

Catholic Charities Maps Drive on Social Ills

By ALEX MacDONALD

Put the housing problems of Rochester's innercity poor beside the health needs of the rural migrant workers and mix both with the apostolic works of four hospitals and the Catholic Family Center and you have part of the discussion topics which concerned 75 professionals in diocesan social work last Thursday at the Notre Dame Retreat House.

Requested by Bishop Hogan as a means of acquainting all diocesan workers in health, welfare and social action with each other's work, the first such all-day meeting repeatedly underlined two themes:

- effective programs to meet enough needs of enough people demand more regional planning and interaction between diocesan workers;

- coordination between "social agencies" and "social action" groups will require a re-evaluation of the whole structure of Catholic Charities.

Msgr. Donald M. Mulcahy, director of the diocesan Catholic Charities, explaining that "72 major agencies and programs serve the people of these 12 counties in the name of the Church," declared, "This multiplicity of effort provides a richness and an opportunity. But it also possesses problems in terms of administration, communication, policy formation and decision making."

The responsibilities of the diocese have grown enormously in recent years, he said, imposing "increased pressure for deeper church involvement in community affairs."

"The Church is looked to for moral leadership, for resources of personnel and money and as a means of helping large segments of society."

Presentations of various other facets of the diocesan social work were made by Father William Charbonneau for the agencies in the Family and Child Care Division of Catholic Charities, Father Anthony Cali-

meri for the diocesan Spanish Apostolate, Father John Hempel for the Office of Human Concern and Sister Mary Rene, administrator of St. James Mercy Hospital, Hornell, on the health services offered by Catholic hospitals in Rochester, Hornell, Elmira and Auburn.

Msgr. Mulcahy proposed that "clusters of counties" in the diocese form their own groups of priests, religious and laymen to serve as "a focal point for the Church's community service, as contrasted to its educational and pastoral missions, in that particular locale."

Such local groupings would be staffed and serviced by the diocesan Catholic Charities but would have the advantage of local participation in planning and responsibility. A small area organization, he said, would also stimulate individual parish service toward their own neighborhoods.

Father Hempel, whose Office of Human Concern acquaints him with the problems

of the inner-city (the Urban Ministry) as well as the rural poor (the Secular Mission) insisted that the Church "must become a catalyst in changing the political and social structures which affect social issues."

"We must get to the top-rich and to the top-politicians for the influence and the legislation to effect changes in housing, education, employment. The affluent must stand up and share community action to form pressure for political change needed to secure social values."

Describing the diocesan apostolate to the rural poor families, Father Hempel said: "We have come from practically nothing in less than three years to great community influence in several areas in central diocese. The local and federal governments, with public money, and ecumenical community groups have practically been forced by the Church's pioneer efforts in several of our counties to take over the work we started."

The contention was frequently made by participants that "social action and community organization are more necessary than social agency work". The latter function "does not serve enough people", it was charged.

The belief of many that in these times "the Church must act and not wait around to react" when crises loom, supported their contention that "risk is necessary to create any social change".

"The laity needs more education from the pulpit on social issues," said one layman. "The Church has not taken enough definite stands on current issues touching the whole community and has not directed the attention of the parishes to the solution of their own people's needs."

Participants in discussion periods asked for restructuring of the present Catholic Charities and appointed a Steering Committee to evaluate the proposal for discussion at their next plenary meeting in June.

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Handicapped Children Receive First Communion

Four mentally handicapped children who have been given religious instruction by Confraternity of Christian Doctrine volunteers received First Holy Communion at Mass April 18 in St. Ambrose Church. Pictured with St. Ambrose volunteers are Father David B. Callan (left), assistant at St. Ambrose, and Father William B. McCall, assistant at St. Boniface Church, who is director of program. Under it, nearly 50 handicapped children attending special classes in county's public schools receive instructions Saturday mornings during school year from 20 volunteers in four CCD centers—St. Ambrose, St. Boniface, St. Charles Borromeo and Guardian Angels.

Mother Mary Camilla Dies, Mercy Sister 64 Years

Friends and relatives paid final respects to Mother Mary Camilla McGuire Tuesday morning at a funeral Mass in the Motherhouse chapel on Blossom Road. Mother General of the Sisters of Mercy from 1949 to 1955, Mother Mary Camilla had been a member of the congregation for 64 years.

She had served six years as assistant Mother General. The other 40 years of her active life were spent in teaching both in grammar school and high schools.

The schools she taught in before 1949 included St. Mary's, Rochester (1907-08, 1909-10); St. Patrick's, Elmira (1908-09); St. Mary's, Corning (1910-18); St. Vincent's, Corning (1918-30); Mercy High School, Rochester (1930-43); Holy Family, Auburn (1942-43).

Mother Mary Camilla retired in 1958 after teaching for three years at Holy Cross School, Rochester.

During her years as Mother General, she was instrumental in updating the constitutions of the congregation; in reorganizing the formation program for the young Sisters; in arranging fulltime study for more Sisters in graduate work.

The diocesan-wide drive to raise money to build four new Catholic high schools in the area occurred during Mother Mary Camilla's term of office, resulting in the planning and building of Notre Dame High School in Elmira.

The McAuley annual conference of all the heads of independent Congregations of the Sisters of Mercy came into being on the suggestion of Mother Mary Camilla.

A native of Rochester, she received her undergraduate degree from Canisius in Buffalo; her master's from St. Bonaventure's. She is survived by a nephew, Erwin McGuire of Howland Avenue, Rochester.

Ithaca Church Notes Milestone

Ithaca — St. Catherine of Siena Church will observe its 10th anniversary on April 30, also the Feast Day of its patroness.

A combination of spiritual and social events will mark the occasion. On April 30, a dual-intention Mass for the parish anniversary and a memorial Mass for the late Msgr. Donald M. Cleary, its first pastor, will be celebrated at 5:15 p.m.

On Saturday, May 2, at 6 p.m. the Women's Council will sponsor a dinner-dance in the parish center.

HOLY CHILDHOOD SCHOOL

The School of the Holy Childhood will celebrate Mothers' Party House. Supper will be Day May 10 at the Mapledale served from 5 until 8 p.m., with dancing until 11.

Half-price tickets are offered at \$1.50 for children under 14, at the school, 215 Andrews, or through 325-5330.

Auburn School Closes, Makes 4 in Diocese

Closing of St. Aloysius School in Auburn, announced there Sunday, brought to four the number of Catholic schools in the diocese thus far slated for discontinuance in June.

In addition, diocesan school officials pointed out that decisions have been made to close a total of 46 class sections (certain grades) in other schools of the diocese.

Father Edward A. Shamon, pastor of St. Aloysius in announcing the closing by letter to pupil's parents and in the pulpit at Sunday Masses, said the discontinuance could be explained in simple terms—"principally a lessening of religious teacher vocations, and projected rising costs for which the people were unwilling to allow the parish to go further into debt."

The parish board of directors, a two-year-old parish council, voted 29 to 1 for the closing.

Two secondary and two ele-

mentary schools will become history in June. They are King's Preparatory High School, Rochester (185 students); St. Anthony of Padua Prep School, Watkins Glen (120 students); St. John the Evangelist's School, Clyde (260 children), and St. Aloysius, Auburn (140 children).

Father Shamon said arrangements have been made with adjoining Holy Family parish to accept all St. Aloysius pupils who seek enrollment there. St. Aloysius parish, Father Shamon said, will pay tuition for its pupils who enter Holy Family School.

The St. Aloysius school and convent buildings, he pointed out, will be used for an enlarged program of religious instruction for adults and for Catholic pupils of the parish attending public schools.

St. Aloysius School is staffed by four Sisters of St. Joseph and three fulltime and three parttime lay teachers.

800 CCD Teachers Hear Bishop Hogan

Bishop Hogan last Saturday termed persons teaching religious instruction "alleluia people, joyous in the Gospel, spreading the good news of God and salvation."

Addressing more than 800 catechists—priests, Sisters and laity—at their third annual institute at Mercy High School the bishop declared:

"The efforts of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine are needed now even more than before." He noted that although there are thousands of youngsters in the diocese in CCD programs, "it is a sad statistic that there still are 37,000 Catholic pupils in our own diocese who are not currently assigned to

one of these religious education programs.

Principal speakers at the day-long workshop were Father Anthony Padavano, professor of dogmatic theology at Darlington, N.J., and Dr. and Mrs. John Willke of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Coverage of the talks and other institute details will be contained in next week's Courier-Journal.

New Church Opens May 3 In Webster

Parishioners of St. Paul's Church of Webster will celebrate the Eucharist for the first time in their new church next Sunday, May 3 at 10 a.m.

Founded in May 1967, the parish has worshiped for three years in the building of Sweet's Farm on Holt Road. The new church, in a functional parish-center on Hard Road, has been under construction since last summer.

Father John T. Walsh, pastor and founder of the parish of nearly 300 families, will offer the first Mass in the new building.

IFCA Mass Saturday

Members of Rochester Circle, International Federation of Catholic Alumnae, will attend a Mass in honor of Mary, the Mother of Mankind, at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 2, in St. Mary's Hospital Chapel.

Bishop James E. Kearney will celebrate the Mass, to be followed by a breakfast in the hospital cafeteria. At the breakfast the Circle will follow an annual May custom of announcing a contribution to a selected charitable cause.