



Bishop Hogan talks with Mrs. Milton Schmidt and Father Douglas Hoffman at the North Region Conference at St. Ann's Home. A general view of the meeting in the chapel is shown above.

Priest Shortage Noted

Council Urged to 'Lend' Order Priests a Parish

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

As a solution to the "critical shortage of priests" in this diocese the Personnel Board last week strongly recommended that religious order men be allowed to staff a parish.

Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, spokesman for the Personnel Board, gave the Priests' Council a run-down of the present priest situation.

The Rochester diocese has 372 priests. But 45 of them are retired, 16 are working outside the diocese and 66 are special workers leaving 245 active in parish work.

Since 1959, 99 priests have died at an average of 7 a year, around the age of 64. The average age of diocesan priests here is 48, Bishop Hickey continued.

In what he admitted were amateur projections, the auxiliary bishop's forecast for the next 10 years is not much better than the present number of priests.

The present situation of many more older priests than younger ones is expected to worsen. Special ministries will continue to grow in number, taking priests out of the parish into the streets, jails, courtrooms and other areas of social concern.

There is a need now for 30 parish priests, Bishop Hickey reported. He urged the council to accept the Personnel Board's recommendation to open a city or suburban parish to a religious order.

The diocese has already received petitions from a religious order that wants to become in-

olved in parish work. They would simply staff the parish, not own it. Bishop Hickey continued, leaving the religious order unnamed.

The proposed three full-time priests, who would come on a contractual basis, would accept the same salary as diocesan parish priests and would make partial contributions to the diocesan pension plan.

This "practical suggestion," as Bishop Hickey called the recommendation, was greeted with either criticism or unenthusiastic acceptance by council representatives.

Father John Mulligan, co-pastor of St. John the Evangelist, Humboldt Street, reported that his constituents did not feel this was a long-range solution and suggested looking into alternate ministries and moving faster on the permanent diaconate program.

Father Joseph Brennan, rector of St. Bernard's reported his block was in favor of the idea but agreed with Father Mulligan's statement calling the religious order solution "a band-aid approach to the problem of recruitment."

Father James Schwartz, Northside Hospital chaplain, said his block supported the idea because "our first consideration is how can people best be served."

"It's a danger for us to become selfish in this," he continued, in answer to concern expressed for associate pastors who don't want to miss the opportunity of being pastor or co-pastor, and the ap-

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New Spirit of Friendship

'North' Leaders Hear of Benefit of Regionalism

The regional structure evolving in the diocese is a route to expanding friendship, Father Paul Schnacky told North Region leaders last week.

People from various parishes become friends when they get together on regional projects, he pointed out.

Father Schnacky, of Holy Redeemer, is Father Douglas Hoffman's associate coordinator of the Monroe County North Region, which held its first conference Thursday night, in the chapel of St. Ann's Home. About 190 parish leaders, committee chairmen and members and religious education coordinators responded to the invitation.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan challenged the lay people particularly to take their "rightful responsibility" for the growth of the church.

Joseph Mercier of the Pastoral Council Formation Committee, explaining organizational progress toward a council, said, "Nobody likes to talk about 'structures' these days," but the structures under way "provide real vehicles for communication."

The committee chairmen used a television "commercial" format for reports on their goals, and agreed that they would welcome volunteers although the committees already are well organized. The chairmen are Father William Lum, parish council orientation; Peter Ciavarrri and Patrick Fox education; Sis-

ter Mary Ann Weiland, liturgy; Father Terence Fleming, youth, and Father Lawrence Gross, human development.

In a liturgy which Father Hoffman described as the high point of the meeting, Bishop Hogan

led the recitation of the Evening Prayer for Christians, with each parish delegation responding in chorus, one after another.

The regional representatives to the diocesan Sisters Council served refreshments.

Sex Ed. Program Described At Northwest Region Meeting

By CHARLES RANDISI

Dr. Gerard Guerinot is a gynecologist, the father of five, and the chairman of the Sex Education Committee of the Diocese of Rochester.

On Thursday, March 8, he addressed a gathering of 250 parents and religious, from the 14 parishes with schools in the Northwest Region at Aquinas Institute.

The talk covered the history, the philosophy, and the success of the diocesan sex education program, "Education and Love." Parents were allowed to examine texts and materials used in the course and to ask questions.

Sister Mary Brigid, RSM, principal at St. Charles Borromeo School, and chairman of the Northwest Regional Principals' Association, introduced Dr. Guerinot, who began with a brief history of the program.

"A group of us got together in 1965 at the request of the then

superintendent of Catholic schools, Msgr. William Roche. We studied whether there was a need in the diocese for sex education. We found a woeful lack of adequate material."

A program of Christian education in sexuality was planned and eventually adopted for the diocese.

There was initially a problem with the word "sex." Dr. Guerinot explained that feelings of guilt, fear, and shame accompanied the word if it was used to imply anything other than a means of procreation.

Yet, the almost complete avoidance of the word, he said, implied a preoccupation with sex.

Sexuality is more than a physical expression, Dr. Guerinot said. It is a major aspect of personality, and affects the total development of the individual.

"In 'Education and Love,'" he

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Photo by Susan Mc Kinney

Ashes of Penance

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan puts ashes on the forehead of a parishioner of St. Patrick's church in Victor as part of the Ash Wednesday ritual.