

Conference

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slip in. A prospectus promises to "bring life to the Scriptures, adding new dimension and perspective to the sacred texts as they have been studied and viewed by both professionals and scholars in the field."

And lest that scares anyone away, the Institute's executive director quickly promises "a relationship to all educational backgrounds." She is Noel Keller, RSM, ThD, who adds, "We aren't over anyone's head."

Sister Noel, who can also use the title 'Dr. Keller' since she recently was the recipient of a theological doctorate, proudly claims "We have over 100 persons registered this year. Many have been coming back for as long as 20 years." She adds with an infectious grin, "We must be doing something right, wouldn't you say?"

Dr. Keller is not your normal sisterhood member, and if you still think of nuns in terms of drab costumes (when they called them habits) you are way, way behind the times. Sister Noel is not all that tall but she dresses stylishly and colorfully, sports some casual brown bangs and has yet to lose her Noo Yawk accent. (On her it sounds great.) She has been referred to, and not without justification, as a "ball of fire," (she is) and it has been said that "she bubbles." (She does.) She also does one heck of a job.

Besides the current Institute program, Sister Noel plans to present five programs called "Conversations with..." which she describes as "an ecumenically-based series which include a talk, a fellowship meal that allows time for guests to continue their conversation among themselves, a question and answer period, and a concluding prayer."

Dr. Keller adds, "A few of the faculty members in this series will be Frederick Danker PhD, Professor Emeritus Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago; Bishop Joseph Sullivan, Diocese of Brooklyn; and our own Albert Anderson, PhD, President of College Misericordia." These programs will conclude in April, 1997.

Then, as though Sister Noel did not have enough on her plate to keep busy, she also plans to run five trips starting in October and running into 1997: Asia Minor, Israel and Jordan, Italy, Greece and Turkey. As you would imagine, these are very popular and get filled up quickly.

Although many walks of life are

represented at the Institute and there is a sprinkling of both Brothers and Sisters of the Catholic faith, most other faiths are also represented with, usually, mature adults or active retirees. And they all tend to return, again and again.

Somewhat typical is Dr. John Dennehy of Danville. Dennehy, 66, just retired as head of infectious diseases at Geisinger and this is his 20th consecutive year attending the Institute. He says, "I started to take a real interest in the Scriptures in my 40s and found most American translations lacking. So I studied Biblical Hebrew and found out what I was missing."

Dennehy has been to Israel three times and will probably go again. (When I asked if he planned to fill his free time by fishing, he laughed and replied, "I grew up in Philly. We didn't fish. We shot rats!")

A pastor from Frederick, Maryland, Tom Polk, is on his seventh course and finds the Institute to be "like a refresher course for me. I don't take notes because I don't think you can think that well taking notes, so I just sit back and let it all wash over me. Fortunately, enough of it sticks!"

Sister Pat Conroy, RSM, from Brooklyn, has attended Institutes for 20 years. She exclaims, "I am always totally enriched by this experience. It is never tiring. It is always rewarding."

This particular Institute (and there are only a few worldwide)

draws almost entirely from eastern and southern states, although there's it drew at least one attendee from Japan. A similar session was held in June for those west of the Mississippi at Burlingame in the Frisco Bay Area. Faculty for the present Institute on Lake Street includes Edgar Krentz, PhD, Professor of New Testament at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago; Wayne Weeks, PhD, Professor of Biblical Studies at Yale; and Pauline Viviano, PhD, Associate Professor of Theology at Loyola University. These three have had over a dozen books published.

It is very possible that, in addition to the impressive credentials of the participating faculty at this Institute, credit should also be given to the drawing power of its Back Mountain locale. Witness

this description in Institute literature: "College Misericordia is a spacious, suburban 100-acre campus only 2 1/2 hours away from both New York and Philadelphia, with easy access via Interstates 80, 81 and 84, situated 35 minutes from the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport and 15 minutes from Greyhound and Martz bus terminals. Free shuttle service available."

"State-of-the-art recreational facilities on campus include an indoor swimming pool, indoor and outdoor walking tracks and paths, tennis courts, racquetball courts, and a fully equipped fitness center. The latest selection of books on the Bible are available for purchase at the conference site."

Perhaps you can't see it from Lake Street, but it's all there just the same!



A wide array of literature was available for purchase, including works by many of the presenters.



POST PHOTO/RON BARTIZEK

Edward Krentz, PhD spoke about "The Post-Pauline Paul: Colossians and Ephesians," at the Aug. 5 session of the Institute for Sacred Scripture at College Misericordia.

PIONEER AMERICAN BANK, N.A. EXPANDS ATM NETWORK

Donald A. Hoyle, Jr., President, on behalf of the Board of Directors of Pioneer American Bank, N.A., and Frank R. Orloski, President of Orloski QuikMarts, take pride in announcing that they have reached an agreement whereby Pioneer American will place automated teller machines in seven Orloski QuikMarts. With these additions, Pioneer American Bank will have expanded its ATM network to 25 locations bringing the convenience of 24-hour banking to a broader market area. In line with Pioneer American and Orloski's extensive presence throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania, these ATM's will be in the following locations:



Frank R. Orloski, President of Orloski QuikMarts, (left), and Donald A. Hoyle, Jr., President & CEO of Pioneer American Bank, (right), announce an agreement to place Pioneer American Bank automated teller machines (ATM's) in seven Orloski QuikMarts.

- I-81, Exit 43, Nuangola
- I-80 and Rte. 940, Exit 42 off I-80, Exit 35 off PA Turnpike, Lake Harmony
- Rte. 115, Ext. 36 off PA Turnpike, Bear Creek
- I-80, Exit 51, 350 E. Prospect Street, East Stroudsburg
- Davis Street, Moosic
- Pennsylvania Avenue and Northampton Street, Wilkes-Barre
- Route 309, Mountaintop

This agreement was a natural alliance between the two entities, which strive to provide customers with the ease of extended hours and convenient locations.

The Orloski ATM's will have the advantage of being located in-store for additional security. Pioneer American Bank, an innovator of automated teller machines, was the first to bring the convenience and security of drive-up ATM's to this area.

The Bank has eighteen branches in Lackawanna, Wayne, Luzerne and Monroe Counties, eight of which are

located in supermarkets: four in Price Chopper Supermarkets, three in Mr. Z's markets and one in the Weis Market in Clarks Summit. These supermarket branches are open and staffed seven days a week with extended hours. Pioneer American Bank was the first in northeastern Pennsylvania to recognize that supermarket branches provide the ultimate in customer convenience and reinforces that concept by an expanded ATM network, part of the PLUS[®] and CIRRUS[®] systems, which provides 24-hour funds accessibility.

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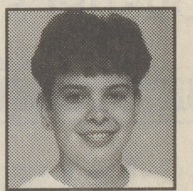
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