



Courier Staff Photo by Laurence E. Keefe

Blessing a New Altar

Bishop Joseph Hogan incenses the modern marble altar, consecrated Sunday, at his former parish of St. Margaret Mary, where Father Raymond Hiesel is now pastor. To the Bishop's right is Father Michael Conboy. At the consecrating Mass, relics of St. John Vianney, patron of priests, and of St. Pius X were placed inside the new altar by the Bishop.

Council Endorses Jail Ministry Work

The diocesan Priests' Council gave formal endorsement last week to the work of the Rochester Interfaith Jail Ministry and urged the diocese to provide an official representative on the ministry's board of directors.

In addition to involving the diocese in the work of prisoner welfare and rehabilitation beyond the efforts of the chaplains assigned to local institutions, the Council also called for a survey of priestly care being given in all the jails within the 12 counties of the diocese.

Father Robert Kreckel, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church of Rochester, made the presentation of the ministry program to the Council. He has been associated with other priests and ministers concerned about the needs of inmates of the city jail and the Monroe County penitentiary for nearly a year.

The group has direct connection with the civil Director of Rehabilitation but no ties with the chaplains. Father Kreckel explained that "the chaplain inside cannot do some of the things for improving the penal system which an authoritative outside group can do."

Problems involving prisoners' bail, contacts with families, job-seeking, probation, and rehabilitation are numerous, he explained, because "civil authorities, for lack of funds and personnel, are not doing this work."

Father James Moynihan, chancellor, and Father Walter F. Cushing, of St. Agnes High School, serve respectively as part-time chaplains of the City Jail and the County Peniten-

tiary. They celebrate the Eucharist weekly in both jails, provide the sacraments and counselling.

The Senators discussing the total jail ministry suggested that inmates' problems should be the concern of the new Genesee Ecumenical Ministry which the diocese belongs to. They urged that GEM should consider financing and staffing the Interfaith Jail Ministry as a cooperative function of the Christian community.

The Council requested the diocesan Office of Human Development to examine how "pastoral responsibility" is being exercised toward prisoners in all the lockups in the diocese by near-by priests.

Aid Bill Called Reasonable Try

Albany — (RNS)—The New York State Catholic Committee has described the Legislature's approval of a bill providing funds for non-public schools as "a reasonable effort" to stave off a "pending crisis."

The Secular Educational Services Bill is expected to provide \$33 million during the first year under a per pupil reimbursement plan. To be eligible, a school must have been operating before Sept. 1, 1971.

The Catholic Committee noted that the bill will provide a maximum of \$27 per year for each child in grades 1-8; \$72 per year for each pupil in grades 9-12 and an additional \$48.60 per student in any school which has a concentration of low-income students.

Pope Paul Issues Letter on Justice (See Page 2A)

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