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Art and Science in the Heavens



Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal

At the Art and Science in the Heavens Fair at Immaculate Conception School, Ithaca, on Wednesday, May 15, Kimberly Johnson, 10, and Danny Sullivan, 8, put their heads together examining Tim Camilli's model of the bones and joints of the arm with a scale model of the moon orbiting to the right.



Janet Olsen and Stacy Johnson, 6, look at the weather vanes the fifth grade made to discover the characteristics of atmospheric pressure and moving air.



Sixth grader Michelle Holleneck tries to get her Cartesian diver to float up and down in a pop bottle. The sixth grade made three-dimensional sculptures representing the elements they chose to study.

Waterloo Meeting Interprets Meaning Of Pastoral Letter

By Teresa A. Parsons

The Bishops' Pastoral Letter on Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy was the topic of a conference attended by more than 200 ministers of the Diocese of Rochester Monday, May 13, at the Holiday Inn in Waterloo.

The day-long agenda included presentations by Father Arthur McGovern, SJ, Dr. Charles Wilbur of the University of Notre Dame, and Father Charles Mulligan, with opportunities for questions and discussion. Bishop Matthew H. Clark introduced the program and concluded the day with summary remarks.

Father McGovern, a professor at the University of Detroit, addressed the first sections of the pastoral letter on economics dealing with biblical and theological foundations and policy applications, then focused on the central values of the pastoral economy in comparison to American political and economic values.

"The heart of the pastoral is concern for human dignity," Father McGovern said, adding that this value is and has been central to all Catholic social teaching and that the letter brings together a rich biblical tradition.

Human dignity is expressed in the Christian community by elevation of basic human needs such as food, shelter and work to the same status as political rights, said Father McGovern, explaining that the U.S. bishops are calling for economic planning in their "New American Experiment."

"The bishops are saying that competition and the free-market system alone should not determine conditions like employment — high or low," said Father McGovern.

He said that while traditional American values are practical and stress the importance of the individual, pastoral values are more idealistic, measuring the justice of society as a whole by how the poor and powerless are treated.

"One thing Catholic social teaching has most often overlooked is productivity," Father McGovern said, adding that "equalizing poverty doesn't mean anything."

Father McGovern's presentation was followed with reactions by two panel members, Jim Lund and Barbara Lamphear, and a period for questions.

Mary Hejdkamp, director of the Department of Justice and Peace, then provided an overview of the way input on the pastoral letter was gathered at the diocesan and regional levels.

After a break for lunch, Dr. Charles Wilbur, a member of the economics department of the University of Notre Dame and one of four advisers to the national bishops' committee responsible for drafting and re-drafting the economics pastoral, spoke. He outlined the process which generated the bishop's first draft of the pastoral, described the essence of that draft's section on applications, and concluded with remarks on the progress of the bishops' second draft.

"Economic institutions and policies are not value-free or free of moral concerns ... they are heavily intertwined," Wilbur said, adding that the American bishops have written on economic issues "for a very long time," and citing one of their most famous letters in 1919, which called for the minimum wage and child labor laws among other reforms.

Noting that the parts of the document dealing with economic rights have brought

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STAR Volunteers Lend a Hand to Area Senior Citizens

By Teresa A. Parsons

Last year, Dorothy gave her car to her grandchildren in Michigan. At 83, she has recovered from a major accident that four years ago left her with a concussion, broken pelvis and internal injuries, but she just doesn't feel confident driving anymore.

Without her car, she faced some hard decisions — whether to give up her suburban home for one with better access to transportation, move to Michigan to live nearer to her daughter, or continue to depend on the help of friends and neighbors.

Meanwhile, she recalled, panic set in each time her groceries began to run low or a doctor's appointment loomed ahead.

Then someone suggested STAR — Sharing, Touching, Acting, Reaching. A program offered by Catholic Family Center, STAR aims to help elderly persons keep their independence and stay in their homes as long as possible while promoting awareness of issues affecting people as they grow old. Specifically, the program matches volunteers of all ages with elderly persons' needs for

transportation, or in some cases just an occasional friendly visit or phone call.

At 9:24 a.m. sharp last Thursday, Harry Singles, a STAR volunteer, pulled into the driveway of Dorothy's Penfield home. "Actually I told her 9:30, so I'm a little early," he said, but she was ready and waiting at the door. As he helped her into his car, Singles complimented her dress and matching earrings, adjusted her seat belt, and they were off to their first stop, the dentist.

Although the two met only a month or so

ago, they already talked like longtime friends. But then Singles, a 63-year-old Pittsford resident, has that effect on most people. STAR's volunteer coordinator, Wendy Bair, calls it a gift for relating, but more simply stated, he is a man who finds joy in even the most ordinary life experiences.

"It's a feathery time of year," Dorothy said as they took the scenic route along Allens Creek, and there was a note in her

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