



Msgr. Mulcahy, Bishop Hogan, Bishop McCafferty.

Regionalization Progressing

On Monday afternoon, Sept. 18, the prime movers of the Year of Renewal gathered at Camp Stella Maris for a progress report on regionalization.

Present were Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, Auxiliary Bishops Dennis W. Hickey and John E. McCafferty, Msgr. Donald J. Mulcahy, Father Daniel Holland, and the 10 regional coordinators of the diocese and their associates.

At the meeting, Bishop Hogan announced that he and Bishops Hickey and McCafferty will be conducting days of prayer for priests in each region throughout the Year of Renewal. He said that he sees great hope for the Year of Renewal and emphasized his wish that every parish have a council.

He also urged the coordinators to give the strongest support possible to the Year of Renewal in the regions.

Regional coordinators gave progress reports.

Father Elmer McDonald of Monroe County Southwest reported that every parish in his district has at least a parish council formation committee, and that they are well on the way to a regionalization steering committee of priests, sisters, and laity.

Father Eugene Emo of the Livingston and Steuben County region said that the flood situation has slowed up development of parish councils in the area. He further stated that the cooperation of people has shown the value of a regional approach.

Monroe County Northwest's Father Thomas Reddington reported great progress, especially on the regional level. His region is moving along very quickly and has established regional committees of education, worship and human development.

Father Robert Smith, coordinator for Ontario, Yates and Wayne Counties, is conducting a monthly educational program in modern theology for priests. Also, a pulpit exchange program is under way. Father Smith emphasized the need for a better financial plan to support regionalization.

Father Douglas Hoffman of Monroe County North reported the establishment of a regional steering committee with membership from each parish within the region. A profile of each parish is being prepared.

Father Albert Ryan, coordinator for Tompkins and Tioga counties, said that councils are developing satisfactorily, but problems are being experienced regionally because of the great

distances between parishes.

Monroe County Northeast is headed by Father Frederick Bush. He said that all parishes have parish councils or at least formation committees. Two religion teacher workshops, plus

training sessions for parish council members are planned.

Father John Hayes of Cayuga and Seneca counties said that great spirit was shown at the beginning of the Year of Renewal. (Continued on Page 8)



Fathers Edward Palumbos; William Flynn, assistant chancellor; John Philipps at meeting of Regional coordinators.

Conference On Unborn Scheduled

A Special Conference of Concern for the Unborn called by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan is scheduled today at St. Agnes High School and tomorrow at St. Casimir's Church in Elmira.

Bishop Hogan called the conference for all dioceses involved in Catholic education because "abortion is fast becoming an accepted way of life in New York State. And because it paves the way for attacks on human life that are even more chilling, such as infanticide and active euthanasia."

Dr. and Mrs. J. C. Wilke, internationally known experts on human sexuality; Mrs. Marjory Mecklenburg, president of Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life, and Bishop Hogan will be main speakers of the conference.

The educators will meet at St. Agnes High School from 9:30 a.m. to noon; from 1:30 to 4 p.m., and from 8 to 10:30 p.m.

The meetings at St. Casimir's will be from 1:30 to 4 p.m. and from 8 to 10:30 p.m.

Bishop Hogan will introduce each of the presentations and will be available throughout the day for private and public discussions.

What Do You Think

...about Co-Pastorates?

By CHARLES RANDISI

There already are two parishes in the Rochester diocese being run by co-pastors: Immaculate Conception, with Fathers Robert Kreckel and Paul Brennan, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, with Fathers Raymond Booth and Laurence Tracy. St. Joseph's in Penfield will soon have co-pastors, Fathers Walter Wainwright and William Gordinier.

Last week I asked people around the diocese, "What do you think of the co-pastor system?"

Father William Amann, associate pastor at Our Lady of Mercy parish in Greece, said, "It's a great idea, where the situation warrants it." Father Amann said that it might be beneficial in large parishes where there is a need for diverse talents that two men might handle more capably than one.

However, Father Amann said that the men must be "compatible" and must have "agreed to the situation."

Another advantage to a co-pastor program, Father Amann said, is that "it gives a man the responsibility he seeks long before he is worn out. Usually a priest will have to wait until he

What Co-Pastors Think of Concept

The first officially appointed co-pastors in the diocese feel that the new system is an "eminently workable system" reflective of the Church at large since Vatican II put stress on shared responsibility, collegiality and accountability.

In June 1970, Bishop Joseph Hogan appointed Fathers Raymond Booth and Laurence Tracy to the new position of "co-pastor" at the Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Fathers Robert Kreckel and P. Paul Brennan work as co-pastors at Immaculate Conception, but were not appointed as such.

"We were never officially appointed," Father Brennan said, "but we did receive a letter from Bishop Hogan recognizing as law what has been a fact for several years."

Father Tracy emphasized that the new setup is part of a movement toward joint decision-making process, or collegiality.

Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, executive secretary of the priest's personnel board, explained the thinking behind the new system.

"The big thing is giving young men responsibility earlier in life. In the old system of pastor-assistant pastor, responsibility came at 40 or 50 years of age."

The auxiliary bishop said, "There was a certain unhappiness under the earlier system, it can't be denied."

After a year and a half as co-pastors, Fathers Booth and Tracy recommended: "More experimentation in different kinds of parishes and permission for co-pastors to choose each other as well as the parish they wish to work in together in so far as the needs of the Church permit."

These recommendations have been adopted and were put into

practice to fill the vacancy left at St. Joseph's, Penfield, upon Father John D. Malley's resignation.

Before any arrangements can be made for co-pastors, the parish council is consulted. If it votes against the concept, that is the end of it. St. Joseph's parish council accepted the idea of co-pastors.

Father Kreckel feels, "It is a shame it isn't done every place, it makes for a much healthier, relationship between the two men."

"Assistant pastor designates a whole different relationship," said Father Kreckel, calling it a "father-son relationship."

"Under the co-pastorate system you don't feel you are working for the pastor, but for the parish."

"A co-pastorate sets a whole different mood for a parish," he continued. "The setup is not hierarchical and the people therefore become more vocal. It is the parish council's job to provide a vehicle for assuming responsibility that is the people's in the first place," Father Kreckel said, speaking of Immaculate Conception's parish council, established in 1967.

Father Kreckel disagrees with the recommendation that co-pastors be allowed to choose their own partners. He doesn't like the idea of friends teaming up. "It should be based on the ability of people to work together," he said.

Father Booth agrees that friends, "two men of the same age level and thought patterns," should not team up.

"It depends on the maturity of priests to choose someone diverse from themselves, keeping the good of the people as their primary consideration," explained Father Booth.

associate pastor at Our Mother of Sorrows in Greece, was the only priest to whom I talked that felt negatively about co-pastors. "I'm very much against the idea," he said.

He felt that the single pastor idea should remain in order to keep "unity in the parish."

Thomas Burke, former president of Immaculate Conception's parish council, disagreed with Father Eiseman's thinking. "In actuality, it has worked excellently at Immaculate," he said. "The pastoral functions are not merely titular, and there is a cooperative spirit."

"I think the overall effect of the system is more unity-building than disunity," he added. The model set by two people working together, not superior and inferior, but equals, has benefitted the people of our parish. It sets for the parish a tone of cooperation."

Dr. Robert McLaughlin, a professor at St. John Fisher College, who has also worked on the Immaculate Conception parish council, said, "The co-pastor system is valuable in overcoming the binds of some priests. Many do not get a chance at exercising their authority until late middle

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