



First Guests

Photo by Laurence E. Keefe

Some of the first visitors at the new pastoral offices at 1150 Buffalo Road, Gates, were teens from Holy Ghost Parish's Youth Club, who came to give \$1,200 to Bishop Joseph L. Hogan for his Southern Tier Flood Relief Fund. Money was raised in Pedal for Puddle, Aug. 27. From Left are Mary Landers, Sue Gionta, Mark Morningstar, Carol Slater, Bishop Hogan, Rev. Mr. Don Schwab, Cindy Young, Ann Cassidy, Pete Landers, Mary Cassidy, and Gerry Landers. The Youth Club has worked on Operation Rebuild in Corning and Elmira three times since the flood.

Priesthood Study Offers Suggestions

San Diego (RNS) — A 10-month study by a U.S. Catholic bishops' committee on the priesthood has recommended, among other things, consideration of a "limited term" of office for bishops and called for more minority group priests in the hierarchy.

(Rochester's Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, Executive secretary of the priests' personnel board, said he was pleased that many of the recommendations of the report were either the practice in the diocese or were being considered.)

(He cited team ministries, regional days of prayer for priests and a proposed personnel evaluation for priests.)

The study has been sent to the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB) in Washington, D.C.

Msgr. Colin MacDonald, chairman of the bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on Priestly Life and Ministry, delivered a capsule review of the 31-page report on the study, mentioning such areas of concern as authority, accountability, celibacy and research.

Among the study's conclusions were that celibacy is never the main reason for clergy discontent, that married men could be ordained, and that one of the most serious problems is "polarization" within the clergy and between priests and bishops.

Among major recommendations contained in the study, Msgr. MacDonald disclosed, were those concerning the selection, term of office and evaluation of bishops, the need for "collegial" relationships between bishops and priests, and the evaluation of pastors and team ministries.

Msgr. MacDonald said his committee's study suggested steps that should be taken "in conformity with the Vatican decree" of May 1972, on the selection of bishops to give them "greater acceptability."

Besides recommending consideration of a limited term of office for bishops, the study calls for the formation of an interdisciplinary committee to research the whole question, he observed.

The study also treats the position of the laity and the clergy in the selection of bishops and urges that more Spanish-speaking and black priests be included in the U.S. Catholic hierarchy.

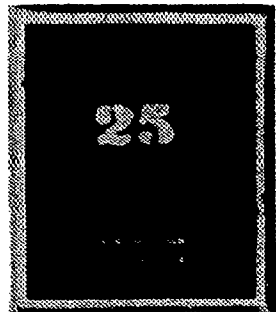
The study also calls for "due process" procedures of arbitration and conciliation for priests and bishops involved in ecclesiastical disputes.

A strong emphasis in the study, according to Msgr. MacDonald, is placed on the need for required programs of continuing education for priests and for the evaluation and accountability of priests necessary to help them grow in the ministry.

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