up Endowment Fund

A \$25,000 endowment fund to aid children awaiting adoption has been established by The Cap Book, Inc., the result of a donation from the estate of a deceased South Dakota farmer.

Peggy Soule, Cap Book executive director, said, "We are grateful for the support of the National Enquirer and the gift from Ernest Gatzke for making the endowment possible."

The Gatzke grant came through the children's fund of the National Enquirer.

The Cap Nook and the Enquirer became associated in 1980 when the national weekly began a weekly "A Child Is Waiting" series, featuring children from the book.

In 1982 when the Cap Book was in financial difficulty, the Enquirer printed an appeal for money from its readers and opened the drive with a \$10,000 gift.

"Apparently it was the weekly series and the appeal which caught the eye of Mr. Gatzke who was an avid reader of the Enquirer," Mrs. Soule said.

Fr. Reddington

Continued from Page 1
dington, in Pittsford, and taking up duties at Groveland State Prison, St. Louis in Pittsford, and elsewhere.

The priest was known for his willingness to assist those in need, his good humor and

his culinary skills. The last were featured in the local press in 1981.

Father Reddington is also survived by two sisters, Dorothy Appleby of Rochester and Peg Webb of Florida; and many nieces and nephews.

Diocese and Exploring: Sweet Smell of Success

By Duane Pancoast

Last summer, the diocesan Division of Youth Ministry and the Exploring Division of the Boy Scouts of America came together like peanut butter and chocolate in the candy commercials on television. The result was EGYM -- Exploring Christian Youth Ministry -- which combines the best of both programs to give parishes the direction they need for forming and sustaining a youth group.

Pat Fox, diocesan director of Youth Ministry, was looking for a way to bring an effective youth group program to parishes. Exploring, Scouting's coed young adult division, wanted to extend its career and special interest program to parish youth groups. This year, three parishes have been using the program, and each says it is successful.

The parishes using the EGYM program, according to Dick Trier, Oretiana Council Exploring director, represent a diocesan cross-section. Post 464 is chartered to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in rural Hamlin; Post 200 to St. Boniface, a Rochester city parish, and Post 325 is at St. John's of Rochester, in suburban Perinton.

At St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Carol Bardeen and Toni Logan lead EGYM Post 464. Last Fall, parishioners met to consider a youth group and felt that EGYM offered the benefits of organization, facilities and program, especially shared activities with other Exploring posts. Mrs. Bardeen says most young people were familiar with Exploring because the Hamlin Fire Department has an active post.

Some girls expressed surprise that they could belong to the Boy Scouts (they can) and the 15 coed members enjoyed a full Fall and Winter program, including a hayride, fundraising dance and a pizza party after cutting Christmas trees for the church and helping to decorate for the holiday. A winter outing is being planned.

St. Boniface had traditional youth groups up to last year. Walter Wesp, whose daughter was interested in a youth group, volunteered to look into a program. Pastors had received letters from Bishop Matthew H. Clark alerting them to the EGYM program and Religious Education directors received more detailed information from Fox's office with a return form for the organization and program manuals. St. Boniface sent for them, Wesp liked what he saw, felt EGYM addressed the problems that has led to the downfall of previous groups and began to form a post.

Although Post 200 has only been organized since September, it has youth officers trained and leading it. It meets twice a month and has helped prepare second graders for First Communion, had a Winter dance, collected money for the poor and helped operating committees within the parish. Future activities include a camping weekend at Oretiana Council's Camp Cutler in South Bristol, a pancake breakfast for the parish and working at the parish Winterfest.

"Youth officers," Trier said, "are very important to the success of EGYM posts. In Exploring, adults serve as advisers. Young people run the program. But their success depends on proper training. Training leaders in the use of our programs has been one of the major contributors to the success of all BSA programs. That's why we are able to celebrate our diamond jubilee this year."

Post 200 has 18 members and Wesp says girls outnumber boys, 2 to 1. Asked if the girls resisted membership in the Boy Scouts, he said, "There was a little

resistance at first but they don't mind being associated with Exploring as long as they don't have to wear uniforms. They are looking for their purpose in life and there are many Exploring opportunities which give them that chance. Adding the Christian emphasis to the EGYM program further helps their search for values as well as careers."

At St. John of Rochester in Perinton, adviser Earl Knab said they ran into substantial resistance to affiliating with the Boy Scouts. He said some felt that EGYM was too structured and that it would be better if everyone took turns planning meetings. Things started falling apart under that system, Knab said, because nobody was in charge. Now that the EGYM post has been established, officers have been elected and trained, meet three times a month as a full post and once for officers only.

Although chartered as an EGYM post, Knab said it is seldom referred to as such. It is simply called the parish youth group. The EGYM organization, program and training, however, has gotten the youth group on the right track, according to Knab. It has sponsored a Halloween party, planned the Christmas Eve Teen Mass, taken part in the STAR program which serves homebound seniors and ran a sledding party. Members also decorated Christmas trees for four shut-ins and are working on a parishwide teen retreat for March. Their greatest challenge, however, will be their takeover of The Ark, the parish's teen coffee house, which provides music and entertainment for youths on Saturday nights.

Knab said a youth group was not active in the parish when he volunteered to form one last Fall. The Boy Scout leader pushed for EGYM because of its organizational and training advantages. The post has 14 members, equally divided between boys and girls.

Nationally, Exploring is expected to top the million-member mark in 1985. The Rochester-based Oretiana Council has one of the most active Exploring divisions in the country, according to Trier.

"Exploring is a far cry from stereotyped Scouting," Trier said. It is for young men and women 14 to 20 to explore their career and special interests. Career-interest posts are chartered to business and industry. Firearmics posts are chartered to fire departments, law enforcement posts to police agencies and medical posts to hospitals. Career Awareness Exploring takes the program directly into area high schools for weekly career seminars by local people. Cooperating with the diocese to develop and service an Exploring program for parish use in ministering to youths was a natural next step."

The diocese's Fox added, "The needs of youths extend far beyond the resources of the Department of Youth Ministry. Providing the personal service each of our 168 parishes in 12 counties needs would be impossible. The seven Boy Scout councils serving the diocese, however, have the people, most of them volunteers, in each community to help organize units and keep them healthy. The second factor is the Exploring program itself. Scouting is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year and Exploring in its present form is nearly 20 years old. It obviously works. Direction for youth leadership is the ingredient lacking in establishing every parish youth group. And this is the major ingredient Exploring puts in the EGYM program."



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5 RJ

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