



Eleanor Cook distributes communion to residents of the Cobbs Hill nursing home. Photo by Laurence E. Keefe

Extraordinary Ministers Used in 44 Parishes

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

Lay people distributing Communion has become an increasingly common sight in this diocese.

Forty-four parishes now use extraordinary ministers. Though the frequency varies with need and parish enthusiasm, five pastors interviewed agreed that the lay ministry does what it was initiated for.

It all began with a decree from Bishop Joseph L. Hogan dated June, 1970, to all pastors, permitting the use of extraordinary ministers for the distribution of communion.

The reason for it, as stated in Bishop Hogan's original decree is: "the critical personnel shortage forcing undue prolongations of the liturgy where there are large numbers receiving Communion."

A most enthusiastic pastor, who has extended the role of the

extraordinary minister beyond crowded Masses, is Father John P. Norris, pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church.

One of the 15 extraordinary ministers at Blessed Sacrament, Mrs. Eleanor Cook, takes Communion to many patients in the nearby Cobbs Hill Nursing home every Sunday.

"The beauty of it," according to Father Norris, "is it recalls an early practice in the Church of taking the Eucharist home to the sick."

He also feels receiving Communion on Sunday is much more meaningful to the elderly at Cobbs Hill, "it ties it in with Sunday, it's much more meaningful than a weekly Tuesday visit by a priest," he said.

"It does not supersede the priest's work," he continued, "but complements it."

Of the 17 ministers at Blessed Sacrament, 12 are men, three

are nuns and two are lay women. But they began two years ago with a small group of men recruited from those that made the annual retreat.

Bishop Hogan directed that "candidates should be chosen from those respected in the community for their Eucharistic devotion." The method of selection and the number was left to each pastor to decide.

After selecting candidates, the pastor submits their names to Bishop Hogan so they can receive his mandate.

Father John S. Whalen, pastor of Our Lady of Mercy, the first parish to have extraordinary ministers, has "about half a dozen" men.

There are three priests at Our Lady of Mercy so the need is not so great for lay ministers.

"We've heard quite a bit of flac on women," Father Whalen (Continued on Page 8)

Wednesday, November 8, 1972

Judge Caroline Branch

Make Family Work For Rehabilitation

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

Minors are committing more violent crimes, drug cases are not rising rapidly among minors, and there are fewer youths being placed in institutions. These are just a few of the changes Family Court Judge Caroline Branch has noted in seven years on the bench.

Addressing the weekly Justice Forum luncheon sponsored by the Judicial Process Commission, Judge Branch talked of the responsibility of Family Court.

"Our responsibility to the family and children is rehabilitation, trying to get parents to work together with and for their children. Our whole principle is to make the family structure work," explained Rochester's first and only woman judge.

Only about one-third of the cases in Family Court involve children as the offender. The rest are adult cases — assault, paternity action, child abuse and neglect.

Presiding in Family Court since 1965, Judge Branch has observed changes in the cases of youthful offenders.

"We see many more violent crimes than we used to, a lot of fighting in schools and on streets around the schools."

She has not, however, seen much increase of drug cases.

"Not as much as the literature that comes across my desk would point up," the judge maintains.

Returning to the topic of violence, Judge Branch added, "I don't know what to assign the assault increase to."

She did note the "coincidence" of the rise in violence with the schools' use of buses. "It raises doubts about busing. I don't know if we didn't give it enough time for feelings to run out of what," she said.

Judge Branch also told the 75 people gathered at the First Presbyterian Church that the courts and the department of social services are working to use better ways of dealing with children.

"There is less institutional placement and more use of group homes and probation," she explained.

In Rochester there are about 11 group homes and Judge Branch is pleased with the results. But she added that neighborhood resistance to homes for what used to be called "wayward youth" is very discouraging, "because no complaints have reached us about any of the existing home situations."

Last Wednesday's luncheon was the first in a series of talks on court services for minors.

Supervisory Training Planned for Priests

SALT (Supervisor and Leader Training) is a group of clergymen — Episcopalian, Catholic and others — dedicated to helping their peers better fulfill their supervisory role in the church.

With the approval of Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, Father Edward Steinkirchner, director of Interns for the Diocese, invited a SALT training team to work with diocesan priests in the area of supervision, with the purpose of being able to set up supervisory training team.

A four-day training event was held in June at Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua and an evaluation session was com-

pleted at the Cenacle Retreat House during the last week of October. At this latest event, a training team in the area of supervision was named—Fathers Bernard Dollen, Elmer McDonald and John Whalen. Serving as an advisory group for training events will be Fathers William Charbonneau, Michael Hogan, Edward Steinkirchner and Richard Tormey.

Training team will work with a SALT consultant on the training event for intern supervisors and other interested priests in June 1973. These groups will be responsible for the on-going training of priest supervisors.

Sisters Name Delegate To National Group

The Diocesan Sisters' Council elected Sister Ann Miller, as its delegate to the National Association of Women Religious (NAWR) at the November meeting last week.

Sister Ann, principal of St. John the Evangelist on Humboldt St. since 1966, will represent diocesan sisters at NAWR's regional meeting next month and at the national meeting next summer.

NAWR, as Sister Ann describes it, is a communication channel for nuns, enabling them to share problems and solutions

with other nuns from all over the country.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan addressed the sisters on the role of Vicar of Religious in 1972, asking them to define that role.

The sisters talked freely to him of feeling on the outside of any power in the Church.

Bishop Hogan encouraged more input from them and their constituents and congratulated them on their progress as an organized group.

"Don't be shy; you give me directions and I'll follow them through," He told the sisters.