

Religious Teachers Hold Workshop In Canandaigua

By CHARLES RANDISI

The newly formed Association of Religious Educators held a three-day workshop Jan. 24-26 at Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua.

Religious education coordinators from every region of the diocese were present at the role-defining sessions that included presentations by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, and Fathers Charles Mulligan, Daniel Holland, and Robert Collins.

Chaplain

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practice intravenous feeding may be stopped to passively let a patient die.

However, he cautioned that doctors at Rochester General would "never accelerate death or actively intervene" to cause death. This to Father Schwartz would be euthanasia or mercy killing.

"Even Pope Pius XII, in 1957, made the distinction between ordinary and extraordinary means of prolonging life," Father Schwartz said. "He said that doctors are not obligated to use extraordinary means."

When extraordinary care, using such devices as intravenous feeding, pacemakers, and respirators, merely prolongs life, "We are actually prolonging the act of dying," he says. "We are unwilling to accept death. But theologically, death is a way to life, a fuller life in Christ."

It seems to Father Schwartz contradictory that many people can accept birth control and abortion as means of controlling population, but think nothing of "spending \$10,000 to keep a dying person in an intensive care unit, because some rich aunt is willing to put up the money."

The problem, he says, is in deciding when there is no reasonable hope of recovery. "No one can make that decision simply," he says. "That has to be judged in individual cases."

The need for allowing death to occur is a result, Father Schwartz says, not of medical science's failures to find cures for illness, but of its successes. Medical progress is "so sophisticated," that doctors can keep the heart and bodily functions going after brain waves have stopped, for purposes of organ transplants.

"Medicine is both an art and a science," the chaplain says, but lately there has been too much emphasis on science, and not enough on a patient's dignity and integrity.

If the "right to die" policy can offer a dying patient "humaneness, dignity, integrity, and diminish his pain," then Father Schwartz is in favor of it.

Decker Heads Cancer Crusade

John P. Decker has been named General Chairman for the 1973 Cancer Crusade of the American Cancer Society, Monroe County Unit. Robert C. Odenbach, president, announced the appointment.

Decker, Vice-President and General Manager at WHEC-TV, has been an active Cancer Society volunteer for six years. He previously served as Public Information Committee Chairman and has been a member of the Board of Directors since 1968.

Mr. Decker and his family reside at 76 Lochnavar Parkway, Pittsford. They are parishioners at St. Louis Church.

Courier-Journal

ARE was officially formed last fall to bring together the people responsible at the parish level for the quality of religious education programs. The group works closely with the diocesan office of Religious Education, which is headed by Father Robert Collins.

On Wednesday, 45 ARE members arrived for an informal get-together, to meet and talk with one another. There was also a brief orientation session.

On Thursday, the activities began with a prayer, breakfast, and a session with Father Mulligan, diocesan director of the Office of Human Development, on the meaning of human development and the mission of the Church.

Then, after lunch and liturgy with Bishop Hogan, the dialogue with Father Mulligan continued. He urged the educators to respond to "the mission of the Church with real action," to get off the junk and onto the mission.

Father Mulligan said that working with the concept of human development includes working with poverty, but he emphasized that a Christian definition, not merely a fiscal definition, of poverty should be used.

By his definition, the poor are "those that have to admit that they need help... those who acknowledge their dependence on God."

He said that before people can reach and help the poor in other parishes, they must first learn to share within their own.

"Education can help break the cultural definition of fiscal poverty," he said.

He also spoke of the "wealth" of the "living church," calling most parishes in the Rochester diocese "massively wealthy and massively blessed."

Bishop Hogan then answered questions that ARE members had given him in advance. Speaking of his concept of the Church, the bishop used the analogy of the rock, which signifies stability, and also of the river, which signifies movement and life.

"I don't want to be the curator of a museum," he joked, "or the custodian of a house full of God's goodies."

"There was a time," he continued, "when all activity was coming from those in power... But I'm not the one with all the answers... My role is to facilitate the involvement of God's people... As bishop, I have to challenge people, and this is renewal."

He referred to Father Mulligan's definition of poverty. "Indeed," he said, "the greatest poverty is not in the city, but in suburbia, where they have everything, and have nothing."

Bishop Hogan also answered questions about leadership, authority, the diocesan planning council, regionalism, education, confirmation, and co-pastors.

After talking with the bishop, the group had free time, an informal session with pastors and associates who made the trip up, and dinner.

Later that evening, Father Holland spoke on "1980 - The Coordinator Dominates the Media."

The following day, four workshop sessions were held, as was a dialogue with Father Collins and members of the Diocesan Religious Education Division.

Marie Lynch, co-chairman with Anne Messare, said of the event, "The purposes of the workshop were to concentrate on getting an appreciation of the talents we have, to define our role in the diocese, and to relax."

Sex Education for Adults Urged

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in social work from Detroit's Wayne University, feels there is a "great need for adult education for parents so they can teach their children the beauty of sex."

Sex education is the "obligation of parents," Sister Oliva maintains, adding that training courses should be especially important for parents who don't want sex taught in the schools.

Sister Oliva reported that when the unwed mothers were asked why they didn't use contraception they replied, it would have been "being phony." They had all considered abortion and suicide, Sister Oliva continued, but had decided to carry their babies through to birth and were all better people for it.

"I worked with 3,000 girls and they are the best girls I've ever met," said Sister Oliva. "After the experience they came forth better persons," she continued. "I don't think you can ever suffer and not be better and have a deeper understanding of yourself."

The premise of the two homes Sister Oliva administered is to give confidence and reinforce the girls. "We never had any trouble with the girls," she said, "we had great confidence in them and never nagged them about their appearances."



SR. OLIVA

Both homes had high school programs complete with arts and crafts, a public health nurse and psychologists. "We had 40 girls and there was always a waiting list," she said proudly of St. Mary's in Boston and Marillac Hall in Detroit.

"Many people feel pre-marital pregnancies are accepted in society today," Sister Oliva said, mentioning such famous faces as Mia Farrow and Bernadette Devlin as examples of two who

lost nothing by bearing children out of wedlock.

"But," she stressed, "let me tell you, many parents find it hard to accept, and still think of the neighbors' opinions. So, in the pre-admission interview we try to build up the parents by making them understand it is not the worst thing that could happen to them or their daughter."

The father of the child also is involved in the pre-admission interview. "You must deal with the reality of the whole situation," said the veteran, who feels the father should be allowed to visit the girl. "The whole focus is on the girl and the boy often goes down the drain," she continued, explaining that the inclusion of the boy is a test of his character."

The recurring problems of girls who opt to carry their baby through, according to Sister Oliva, are acceptance or rejection of parents and of the boy involved; and their decision to keep or give up the baby.

About 25 per cent keep their babies, she added, noting that the trend today throughout the country is to keep the child. But she told of another trend, "more and more after about two years the baby is returned to an adoptive agency, as the girl decides to go to college."

Majority of States Must Reconsider Abortion Laws

By ROBERT JOHNSTON

New York (RNS) — Forty-six states will have to rewrite their abortion laws as the result of two landmark U.S. Supreme Court decisions which refused to give the status of "person" to an unborn fetus and upheld the right of a woman to terminate pregnancy, at least during the first three months.

The court ruled by 7-to-2 margins in cases involving abortion laws in Texas and Georgia, but the guidelines set down affect every restrictive state abortion law in the nation. If these states want to have any control over abortions at all they must write and pass new laws.

In the majority decision in the Texas case, written by Justice Harry Blackmun, the court held that the Texas law denies the basic right to privacy stemming from court interpretations of the 9th and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

It said this right of privacy includes a woman's decision whether or not to terminate pregnancy.

While the court did not agree that a woman's right to terminate pregnancy is "absolute," it did, in effect, rule that during the first three months of pregnancy the state cannot interfere with a decision for abortion. In the second three-month period of pregnancy, the state may regulate medical aspects of abortion.

In laying down what amounts to national guidelines, the high court nullified restrictive laws

Pontin Hosts CMA Marathon

Simon, Pontin, WBB's program director, will be the host of a three day radio marathon which will conclude the annual Civic Music Association's fund raising drive.

As part of its campaign, the CMA is also sponsoring free Rochester Philharmonic Concerts around the city the week of Feb. 5.

The radio marathon will begin Thursday, Feb. 8.

Pontin hosts Simon's Super Scintillating Sunshine Show and the Frank N. Phorthright news reports for the classical music station.

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in all but four states — New York, Hawaii, Alaska and Washington.

The Texas decision by the high court will affect strict anti-abortion laws in 31 states. The court's majority opinion in the Georgia case, also written by Justice Blackmun, threw out requirements that included an accredited hospital, and approval by a medical committee and other physicians and will apparently invalidate 15 other state laws.

The decisions, which drew dissenting opinions by Justices William Rehnquist and Byron White, were also at odds with a stated position of President Nixon, who in a letter to Cardinal Terence Cooke of New York last year said he opposed liberalized abortion policies.

Yet, Justice Rehnquist, a Lutheran, was the only one of the four Nixon appointees to the Supreme Court to object to the majority ruling.

In rejecting the contention of pro-life adherents that the unborn child or fetus is a "person," the majority ruled that the fetus is not entitled to due process and equal protection of the law — except perhaps during the last

three months of pregnancy when the state may acquire an interest in "potential human life."

The court said that during the last 10 weeks of pregnancy, when the fetus has reached viability and developed the capacity to survive, the state may prohibit abortion.

Justice Blackmun, in commenting on the two majority opinions which he wrote, said that most state legislatures are now in session and, therefore, would be able to begin rewriting their state abortion laws to conform to the Supreme Court decision.

Bowling Novelty For Clinic Fund

Miss a spare — give a nickel, in an annual bowling event that raises money to help maintain the clinic for the handicapped at Strong Memorial Hospital.

The drive will be held Feb. 4-10 in all leagues and at all bowling alleys in the Rochester area. It is sponsored by the Rochester-Finger Lakes Chapter of the Muscular Dystrophy Association of America and the chairman is Lanny Frattare.

Right to Refuse Abortions Reaffirmed for Hospitals

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — The Catholic Church in the U.S. remains "unalterably opposed" to providing for abortions in Catholic hospitals and to any requirements for health care personnel to take part in abortion procedures against conscience. Bishop Edward Head declared here.

Bishop Head, newly appointed to the Buffalo, N.Y., diocese and retiring chairman of the U.S. Catholic Conference's Committee on Health Affairs, deplored the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling which struck down restrictive abortion laws in 46 states, saying:

"The Supreme Court can nullify laws of the states, but it is not within its power to nullify the laws of God."

In a statement on behalf of the health affairs committee meeting in Washington, Bishop Head affirmed:

"We stand unalterably op-

posed to providing abortion service in Catholic hospitals and to anything which might require health care personnel anywhere to participate in abortion procedures in violation of their consciences."

He noted that Catholics, like many Americans dedicated to serving in hospitals, have "deep moral convictions" concerning the value of human life as God's gift.

The prelate said: "We are convinced that these decisions of the Court will never destroy the deep respect of Catholic people for life and their dedication to its preservation."

"Nonetheless, the Supreme Court judgment and its implications seriously infringe upon the conscience of health care personnel and the ability of our facilities to function within the framework of our moral convictions."