



Mrs. Meg Gibbons, left, h
an explanation of how to r
unit. Mrs. Ginny Mackey
Sullivan and her group to
county court session to li
trip to



Practical Experience

Institute Opens N

TEXT BY PAT PETRASKE
PHOTOS BY LAURENCE E. KEEFE
AND SUSAN MCKINNEY

They came in all shapes and sizes; some garbed in the classic black and white, others in modern shirtwaist dresses. And they explored seven different areas of the Rochester ministry, hoping to change the view that "what has been going on ... (in the Church) ... isn't working."

Sixty sisters, from 18 parishes attended the Institute on Pastoral Ministry sponsored by the Diocesan Sisters Council from June 27 to yesterday. Its purpose was to "test practical theory in a living experience," according to Sister Michael Lappetito, Chairman of the institute.

An executive committee comprised of Sister Michael; Sister James Lynch, vice chairman; Sister Beth La Valley and Sister Judy Reger set up a program which included morning classes at St. Bernard's Seminary focusing on a new pastoral office perspective.

The program's three main components included pastoral theology, specialized ministries plus field experience in the areas of hospital ministry, rural life, criminal justice, elderly, youth, drugs and alternatives to education. Observations on these areas were made to the parishes concerned in the hope that some changes might result.

Armed with their basic skills and ideals, the sisters attempted to integrate their theology with actual field experience in 39 parishes and institutions.



A vigorous lecture, photos above, is delivered by Sister Michael, head of the Pastoral Institute at one of the opening classes. Below, Sister James Lynch in discussion.

