The Family Apostolate

IN PICTURES

FAMILY LIFE BUREAU • NATIONAL CATHOLIC WELFARE CONFERENCE
1312 Massachusetts Avenue, Northwest, Washington 5, D.C.

Foreward

The publication of this picture brochure showing a variety of activities that constitute the family life movement of the day, was prompted by the following words recorded in the 1948 Statement of the Bishops of the United States, "The Christian in Action."

> Our Catholic Family Life Bureau plans and offers programs which make for a veritable apostolate of the Catholic home. It is gratifying to see the use that is being made of these programs by our Catholic lay organizations and the spread of this work in our dioceses. These activities serve as a powerful antidote to the venom of secularism and withstand its withering effect on piety and virtue in the American home.

We trust that The Family Apostolate in Pictures will give a renewed impetus to the family life movement that has been constantly gathering momentum in the Church over the past two decades, a movement that, it is earnestly hoped, will eventually carry our family life to the highest heights it has ever reached in history.

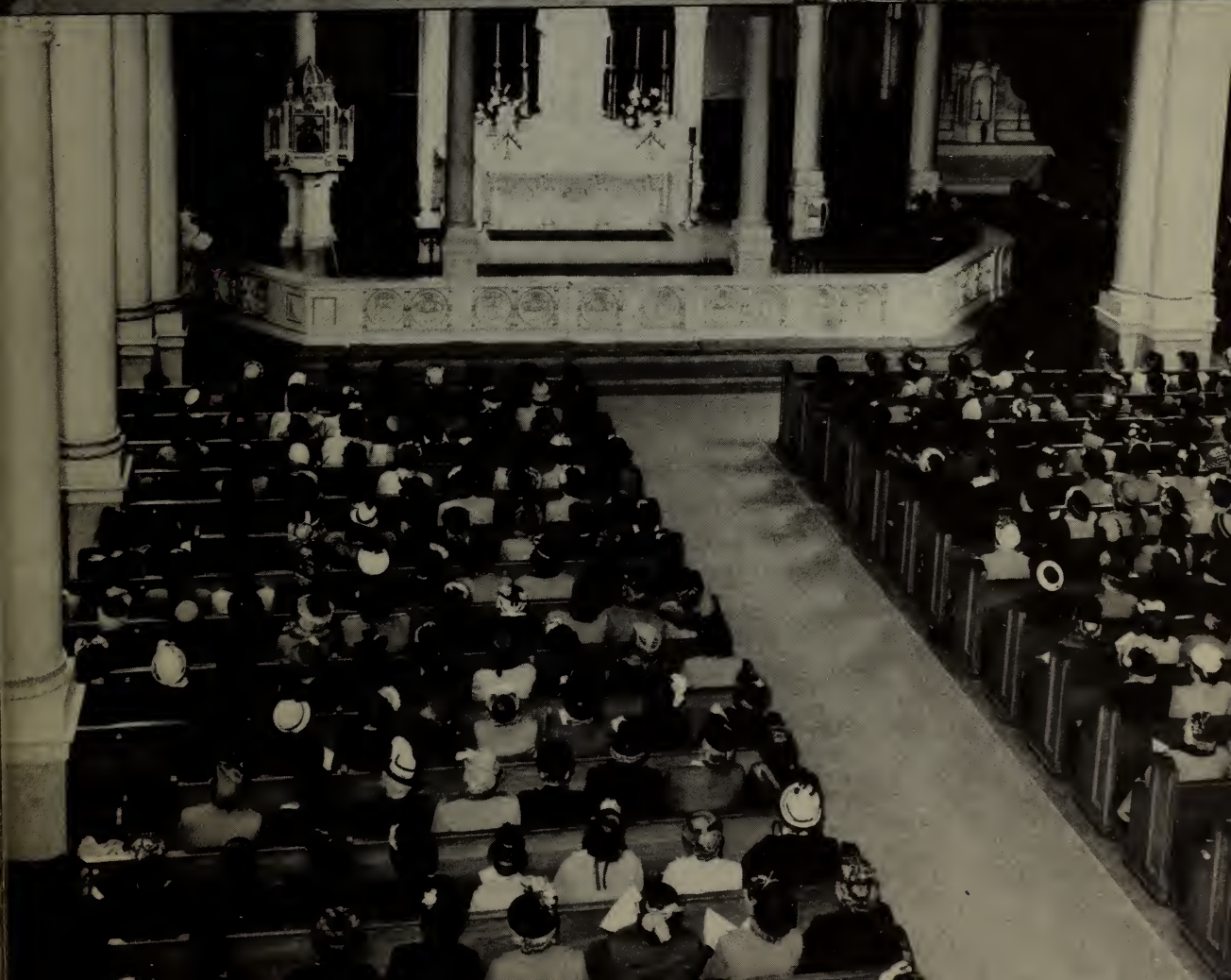
Parents' Groups

For years past thousands of groups throughout the country have been devoting their attention to the study of marriage and the family and child care and training. Among these are many groups of mothers, and also of fathers and mothers.

The picture above shows the Ave Maria Mothers' Circle of Meriden, Connecticut, one of the many mothers' circles of the Hartford diocese, in session at the home of one of the members. Rev. Charles McNerney, shown in the picture, is spiritual director of the group. Shown standing beyond him in the picture, is Mrs. William Hempp, who is acting as leader at the session. Rev. Frederick A. McLean directs the combined work of the mothers' circles in the diocese. Rev. John Knott directs the Cana conference work.

The upper picture on the right is that of the St. Anne's Holy Family Guild of San Antonio in session at the home of one of the members. Both husbands and wives belong to the Holy Family Guilds of the Archdiocese of San Antonio and attend the meetings. All the guild units are federated, forming the Association of Holy Family Guilds. Rev. A. Leopold, shown in the picture, is moderator of the Association and director of Family Life in the Archdiocese. Most attention is devoted to family study by the various Guild units, but social affairs are not neglected.

More than 1400 parish units of the Confraternity of Christian Mothers in the United States devote their attention toward keeping the ideals of motherhood and Christian family life at the highest level. The Capuchin Fathers have long taken a special interest in the Confraternity. The church scene pictured opposite shows the Very Rev. Claude Vogel, Provincial of the Capuchin Order in the United States, addressing a group of Confraternity members in St. Boniface church, Milwaukee. The occasion was a regional meeting. Rev. Bertin Roll, O.F.M., Cap., seated in the sanctuary, is Director General of the Confraternity.



Lectures, Forums, Family Retreats, Conferences, etc.

Variety is characteristic both of the activities that constitute the family life movement and of the channels of action that are utilized in promoting it. Some of the channels are: the printed word, the radio, the lecture, the forum, the discussion club, the convention, the family retreat, the sermon, the conference, the school system, the parish, and a variety of agencies and organizations. All are helpful in teaching a correct ideology of Christian marriage, in disseminating information helpful to successful family living, and in inspiring to high ideals in Christian family life.

The picture opposite shows an annual meeting of the League of Catholic Women of the Archdiocese of Boston in session. This organization annually conducts a marriage preparation lecture series for young women, and promotes other activities in the field of marriage and the family. The woman farthest to the left on the speakers' platform is Mrs. John S. Reilly, who, because of her consistent lecturing and writing in behalf of a better family life, was several years ago presented the Family Action Award given annually by the Family Life Bureau.

Picture to the left, below, shows an informal session at a family retreat affording the retreatants an opportunity for questions. Rev. Richard T. Doherty, shown in the picture, is Director of Family Life in the Archdiocese of St. Paul. The particular retreat was held at St. Peter's parish, Mendota, Minn.

The Director of the Family Life Bureau addresses thousands of people each year, usually among them some hundreds of seminarians. While the family apostolate is a subject that appeals to all audiences, students for the priesthood show a particularly keen interest in it. The picture below shows the director speaking with several seminarians after an address on the family retreat given at St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore in the spring of 1949.

Family Devotional Practices

There is much evidence of a return to a vaierty of religious practices in the home — prayers in common, the use of sacramentals, etc. Historically, the rosary has been a popular family devotion among all Catholic peoples. The enthronement of the Sacred Heart in the home is enjoying a particularly rapid growth of recent years, due especially to the efforts of the Fathers of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

The picture below shows the Rev. Francis Larkin, SS.CC., Director of the Enthronement Center at Washington, officiating at an enthronement service in a home.

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Picture opposite, another enthronement inauguration. The parents in the picture need have little fear their youngsters will become delinquent.

* * *

Seven P.M. is rosary time for the family shown in the picture to the right below.

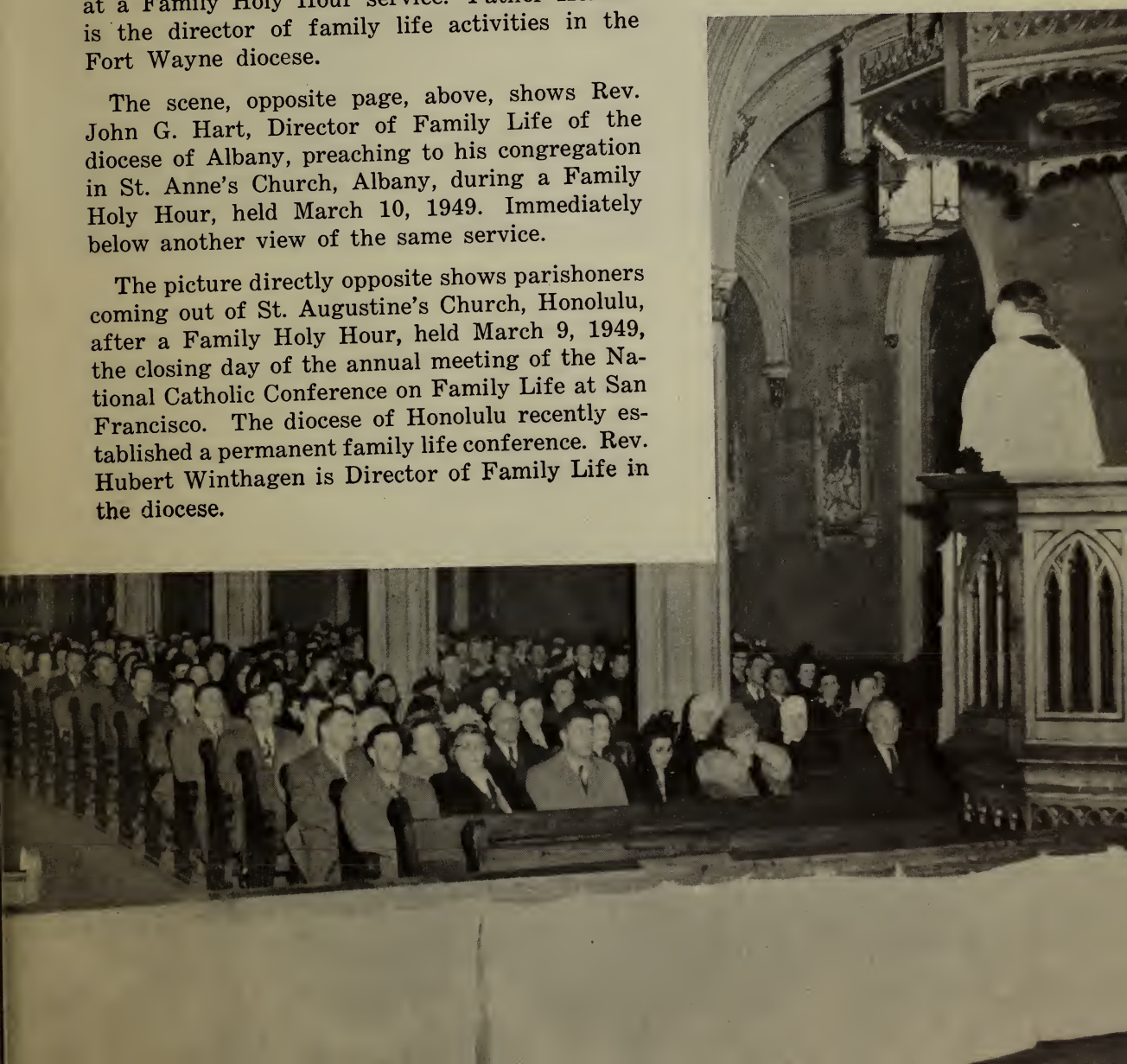
The Family Holy Hour

The practice of the Family Holy Hour has rapidly become popular. Such a Holy Hour is always held as the closing session of the national family conference, sponsored annually by the Family Life Bureau. The past two years the parishes of over fifty dioceses joined in holding a Family Holy Hour the same evening.

The church scene, bottom, opposite page, shows Rev. Joseph Hennes, pastor of St. Rose de Lima parish, Monroeville, Indiana, leading his parishioners in the renewal of their marriage promises at a Family Holy Hour service. Father Hennes is the director of family life activities in the Fort Wayne diocese.

The scene, opposite page, above, shows Rev. John G. Hart, Director of Family Life of the diocese of Albany, preaching to his congregation in St. Anne's Church, Albany, during a Family Holy Hour, held March 10, 1949. Immediately below another view of the same service.

The picture directly opposite shows parishoners coming out of St. Augustine's Church, Honolulu, after a Family Holy Hour, held March 9, 1949, the closing day of the annual meeting of the National Catholic Conference on Family Life at San Francisco. The diocese of Honolulu recently established a permanent family life conference. Rev. Hubert Winthagen is Director of Family Life in the diocese.



Special Features

Among special features promoted by the Family Life Bureau are: honoring outstanding Catholic mothers; honoring individuals who have done particularly effective work in behalf of a better family life, encouraging the revival of the religious family customs that have been common among different ethnic or racial groups, and fostering the practice of recitation of the pledge to Christian marriage and the renewal of the marriage promises.

A number of dioceses and archdioceses also select a mother-of-the-year. In the archdiocese of New Orleans the mother that is chosen receives what is known as the Regina Matrum Award. The picture, lower right, shows the 1949 award being presented to Mrs. Charles Miller. Left to right on the picture are: Mrs. John Bandi, President of the Council of Catholic School Cooperative Clubs, the Most Rev. L. Abel Caillouet, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, Rt. Rev. Columban Thuis, O.S.B, Abbot of St. Joseph's Abbey, St. Benedict, La.; Mrs. Miller; Rev. Henry C. Bezou, Spiritual Director of CCSCC.

The picture above shows the participants in a panel on Family Religious Customs at the National Catholic Conference on Family Life, held at San Francisco, in mid-lent 1949. Standing, left to right are: Mrs. F. M. Erickson, Chairman, Inter-American Affairs, NCCW San Francisco who spoke on Spanish speaking customs; Edward C. Massa of Hayward; John Yeehall Chin, administrator evening school, Catholic Chinese Center, San Francisco; Fred Campagnoli, Salesian Boys Academy, San Francisco; Mrs. Matalize C. Hutchison, St. Benedict the Moor Mission, San Francisco; Arthur E. Hutson, professor of Irish folklore study, University of California; Mrs. Mary Rose Brullard, San Francisco. Seated, left to right, Mrs. John J. Ryan, president of Council of Catholic Women, archdiocese of San Francisco, who presided at the session; and Helena Schmiedeler, instructor at the San Francisco College for Women.

Mother of the Year

Since 1942, a Catholic Mother-of-the-Year has been chosen through the Bureau's agency, the National Catholic Conference on Family Life. The picture to the right shows Mrs. Joy Seth Hurd, Catholic Mother of 1946, immediately after being presented with a medal from the Shrine of Christian Mothers, St. Augustine, Florida. This medal is given to every Catholic Mother-of-the-Year. The prelate in the picture is the Most Reverend Edward T. Hoban, Bishop of Cleveland who presented the award.

Family Action Awards

Every year the Family Life Bureau presents a Family Action Award to one or more individuals who are doing outstanding work in behalf of the family. Pictures of several of the recipients are shown here.

Below, right: J. J. Hengesbaugh, Elyria, Ohio, who has given substantial aid to further what he calls "our needed family crusade". (Ed Navo Photo.)

Above, right: Francis A. Fink, Huntington, Indiana, editor of the popular publication, *The Family Digest*.

Below, left: Mrs. Catherine Bulger, Pittsburgh, Pa., Assistant to the Director General of the Confraternity of Christian Mothers, St. Augustine's, Pittsburgh, Pa.

The picture on the opposite page shows Mrs. Richard Healy with her family. She received the award in 1948. In spite of the work entailed in caring for her large family, Mrs. Healy is one of the most prolific popular writers in the United States. Her articles have repeatedly appeared in *The Family Digest*, and in no less than thirty other publications.

The College Does Its Part

College courses in marriage and the family, and in child training have for some time been the accepted thing in Catholic higher educational institutions. Over one hundred Catholic colleges are offering one or more such courses today. Other activities helpful to successful marriage and family life are also encouraged.

The picture at top of page opposite shows a class on the family in session at St. Benedict's College, Atchison, where the first such course to be offered in a Catholic higher educational institution was taught in 1921 by the present Director of the Family Life Bureau. Always popular with the students the course took on added interest with the matriculation of married G.I.'s. Apparently the particular session shown here was turned into a practical class in child psychology.

Below: A group in elementary child care at Marygrove College, Detroit, for children from the Jesu and St. Gregory parishes, Detroit. The course used is prepared by members of the National Federation of Catholic Nurses. Standing farthest to the left is Mrs. Joseph Althoff, National Chairman of the Committee on the Family and Parent Education of the National Council of Catholic Women. (Photo: Detroit News)

In some schools, alumnae and alumni are invited to bring their families to the annual reunions. Mount Mary College, Milwaukee, has done this for some years past. The picture at bottom, opposite page, shows a 1933 graduate of the school attending the annual alumnae family picnic on the school campus with her husband and children. She is Mrs. John Brust.

A number of Catholic colleges have established Family Life Institutes for the promotion of family life programs in the community. One of the first to be established is that of the College of New Rochelle. The picture center, opposite page, shows its officers at the opening session of the 1949 fall program. Left to right: Edward B. Lyman, program chairman; Rev. Thomas Maher, associate moderator; Hugh B. Kelly, of executive committee; Mrs. James K. Bishop, publicity; Rev. Francis Reh, St. Joseph's Seminary, Yonkers, N. Y., speaker at opening meeting; Mrs. Harry Kroyer, Jr., secretary; Charles S. Horgan, chairman; Rt. Rev. Msgr. Francis X. Shea, moderator.

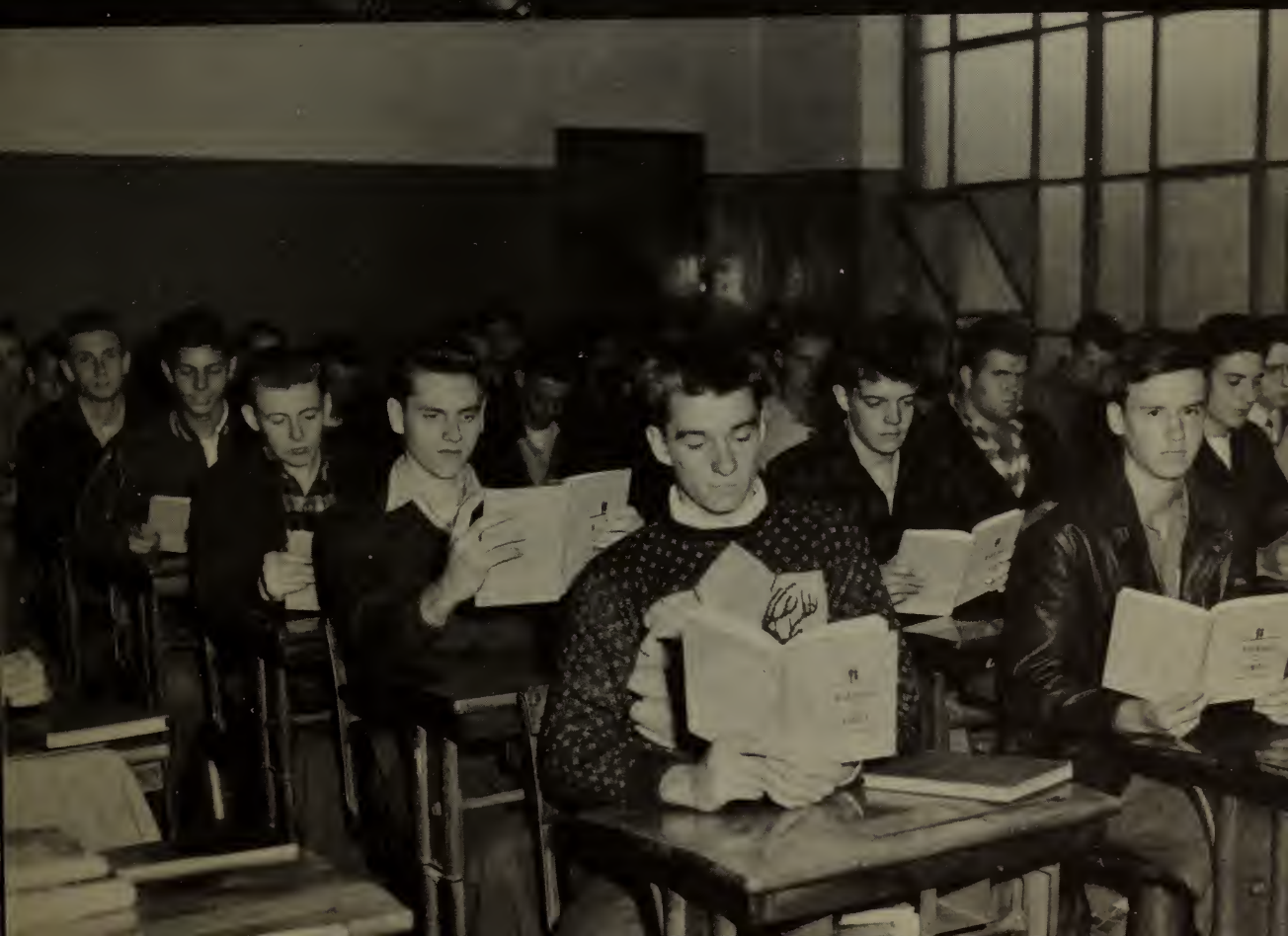
The High Schools Follow Suit

For some years the high schools did not follow the college in introducing courses on marriage and the family. But with the appearance of a special high school text in 1946 they began a rapid growth. While courses are found in all parts of the country they are apparently most numerous to date in the high schools of the archdiocese of Chicago.

The picture, opposite page, above, shows a class on marriage and the family in session at Notre Dame High School, Chicago.

Opposite page, below: A class on marriage and the family at St. Rita High School, Chicago.

Below: A group who take the courses in family living at the Academy of the Presentation, San Francisco.



Social Activities Essential

Young folks have a right to social activities. Such activities are needed for the normal development of their nature. But they must be the right kind.

The picture to the left shows refreshments being served by the mothers of teen-agers for whom the St. Monica and St. Margaret Mary Mothers' Circle at Manchester, Connecticut, was sponsoring a dance.

The picture above was taken on the occasion of a prom at Mt. St. Scholastica College. Social affairs for the students of this institution and the neighboring St. Benedict's College have long been customary. There are few worries over mixed marriages here.

Opposite, members of the Brooklyn CYO ready to swing their partners. The well-organized marriage preparation courses of the Diocese of Brooklyn have been functioning successfully for some years past. The social life of the young folks is also given careful attention.

Steps Toward Family Life

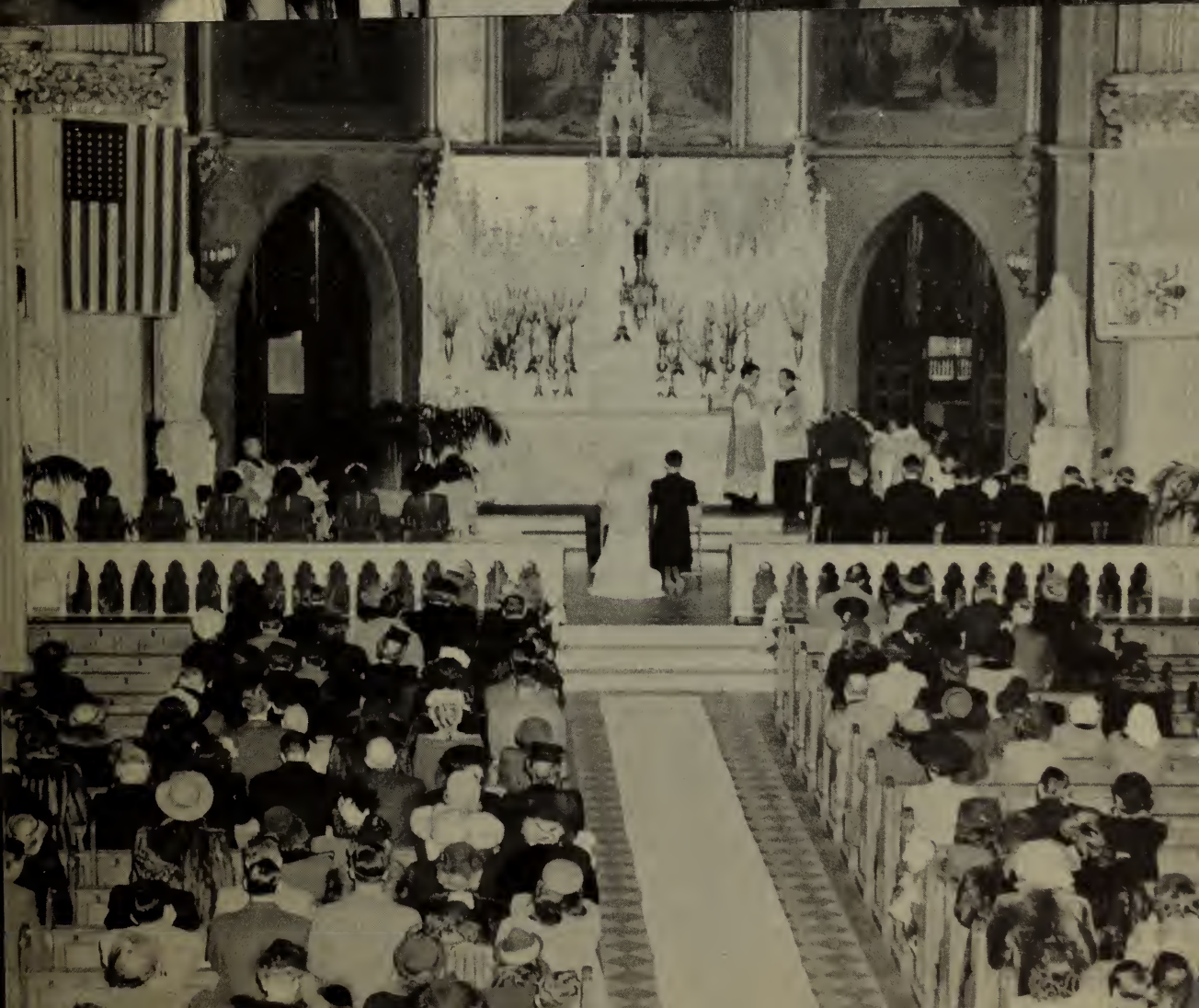
Because of the disturbed conditions of the times the Church is putting forth even greater effort than formerly to prepare her young people for marriage, and particularly to give them a deep appreciation of the dignity of Christian marriage and a clear and firm grasp of its many spiritual aspects. Large numbers of parishes now have regular marriage preparation courses for those looking toward marriage and family life. Furthermore, greater attention than heretofore is being given the instructions immediately preceding the marriage.

Picture below: A pastor gives a last instruction before a marriage. "There are rights . . . There are duties . . . There are great graces . . . And there is superb dignity . . . As St. Paul puts it: marriage is a great sacrament . . . The husband is an image of Christ, the wife, an image of the Church."

To the right: Conferring of the blest ring during the ceremony before the altar — "With this ring I thee wed, and plight unto thee my troth."

Opposite page, upper picture: Pronouncing their vows before the Mass— "I take thee . . . till death do us part."

Opposite page, below: At the offertory of the Nuptial Mass.



"Among the Blessings of Marriage, the Child Holds First Place"

—Marriage Encyclical

The child is the primary purpose of marriage. Among the enemies of Christian marriage and family life that the Family Life Bureau has had to fight consistently have been the enemies of the child. For years, one of the most unnatural and hideous expressions ever coined in a civilization — "the unwanted child" — was constantly heard throughout the country. It is still heard to some extent.

Picture to the left: Eager to face life.

To the right: Being "reborn" in baptism.
Below, left: The Church has always been actively interested in securing the best care for mother and child at childbirth.

Below, right: Four pairs of twins, born in one hospital— and on *Christmas Day!*

The Church has a special blessing for mother and child in her ritual. In giving it, she prays "that by the obstetric hand of Thy mercy, her infant may happily see the light of day and being reborn in holy baptism forever seek Thy ways and come to life everlasting."

The Christian Family—the Seedplot of Virginal Souls

Were it not for the many excellent Catholic families of the United States, the Church could not have her splendid corps of priests and religious who are so many zealous workers sustaining her manifold efforts in behalf of mankind. A fairly high percentage of American boys and girls turn to the priesthood or to a life in some religious order, generously sacrificing all opportunities for marriage and a family of their own that come their way. These are a great help to parents in the capacity of teachers, nurses, social workers, and the like.

Picture at top left: Five sisters from one family in one religious order. The sister farthest to the left has just entered the novitiate. The five are from the Stanley Nowak family of Crivitz, Wis.

The picture at left, below: Seven postulants about to receive the habit of the Dominican order. The Most Rev. William A. O'Connor, Bishop of the diocese of Springfield in Illinois is officiating. (Mercury Photograhps.)

Right: A postulant's secular garb to be replaced by a religious garb which has just been blessed. (International News Photos.)

"Remember Me at the Altar of the Lord"

Words of St. Monica to her son, St. Augustine

At left is Ordination of Fr. Vincent Wavada, O.S.B. and Fr. Eugene Dehner, O.S.B., May 1940, St Benedict's Church, Atchison, Ks. and Fr. Linus McManamam, O.S.B offering Mass in St. Benedict's Monastery Atchison, Ks.

At Right is Fr Vincent Wavada, O.S.B. blessing his family in St Benedict's Church, Atchison, Ks

In about 1946 Fr Eugene received a Ph.D. from Cornell U. in Biology and for 40 yrs was chairman of Biology Dept., Benedictine College, Atchison, Ks He was a great Professor.

Fr Vincent was a parish Priest, Died 1990.

Fr Linus was a Philosophy Prof, died in 1985 (?).

Students for the priesthood, whether secular or religious, have long years of hard study to make before they reach their goal. During these years of study they receive a rigorous spiritual training. Undoubtedly many would not persevere were it not for the encouragement and prayers of understanding and self-sacrificing parents and of loving brothers and sisters.

The climax of the seminarian's long preparation is the happy day of his ordination when, before the altar, he receives the powers of the priesthood from the hands of his bishop.

Picture at lower left, shows an ordination scene.

To the right of it a recently ordained priest offers the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Below: A newly-ordained priest gives his first blessing to his parents, bothers and sisters.

Above: The George Sitzman Family of Kingsley, Iowa. Nine of eleven children are religious. Three religious communities are represented among the seven daughters who have become Sisters. The two sons are Benedictine novices. One daughter is married, another is at the home with the parents.

Below: Mrs. Rose Shadeg and her family. Of fourteen children, eight are priests or religious. Three of the religious are not included in the picture. They are: Rev. Werner Shadeg, S.V.D., Wewak, New Guinea; Sister Mary Carmel, D.C., Grand Rapids, Mich.; Sister Mary Rose of the Poor Clare Sisters, Sauk Rapids, Minn.

Above: The Henry Nordhus Family of St. Benedict, Kansas. Six of the eleven children became Benedictine religious, three of them priests and three of them sisters. The boy farthest to the right entered the novitiate shortly after the picture was taken.

The picture below shows the members of the Sitzman family observing an old family custom—receiving Communion together. The occasion was a recent family reunion.

The Family Retreat— A Spiritual Refresher

The short family retreat, growing in popularity over the past decade and more, is one of the most promising antidotes to the secularized family life of the times.

The picture, bottom, right, shows a retreat master speaking to a group of couples at the opening Mass of a retreat day.

Top, right, a couple renewing their marriage promises at the close of the retreat. This renewal may be made in groups—as is customarily done at Family Holy Hour services—or it may be made by individual married couples. The latter practice is customary at family retreats, and also at some Cana conferences when conducted by priests.

Above, Rev. Jerome Merwick, O.S.B., speaking at a family retreat. The pulpit is still the great teaching medium of the Church.

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