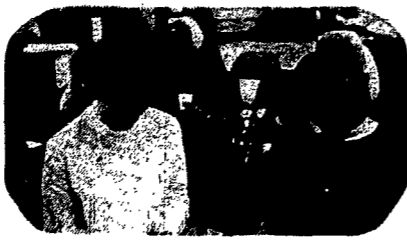


# North Region Sisters Meet

Eighty sisters of the North Region met with regional leaders at Bishop Kearney High School recently.

Sponsored by the Diocesan Sisters Council, the meeting was set up for a liturgical celebration and to gain information on the progress of the region.

Father Douglas Hoffman, region coordinator, Father Paul



Sister Kathleen Knope, SSJ, and Sister M. Bernard, RSM.



Sister St. Luke, Peter Ciavarrri and Father Douglas Hoffman.

Schnacky, region assistant coordinator, and Father Lawrence Gross, Human Development chairman, concelebrated the Mass.

The liturgy, composed by a group of sisters from various communities, included selections from Byzantine Rite representing St. Josaphat Parish and a Spanish communion hymn representing the Missioneras Guadalupeanas who have come from Mexico to work among the diocesan Spanish-speaking.

Father Hoffman chaired the following meeting during which groups explained their goals. Father Gross spoke for Human Development, Michael Strubel for the liturgical team, and Peter Ciavarrri for education.

Sisters Dorothea, Mary Bernard and Judith Weber reported on the Sisters Council. Two other groups, not strictly regional, also reported.

Brother James Barry, head of the Bishop Kearney Senior Project, explained that 160 Kearney seniors are engaged in apostolic activities for which they are given approximately an hour a week of school time. Brother offered the group's services to the region.

Brother Edward Tracey, Kearney principal, and Sister Bernice, guidance counselor, reported on the Bishop Kearney Parents Club Political Action Committee.

## Our Parish COUNCIL by Bernard Lyons

"How can we motivate people to become interested in their parish and become active members of their parish?" — H.M., Montana.

This is a big problem, and one that we have covered in various ways.

Part of the problem is in the way that you have phrased the question. Neither the persons or the jobs to be done are specifically listed in your letter. You are talking about an abstract concept.

You will begin to find answers when you begin rewording your question. "How can we get Tom or Mary interested in becoming a lector, or serving on the Community Life Commission?"

This means that you will have to become a friend of Tom or Mary. It involves you in listening to Tom or Mary, and discovering what interests them.

It requires that you discuss with them the specific needs of the parish. Then motivate them to share their time, talent, and money with the People of God as represented in your parish.

Prayerfully try this approach. Some persons will refuse. Don't be upset about it. Recall what happened when some of the disciples reported back to Jesus that they had tried to heal people as He had done. They had failed because they thought the healing was to be done by them. No. It was to be done in the name of Jesus.

The motivation and the action of other persons will come through you only if the persons respond to Jesus through the Holy Spirit.

"How do you propose moving an existing parish council from a business meeting atmosphere to one which is more aware of the spiritual needs of the parish?" — J.B., Rhode Island.

First, talk with your pastor. He has the primary responsibility for this spiritual growth in the council and the parish.

A number of councils that I know of begin their meeting by worshipping together at Mass. This is an ideal way to "set a tone" for their tasks.

In addition, the priests of the parish should be personally acquainted with each council member and urge him on not only in the tasks he has undertaken but in his own spiritual development.

It's not all up to the priests alone, however. The laity exercise a priesthood, too. An active council member who brings his fellow council members to share his friendship with Christ can be very effective. He can change the hearts of the council members, so that they see their work in the single apostolate that is Christ's.

Enlist the help of other persons and organizations to begin the spiritual formation of your council members. Ask that your

priests give periods of recollection that focus on the life of Christ. Ask that these meditations on the life of Christ especially highlight His work with the apostles, so that you can see how Christ formed them into "Church."

Contact the Christian Family Movement, Better World Movement, Cursillo, Legion of Mary and others for programs and ideas.

"To what should a newly organized 'Spiritual Development Commission' first address itself?" — R.F., Florida.

There isn't any one answer that I can give for your first step. I would warn, however, that you should not be like the 100-leg insect that couldn't move because he couldn't figure out which leg to step off with.

# Confirmation Leads To Community Service

King Ferry — The obligation of the Christian to his fellows was exemplified in two service projects by young people recently confirmed here.

A group of girls from Our Lady of the Lake in King Ferry repaired the interior of the parish hall, where religious education classes are held. Other confirmands from All Saints in Ludlowville put on a party for nursing home residents.

Sister Elaine Theresa of the King Ferry Rural Education Center, who conducted the confirmation class, indicated that the new emphasis in preparation for confirmation is the commitment by the youth to their Christian faith, demonstrating this by service to the community.

The six-week preparatory course culminated in an overnight retreat with two seminarians for the boys and a retreat under the supervision of a nun and laywoman for the girls. The retreats provided an opportunity for the young people to reflect on the commitment they were undertaking as active members

of the church, Sister Elaine Theresa said.

The 41 youths from the King Ferry parish and its mission in Ludlowville were confirmed Nov. 10 by Bishop John E. McCafferty in Our Lady of the Lake Church. A parish party followed in the church hall.

### FICA ANNIVERSARY

The Rochester circle of the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae will celebrate its 25th anniversary with a First Saturday Mass on Dec. 2, 12:05 p.m., at Corpus Christi Church. Bishop James E. Kearney will give the homily, and friends of the IFCA are welcome.

### CONCERNED ABOUT TEEN-AGERS?

This is the life of a Christian Brother

Contact Brother E. O'Connor Bishop Kearney High School Phone 716-342-4000



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