

The Time of Renewal.

Part I: The Catholic Church in Change.

Report from the People.

Are you a Catholic? How would you answer the questions shown to the right?

They were included in a recently completed public opinion survey in the Diocese of Rochester. Under the auspices of the Bishop's Office, an independent research firm conducted this survey throughout the twelve county Catholic Diocese.

The survey was taken as a part of Bishop Hogan's Time of Renewal Program. Its purpose was to find out what Catholics are thinking, to identify the major areas of Catholic concern and to measure the feelings, opinions and attitudes of the Catholic community.



Bishop Joseph L. Hogan

The following questions appeared in the recent Diocesan Time of Renewal Survey.

- What one statement expresses your opinion of the MOST appropriate action for priests and nuns in helping the poor?
- Join demonstrations at offices of public officials
- Aid poor people in organizing and presenting their story to officials
- Aid poor people in organizing and learning how to help themselves
- Encouraging contributions to existing Catholic agencies which help the poor
- Let public agencies who are paid for it worry about the poor

If you miss Sunday Mass when you could have easily attended, do you consider:

- It is a sin and feel increased need for confession
- It is a sin but I don't worry about it
- The true Christian concept of sin really doesn't apply to this anymore
- The relation of sin and going to Mass is uncertain and confusing
- No opinion

face to face interviews and a questionnaire containing 94 questions of Catholic concern was mailed out.

The survey did, in fact, discover what people are concerned about in the Diocese of Rochester today. It evaluated the topics that concern them as well as how strongly they feel about these topics.

For the next 8 weeks, as part of the Time of Renewal Program, the Diocese will report on the questions, the answers, the opinions and the identifiable trends of the survey. In a series of weekly informational

The circumstances under which I think legalized abortion is appropriate:

- If the woman's health is seriously endangered as a result of the pregnancy
- If the woman became pregnant as a result of a rape
- If there's a strong chance of a serious defect in the baby
- If the family has a very low income and cannot afford more children
- If the woman is married and does not want any more children
- If the woman is not married and does not want to marry the man
- Under no circumstances
- Other (SPECIFY)

What is your opinion of a Catholic who refused to sell his house to a Negro family willing to pay the asking price?

- He committed a mortal sin
- There is no moral question involved
- He protects the value of his neighbors' homes
- He committed a venial sin
- He was within his rights

Survey questions related to each weekly topic will be printed here throughout the Time of Renewal newspaper series. The completed survey, answers and findings will be published in a book, "Dialogue For Renewal," available this Fall.

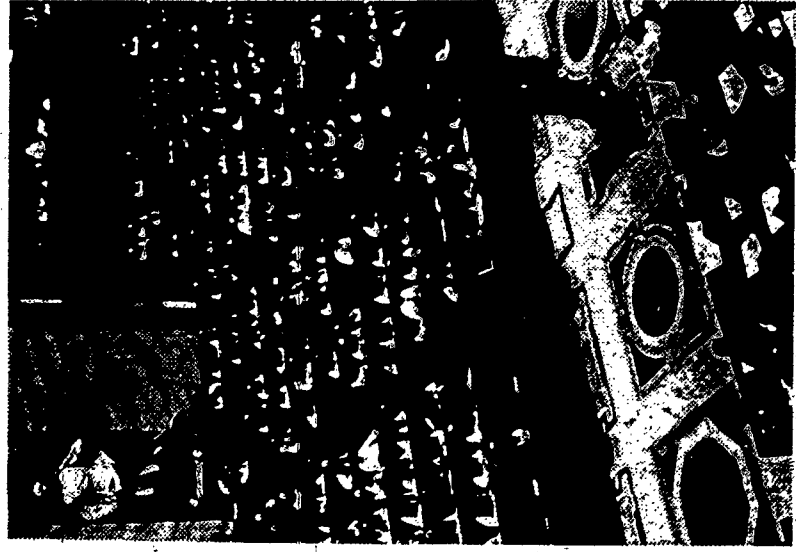
position of the organized Church on each of the major topics. And, next Fall, the entire survey will be published in a book called "Dialogue For Renewal," which will be available to everyone.

For the next 8 weeks you will be listening to the Sound-of the Church in 1973 in the Diocese of Rochester, New York. You will have an opportunity to become involved in the Church in a way never before possible. You will be able to join the Catholic community in a search for a new understanding of what it means

Commentary of the Church.

In 1962, Pope John XXIII and the Roman Catholic Bishops of the world gathered in Rome to begin the Second Vatican Council. From 1962 to 1965 this assembly of Church leaders studied the "state of the Church." Their goal was the renewal of the Church, a re-defining of the meaning of personal faith and the relationship of that faith to living in the modern world.

In the process of renewal, the Vatican Council updated many of the Church's methods, to allow each individual Catholic the opportunity to express his faith in the most personal and satisfying way.



Second Vatican Council (Religious News Service Photo)

What the organized Church said to the Catholic world at the time of Vatican II was simply that the form of expression was no longer as important as the content of faith and the living out of that faith in today's world. This message can be clearly seen in

much more important is clearly a person's understanding of what Mass is all about.

In the decade since Vatican II we have seen many changes in the traditional practices of the Catholic Church. And, in examining the events of the last decade, it seems that the real message of Vatican II was lost in the confusion that grew from those changes. Or, perhaps the people and the Church leaders were so involved in adjusting to change, they never really heard that message.

The goal of Bishop Joseph L. Hogan's Time of Renewal Program is to bring the true message of renewal to the people, to clear the confusion about what has been happening and to relate it to the real meaning of Catholic life in the modern world.

What is the Time of Renewal in the Diocese of Rochester? First of all, let's define what it is not. It is not just a call to come to church. It is not just a way out of the confusion, a way to make it easier to be a Catholic.

The Time of Renewal is a call to think about what you really believe in. It is a call to think about God. And, it is a call to think about why you are and want to be a Catholic.

The Time of Renewal asks you to join in managing the Church, to structure and direct it, so it can better serve you and all people.

The Time of Renewal is a way for you and Church leaders to join in a free and open discussion of the Church's role in your life and how it can better serve you.

And finally, the Time of Renewal in the Diocese of Rochester asks you to take up the call for renewal made by Pope John some ten years ago, so that all Catholics, leaders and people can be seen as one and the same Church. If you want to know more about the Catholic Church today and the Time of Renewal reports in this newspaper for the next 8 weeks, next week, Part