



Bishop Hogan, top left, and Father Reddington address Northwest Region convention. Delegates speak from floor during meeting. Lower photo shows one of exhibits that were part of convocation.

Photo by Laurence E. Keefe

## 600 Bishops

# Share My Role, Bishop Tells Northwest Region

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

If you are in any of the parishes, schools or other institutions of the Northwest Region of the city, and you hear people addressing each other as bishop, don't be surprised.

At last Sunday's northwest region conference Bishop Joseph L. Hogan addressed more than 600 people attending as "my fellow bishops." And they liked the sound of it.

The salutation, Bishop Hogan explained, symbolized the sharing of responsibility and leadership that he wants everyone in the diocese to take part in during the Year of Renewal.

The northwest regions convocation, held in Cardinal Mooney High School's auditorium, was the first such regional conference.

The Bishop as well as regional coordinator Father Thomas Reddington, pastor of Holy Name of Jesus, were very encouraged at the turnout, knowing they were competing with Sunday afternoon football games as well as people's day of rest.

The program, with its cast of hundreds, began at 2:30 with an outdoor performance by the Aquinas Institute Marching Band, followed by the Nazareth Academy Color Guard, Knights of St. John and Knights of Columbus leading the northwest region steering committee and the Bishop into the auditorium.

"In the name of all that is good under heaven, would you please share my burdens," challenged Bishop Hogan in a homily that left no one questioning his seriousness about regional organization.

"Don't tell me of pockets of resistance," he said. "I could name names."

The Bishop defined a leader as one who inspires and enables people to reach their full potential.

"But," the Bishop continued, "I'm in an awkward position. Many of you are looking for in-

fallibility in me because you are cowards. You want to have someone else to blame when something goes wrong."

He chided "all consultative bodies in the diocese" for not going to the "grassroots" but instead, "representing only their own opinions."

"Your role," he told the crowd representing 18 parishes, 6 schools and 3 special institutions, "is to share the responsibility for our Church — share leadership with me."

After the program was completed the audience moved to the basement where exhibits covering all phases of education and special institutions were presented.

Adult education, Catholic schools, Nazareth Hall, St. Bernard's Seminary, St. Joseph's Villa, Teen Encounter and Human Development's exhibit on current issues are just a sampling of the displays.

Father Reddington was proud of the performance: the Northwest Region had come a long way since its first meeting last spring.

"Everyone has shown regionalism is alive," he said. "I don't think people can claim ignorance of the Year of Renewal or regionalism any more."

The Bishop also was very encouraged by the enthusiasm of the Northwest Region.

"There is a lot of competition on a Sunday. To get a good turnout shows there are a lot of good people taking the Year of Renewal very seriously," he said, while talking to members of the region informally amidst the exhibits.

Sister Mary Jo Langie, parish assistant at Holy Name of Jesus and a member of the region's steering committee, said, "The response here today shows people are ready to accept regionalism and have a better understanding of what we should and can do. No longer can they be indifferent."

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## The Most Unusual Parish Council

Two unusual parish activities are the focal points of feature stories in this week's edition.

Our centerfold is devoted to what may be the most unusual "parish" council in the diocese as Laurence E. Keefe shows in words and photos the council at the Monroe County Home and Hospital.

Just the establishment of such a council is out of the ordinary but its activities also are innovative as you will read and see in the centerfold.

In another story, on PAGE 7, Barbara Moynehan touches on the growing use of extraordinary lay ministers to help parish priests. She centers on the singular program initiated at Blessed Sacrament Church.

The annual collection for the Office of Human Development (OHD) is coming Nov. 18-19. Funds from the collection are used to assist self-help projects throughout the diocese. How last year's collection was

used is explained fully in OHD's annual financial statement on PAGE 8.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan continues his series on basic attitudes for the year of renewal. Last week the Bishop described the role of faith in our lives. This week his Page 3 column is concerned with the value of hope and how it lies at the root of renewal.