



Father Albert Shamon addresses 'Expeditors' of reorganization.

## Regionalism Explored For Diocesan Parishes

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find with each other, he suggested.

The pro-tem chairmen will bring a feedback of area-reaction and suggested revisions to the steering committee on May 21.

Regions outside Monroe County and their temporary expeditors are:

Tompkins — Father John S. Maloney, Immaculate Conception parish, Ithaca; Tioga — Father Douglas C. Hoffman, St. Margaret Mary parish, Apalachin; Schuyler-Chemung — Father Roy J. Kiggins, Our Lady of Lourdes parish, Elmira; Steuben East — Father Thomas F. Brennan, St. Mary's parish, Corning; Steuben West — Father James J. Marvin, St. Joseph's parish, Wayland; Livingston — Father Walter Carron, St. Mary's parish, Geneseo; Cayuga

—Father Bernard Carges, St. Alphonsus parish, Auburn; Ontario — Seneca — Yates — Father Robert Miller, St. Stephen's parish, Geneva.

Portions of Wayne County have been allotted to three adjoining regions.

Monroe County has been tentatively divided into seven sections: Northwest — Father George S. Wood, Mother of Sorrows, Greece; North — Father Raymond G. Heisel, St. Margaret Mary parish, Irondequoit; Northeast — Father Joseph P. Beatini, St. Francis Xavier parish; Southeast — Father Robert J. Winterkorn, St. James parish; South — Msgr. William J. Naughton, St. Anne's parish; Southwest — Father Edward J. Tolster — St. Augustine's parish; West — Father Eugene Weis, Holy Apostles parish.

Advantages behind regionalism, Father Shamon said, are

that many apostolates could be maintained by a group of parishes which none of them could afford individually.

He listed adult education programs for exceptional children, teacher training, employment of religious education coordinators, pre-marriage and family projects, liturgical and educational workshops as goals of regionalism.

"Regions could establish instructional-material centers for the 10 to 20 parishes in their area which would not be economically feasible by parish action alone."

Interparochial action in ecumenical projects, in assistance to migrant workers and the Human Development campaign will lift these activities vitally, he suggested. "By building together, we are built together."

Regionalism will facilitate the formation of the Diocesan Pastoral Council it was stated, because it will "stimulate the development of Christian community beyond the limiting confines of parishes."

"Our Christian commitment," Father Shamon said, "is not limited to the parish but must extend to all the diocese and particularly to all peoples in the immediate geographic neighborhood."

The new regionalism would not destroy the autonomy or responsibility of pastors or parish boards in matters which were purely parochial. But through representation on their regional board, they would share in the discussion of all regional issues and would help "pursue goals too local for the diocese and too large for the individual parish."

A proximate problem in many regions will be the necessity of discussing consolidation of certain schools where advisable, the coordination of religious instruction programs, adult education thrusts, cooperative purchasing and busing for public and parochial schoolers.



## Pope Meets 'Pop'

Vatican City—Pope Paul VI shakes hands with John Bedson of the Popular British rock group, Warm Dust, during an unusual private audience with five pop music groups at the Vatican. The pontiff told the musicians he was unable to appreciate "your form of art," but praised them for searching for "spontaneity, sincerity and freedom from certain formal chains of convention" and for promoting peace.

After the audience, Mr. Bedson told reporters he had asked the Pope: "Why don't you, the Pope who abolished the pill, do the same thing for the draft and forbid Catholics to fight in wars?"

He quoted the pontiff as replying, "It's not in my power."

Courier-Journal

# D. C. Abortion Law Upheld by Court

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — The U.S. Supreme Court ruled here that the District of Columbia's 70-year-old abortion law is constitutional. The vote was 5 to 2.

The district law makes it a crime for anyone to cause an abortion unless necessary to preserve "the mother's life or health."

Chief Justice Burger and Justices Harlan, White and Blackmun joined Justice Black, who wrote the decision, in upholding the D.C. statute. Justices Douglas and Stewart entered "partial dissents," while Justices Brennan and Marshall did not take a stand.

In its decision the court struck down the ruling of a federal judge, sitting in Washington, who had held the district law unconstitutional because of what he described as "vagueness."

Court observers here stressed that at issue was the district

statute and that alone. The decision, they held, does not settle cases in which attacks on abortion law are made on the ground that an invasion of privacy is entailed.

Justice Black's decision covered a case involving a Washington physician, Dr. Milan Vuitch, who had been charged with violating the law enacted in 1901.

In registering his dissent, Justice Douglas said the law had "treacheries" in interpretation for physicians who practiced in good faith. Justice Stewart said he held some of the "constitutional doubts" mentioned by Judge Gerhard A. Gesell, who had declared the district law invalid in November 1969.

Msgr. James T. McHugh, director of the U.S. Catholic Conference's Family Life Division, issued a statement hailing a "landmark decision . . . because it maintains legal protection for the life of the unborn child . . ."

## 21,850 N. Y. Abortions Performed by Medicaid

Albany — Much to the surprise of chagrined legislators over \$4 million dollars has already been paid in tax monies for abortions in the state of New York since the easy abortion law went into effect, July 1970.

The figures, revealed in statistics kept by Social Services departments, show 1,850 abortions paid for by Medicaid upstate from July 1 to February 1.

In New York City more than

20,000 abortions have been paid for by Medicaid since July according to records of the New York City Department of Social Services.

Estimates are that 95% of all abortions are performed for "social reasons".

Medicaid payments include public funds to cover: full or partial payment for doctor's fees, hospital room charges, infant burial, blood transfusions, anesthetists, and laboratory and recuperation costs.

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