

# Canon Lawyers Offer Plan For Selection of Bishops

Hartford, Conn. [RNS] — A suggested "model" procedure for the selection of Roman Catholic bishops in the U.S., described as an effort to restore to local church members "a prerogative which is part of their Christian heritage," was issued here by the Canon Law Society of America.

The result of 3 1/2 years' work by a special committee of the Catholic canon law organization, the proposal seeks to help the American church implement recent papal norms on the choosing of bishops and provide an effective way to involve "the broadest participation of the whole People of God."

Father Thomas J. Lynch of Hartford, executive coordinator of the CLSA, said in a covering statement that the procedure was completed because studies by the American bishops and others indicate "that having some type of meaningful consultative input on the part of the laity, religious and clergy... in the matter of selection of Church leaders was a question of highest interest and priority."

He said the plan is offered as a "basis for dialogue and discussion and "not intended as a definitive structure or process."

The CLSA procedure is contained in a 24-page booklet entitled "Procedure for the Selection of Bishops in the U.S." It provides for an 11-member diocesan selection committee through which qualifications are determined and names proposed; review and action by the Priests' Senate; and action by the local bishop or administrator on the names proposed.

Additional action is required by a regional meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB), a special NCCB committee on the Nomination of Bishops; and by the Vatican.

In effect, the plan works this way: the diocesan committee finds suitable candidates for bishops, the Priests' Senate reviews the list and trims it to 10 or less candidates, the bishop or administrator chooses his preferences and submits them to the regional meeting of bishops.

Then, the NCCB selection committee chooses from the candidates and submits a list of three to five names — via the president of the NCCB — to the Vatican for final selection.

A refined facsimile of a procedure approved in October, 1972, at the CLSA's annual meeting in Seattle, the new model has been submitted formally to the NCCB's Committee on Canonical Affairs.

Father Donald Heintschel of Toledo, Ohio, president of the CLSA, told Religious News Service that the proposed procedure differs from the Vatican norms in two areas: "ours is more collegial" because it involves others besides the bishop, and it "respects the autonomy of the NCCB" by spelling out its role in the process.

He said the publication of the procedure "wraps up" the CLSA's long-term involvement which began with setting out a theological and historical foundation for the democratic selection of bishops within the Church. However, he noted, CLSA "experts" will be available to the NCCB for consultation.

In his foreward to the booklet, Father Heintschel said that the sharing of new responsibilities by American Catholics and involvement in Church processes has made them aware that "certain facets" of Church life did not adequately promote renewal.

"One such area was the process used by the Church to select its leaders," he observed. "As the men and women of the Church were asked to be responsible members and to share more intimately in its mission, they also soon realized the need, founded in faith, to share in some way the selection of their bishops."

"It is an effort to restore to the members of a local church a prerogative which is a part of their Christian heritage and frequently affirmed by the Church in history," Father Heintschel stated.

"It is a measured response to

the developing faith-consciousness of the American people in their ecclesial life. It does avoid, therefore, the pitfalls on an excessive democratization process for which most are still not ready," he added.

He termed the document "the best" that the CLSA can do now.

In addition to the bishops, whose "weighty responsibility" it is to choose their successors, Father Heintschel said, "it is also offered to the members of our local churches, since it is a method that could be adapted... by them as they become aware of the need to have some voice in the selection of their bishops."

# Fisher Gives Course On Pollution

Raw sewage flowed over their sneakers and jeans as they watched a mother duck and her nine ducklings paddle through an oil covered pool of water.

This field trip was one of 18 sessions in an environmental workshop. Its students ventured into the Irondequoit Bay Wetlands to a pipe spewing raw sewage into the wetlands and Irondequoit Creek. Although the sights were alarming to see, the class was encouraged by the Pure Waters construction taking place at the outfall pipe. The project, part of the \$400 million county wide effort, promises to eliminate the discharge within the next few years.

The workshop was one of the many courses offered during the St. John Fisher College Summer Session. It was put on by Delta

Laboratories and the money received from the course by the environmental foundation will be used to purchase equipment and materials for Delta's educational programs.

"The interest of the young people is there" said Ray Huther, the designer of the course and the Delta Laboratories instructor. "We exceeded the time requirements for two credits and the students wanted more."

Gregory Knille, a sophomore at St. John Fisher, had a typical remark in the workshop critique. "I would like to expand all sessions" he said when asked whether some sessions should be expanded and others eliminated.

"They left me a feeling that there is a solution to pollution" said Betsy Mangan, one of the students.



## B-52 Victims

Cambodian children wounded by an accidental U.S. B-52 strike on the village of Neak Luong wait for medical treatment at a hospital in Phnom Penh. The accidental bombing — the worst in the Indo-China war to date — killed 137 persons and wounded 118. [RNS]

# Campers Join Fight Against Area Litter

Armed with shopping bags and enthusiasm, area CYO youngsters battled local litter problems last Thursday.

Don Bell from the CYO called Delta Laboratories to ask what could be done to give the youngsters some practical experience in environmental problems for their "Environmental Week" project.

Delta Lab is a non-profit testing laboratory in Webster, which specializes in analyzing and studying pollution.

Ray Huther, treasurer of Delta Lab, showed a slide presentation on pollution problems and talked with the youngsters on the environment. The Lab also helped the CYO camps organize a clean-up campaign to beautify littered areas of the city.

Sites chosen were Empire Boulevard along Irondequoit bay and Lake Shore Boulevard near Durand Eastman Park.

At the bay location, Irondequoit police were on hand to direct traffic, and two times a dump truck was filled to capacity with rubbish.

The most frequently found items were bottles, cans, and papers, but it included, said Bell, "... parts of cars, pieces of old stoves, scrap wood, and plastic piping... I don't know whose

stuff all this is, but they're still dumping it."

Youngsters at the park filled over a dozen king-sized bags with bulk rubbish which had marred the highway near the beach.

The clean-up meant that residents could once again enjoy the beauty of their environment.

For the kids "it got to be a competitive thing — the kids wanted to see who could get the most and biggest," Delta reported.

## Bridge Tourney Set at Xerox

The United Cerebral Palsy Association of Rochester will benefit from the duplicate bridge tournament to be held August 17 at Xerox in Webster. Stuart Sather, chairman, reported that the agency needs wheelchairs, so the proceeds will be used to buy them.

The tournament will admit open pairs (no master point limitations) and limited pairs (less than 20 master points). Cost is \$2.50 per player. Play will start 8 p.m. in the air conditioned Xerox Cafeteria building 335 on Seime Drive, Webster. Refreshments will be served.



## A Baby Named Moses

Sister Joan Marie of Chicago's Columbus Hospital holds "Moses" a two-to-four week-old infant found in the water of the city's Lincoln Park. The hospital's nurses named the abandoned baby Moses because, like the Biblical baby, he was found on the water's edge. [RNS]