

Project Christopher Is Teen World Eye-Opener

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NEENAH-MENASHA — "We have so much to offer the world," the founder of "Project Christopher," a youth program in operation in three nations, said this week.

The Rev. John Brayley visited the twin cities and surrounding communities to speak to students about his nine-year-old program.

A goal of the volunteer program, he said, is to open the eyes of teenagers to the problems of humanity in the hope these volunteers in later life will tackle careers with more dedication and maturity.

Each summer, several hundred students from Canada, the United States and now Mexico travel to Canada for a short training period and then split into groups to visit and help in problem areas in all three countries.

Last summer, several "Christophers" from the twin cities and Appleton participated in the program.

The areas to visit, accommodations and financial responsibility are left up to youths, who have managed to live on a \$1 a day throughout the summer months.

'Real Nut'

"It takes a real nut to do this. If the kids have the spunk to give out, they must be terrific," Father Brayley said.

He initiated his first "Christopher" group in Montreal, Canada, in 1960. The non-denominational project bloomed and by 1966 American youths joined the Canadians in the program.

Until this year, Mexican youths have not been able to

participate because of different holiday schedules. The holidays coincide for the first time and several Mexicans are expected to participate this summer.

In giving his reason for beginning the plan, Father Brayley pointed out that the "A" students and top athletes are the ones who receive the scholarships and top billing.

"So much is being done for the top students, while the average kid gets nothing." And yet, he added, it will be the average youths who will be the leaders of the future.

Average Youths

Father Brayley said he decided to challenge these average youths and let them do something on their own.

The biggest complaint from parents, he said, is that the youths came back from the summer project too mature.

The groups work with Indians, in the poverty stricken Appalachia area, with the mentally retarded and in other areas where they are needed.

Once the residents of these areas learn that the youths aren't trying to sell anything, whether it is religion or their own country, they usually receive good receptions, he said.

They learn how to work with themselves, with people in problem areas and discover how to abide by the customs of the people they live with.

Rich Neighborhoods

This summer, groups will also enter rich neighborhoods as well as the poor.

"Poverty to me is not just material wants, but emotional wants," and the rich areas may need help. Father Brayley said he has had a request

for the youths in a well to do area in Chicago.

Although originally from Montreal, Father Brayley now lives in the Black Hills of South Dakota. He devotes his full time to the project, traveling year around to talk with youths.

He said he is seeking about 1,500 people who would give up 50 cents a week to help with the program year around.

Although nearly 200 Canadians and 100 Americans are summer, Father Brayley said expected to participate this summer, Father Brayley said he doesn't know how many youths stay involved during the winter months.

"We ask the kids to do something at home during the winter, like work on Sundays with people who need help."

For Neenah Employment Relations Commission (WERC) Election

NEENAH — A Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission (WERC) election to select the bargaining agent for two city departments will be held Monday, according to a WERC spokesman.

Agent Robert Mc Cormick said Friday notices of the upcoming election for the street and sanitation and park and

Motorist Fined \$32

NEENAH — Thomas A. Ciske, 21, 234½ Second St., paid \$32 after signing a stipulation of guilt for speeding. He was arrested Tuesday on Henry Street.