

Mercy Sisters... Reflective but Contemporary

A progressive return to the spirit of the past may sound like a contradiction in terms. But it aptly describes the trends which emerged from two weeks of deliberation, dialogue and decision at the Sisters of Mercy's Chapter of Affairs.

The chapter, which concluded Saturday, met to set policies concerning every aspect of the life of a Sister of Mercy in this diocese. The deliberations of its 36 delegates, chosen by

380 Sisters in the community, will result in a more representative form of government and will provide for renewal and adaptation in many facets of their religious life.

Trends both hark back to the simple and flexible rule originally conceived by the order's founder, Mother Catherine McAuley, and also reflect the Sisters' concern that the congregation remain contemporary.

"We've taken to heart the advice of Vatican II, in its statements concerning renewal in religious life," affirmed Sister Mary Sullivan, a delegate and chairman of the Constitution Committee. "These statements urged each religious order to return to the spirit of the Gospels, and the precepts of its founder, and to adapt to changing times."

Sister Mary Judith, superior general of the Sisters of Mercy in this diocese, explained the

modifications in her role.

"In the past, the superior general had almost exclusive authority. But today, the superior general acts as a focus for unity for the congregation. Although she still maintains a leadership role, the Superior has a general council of four Sisters to advise her, and now an additional 12 Sisters who will assist in policy making."

This broader based community government, and many of

the chapter's decisions concerning dress, way of life and apostolate place much more responsibility and choice on the individual.

"We've realized that the old concept of obedience, and the importance of following a command of a superior has lost relevance in today's world," said Sister Patricia Keough, director of public relations for the order. "Much more impor-

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Catch

Counselor Mary Beaurage playing catch with Charles House day campers who can't take part in the swimming program at Seneca Park because of colds. See more about it in today's centerfold.

Bishop To Move to Victor

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan will shortly move from the apartment he has used for nearly two years in the Columbus Civic Centre and make his residence in the former convent house of St. Patrick's parish in Victor.

The property which formerly

housed four Sisters of Mercy who were parish coordinators of catechetical programs for three parishes including St. Patrick's, is already available for use.

Negotiations for the transfer of the Bishop's residence were prompted by the expected sale

of the Columbus Building where the diocese has rented the apartment space used by Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen and later Bishop Hogan as well as office space for most of the diocesan departments.

Although the new residence will be rented from St. Patrick's parish, the expected economy in the move will amount to a savings for the diocese.

"I expect the move to Victor can be made early in the Fall," the Bishop announced. "Getting out of the downtown apartment will give your bishop a chance to see some of God's good earth."

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Parish in Greece Takes Housing Role

At Holy Name of Jesus parish, Greece, parishioners are pioneering new ways of helping the community.

Housing is the special concern of Holy Name's Human Development Task Force. In order to tackle the problem, the group established last year by the parish council has initiated a unique relationship with the Bishop Sheen Housing Foundation.

"Holy Name's Task Force will hopefully serve as the nucleus of the foundation's education committee," commented Father John Hempel, foundation chairman.

Education about housing problems will begin with parishioners, said Evelio Perez-Albuerne, chairman of the parish Task Force.

"Our first goal will be to change attitudes and dispel false notions about poor people, and to emphasize to our parishioners the seriousness of Rochester's housing crisis," he said.

The group hopes that education will be followed by parish assistance to the poor in the community. Holy Name's parish council has already agreed to

grant about 5% of its parish budget to organizations working with the poor, especially the housing foundation.

The Task Force has channeled parishioners who wish to participate in community service to groups who need volunteers.

In order to reach all levels of the parish, the task force has worked through Holy Name's Religious Formation Board and parish council. Special programs have been developed for parish CCD courses which trace the Church's teaching on social justice. The Christian and the community is also the theme of many lectures and retreats available.

Themes used in classes of preparation for First Communion were community and equality of all men; and penance lessons discussed sin and the social responsibilities of the Christian.

"We want to actualize our concern for the poor, and to develop a grassroots concern for community problems," said Perez-Albuerne. "We hope, in time, other parishes will espouse this same goal."

Local Youth Delegates Differ with Protesters

BY BARBARA MOYNEHAN

Local delegates to the White House Conference on Youth differ from the six members of the follow-up committee who recently appeared before the Senate subcommittee on children and youth to assail President Nixon for his "total and tragic silence" about the conference held last spring.

The six presented a joint statement at one day of hearings called by the committee chairman, Sen. Walter F. Mondale (D-Minn.), to consider plans for implementing the recommendations on the White House conference held April 18-22 in Estes Park, Colo.

Dr. Helen Nowlis, research consultant for student affairs at the University of Rochester, attended the conference and described it as being a "very complex affair since everyone went with different expectations."

"Fifteen hundred people were brought together, chosen

from all over the country to represent the broadest spectrum," Dr. Nowlis continued, "you couldn't help but have some disappointments."

"A lot of effort went into the task forces," she continued, "and each group had very strong feelings about their recommendations. The recommendations were to be presented to Administration cabinet members for serious consideration, and many of the participants felt that action would be taken on their recommendations."

David Hayes, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Hayes of Portsmouth Ter., a recent graduate of Aquinas Institute, also attended the conference and feels "it is a bit premature to expect action."

Hayes worked on the foreign relations task force and said, "It is ridiculous to think the President will change his whole program because of a youth council, but we did expect to be listened to and perhaps heeded over a period of time."