

Report on Visit to Niagara Falls  
December 1-2, 1979

1. Amato  
2. Falls

Because of the heavy snowfall in Buffalo, I was stranded at a motel near the airport on Saturday. But early Sunday morning, I reached the Niagara Falls church where I showed "The Growth of Our Children" to an audience of about twenty people and said a few words about our Diocesan youth programs.

A.C.Y.O.A. Juniors

In the afternoon, I met with a few young people to tell them about the A.C.Y.O.A. Junior program. I explained the use of the materials we sent to the Parish Council member present at the meeting and encouraged him to find the group an adult advisor with whom to work. He seemed to feel there were a few possibilities.

There are about eight young people in the parish who would benefit from an A.C.Y.O.A. Junior group. They see each other on Sundays (a few sing in the choir) but have no structured time together.

Church School

There is no Church School in Niagara Falls at the present time. I spoke to Mr. Albert Amato, the superintendent, who explained that there are about twelve children in the parish of all different age levels.

Together with his wife, Debbie, who is finishing a degree in early childhood education, we devised a program for Sunday mornings using an individualized approach. She will be using The Jesus Story, Joy 3, and the Coloring and Hyre Mer packets.

Miscellaneous

I spent time in the evening with the pastor, Rev. Fr. Untzag Nalbandian discussing his role with the youth in the parish. Because they feel so isolated and alone in Niagara Falls, everyone was very appreciative and welcomed me warmly. I was asked to return when the weather gets better but made no promises. I may spend a day there when I visit the Canadian parishes in the Spring just to see how they're making out.

*Nancy*  
Nancy Basmajian  
December 4, 1979