

A Time of Retooling Church Structures

By LAURENCE E. KEEFE

The diocesan director of Pastoral Ministry thinks his new job will make him "put up or shut up."

Father Douglas Hoffman says his appointment came as a "surprise." "As a regional coordinator, I was very critical of how the Priests' Council related to the regions. Now I have to assume responsibility for the things that I complained about."

He describes himself as a "strong believer" in the value of

the parish. "That's where the people are. When I got out of the seminary, there was a lot of talk that the parishes weren't really going to last. I don't think that's true."

How does he feel about leaving parish work to take a full time job at the Pastoral Center behind a desk?

"I liked my five years of parish work," said Father Hoffman. "But I see this as a parish office. If I can be of assistance in helping parishes go through the changes they're sure to go through in the

next 20 years, by spending a couple of years in an office, then it's worth it."

Father Hoffman has some clear ideas about what shape the future organization of the diocese will take. This is a time of "retooling" Church structures, he says, a period which will end within four or five years when the newly established bodies "take on problems and give answers that are considered respectable."

He remarks that he hopes the new bodies such as regional conferences and the Pastoral Council will "never be as frozen

as diocesan structures were before Vatican II.

Two "parallel consultative bodies" will exist after the current spate of reorganizing. One will be the Priests' Council, which is already functioning; the other will be the Pastoral Council, says Father Hoffman. "The one speaks from the pulpit, the other will speak from the pew. Both are equally respectable."

Another change coming that Father Hoffman foresees is that, "the Pastoral Council will replace the regional coordinators as the

voice of the parishes to the diocese."

Not everything in his new job will come easily, predicts Father Hoffman. "I suspect there'll be serious problems with the draft constitution of the Pastoral Council Formation Committee. The key problem will be representation on the council," he predicts.

The draft constitution was sent for comments and suggested revision to most concerned bodies in the diocese, but the results have not yet been evaluated, he explained.



Fugitive Lives Two Years in Belfry

Interior [left] and exterior views of the Leesburg, N.J., United Methodist church bell tower, where 28-year-old William W. Hughes lived for two years after jumping bail rather than stand trial for breaking and entering and larceny. The fugitive stayed in the 12 by 12 belfry during the day and reportedly went out at night to steal food from grocery stores and service stations. He was discovered by a parishioner who came to the church on a Monday morning to retrieve a Bible left on Sunday.

St. Paul and Women's Rights Day

Sunday, Aug. 26, is Women's Rights Day. It's also the 21st Sunday of the liturgical year and here comes St. Paul to the Ephesians again:

"Let wives be subject to their husbands as to the Lord: because a husband is head of the wife just as Christ is Head of the Church, being Himself Savior of the body. But just as the Church is subject to Christ, so let wives be to their husbands in all things."

The unfortunate confluence of

The Beef Shortage

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However, St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira is feeling none of the effects of the shortage. Stan Douglas, director of community relations, praised the efforts of the vendors in filling the hospital's purchase orders. He added the hospital may have been given priority.

Plenty of meat remains in storage at Mercy Hospital in Auburn although orders for beef have dropped slightly because of the shortage.

"We eventually get what we need," explained Mrs. Charlotte Poleman, dietary consultant at Mercy. Approximately \$800 a week is spent on meat including beef, she said.

Other institutions are beginning to feel the pinch. Vendors for St. Ann's Home for the Aged have reported that certain beef cuts such as top sirloin are running short. But other beef items can be substituted.

"We've been told that the market is getting tighter and tighter and we expect the shortage to affect us more and more," said Sister Marie Michelle, administrator at St. Ann's.

She explained that menus are being altered and notices are sent

the two events has some diocesan women upset enough to seek a change in the reading.

Local members of the Catholic feminist organization, St. Joan's International Alliance, concluded from the text of St. Paul's letter "that husbands, parents and masters are likened to Christ while women, children and slaves are relegated to the inferior role of subjugation."

To set the situation in perspective, Aug. 26 marked the

anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment in 1920 granting women the right to vote and has since been celebrated as Women's Rights Day.

The readings for the liturgical calendar are made up in three-year cycles by a special international committee and unfortunately St. Paul's letter always falls on or near Women's Rights Day.

Sister Margaret Mary Mattle, executive secretary of the Sacred Liturgy Committee, explained that the regulation of the Sacred Liturgy depends solely on the authority of the Church which in this case is the bishop. "But this is a question of interpretation; some priests take the responsibility of the liturgy upon themselves and have changed the liturgy for their parish on special occasions," Sister Margaret said.

She added that her office also has changed readings in the past. "I was the one who said no (to the request for a change). There wasn't enough time."

The theme of Sunday's three readings is "one of faith." The meat of the second reading used the model of marriage to symbolize the love and intimacy that Christ has for the Church," she said.

To avoid misunderstanding, she suggested that priests should either leave out that section of the reading or have a discussion on it.

Ellen Zazycki and Lyn Somers, members of St. Joan's International Alliance, have focused their efforts for August 26 on St. Augustine's Parish. Father Neil Miller, co-pastor at St. Augustine's, has agreed to replace the reading with one selected by Mrs. Zazycki. A statement explaining Women's Rights Day will be read by a woman lector and petitions for women theologians, saints and active lay women will be included in the prayers of the faithful.

to the people to inform them of the changes. "There have been no complaints. People read the papers; they know what's going on," Sister Marie Michelle said.

A 30-pound roast that would feed the 80 to 100 Sisters in St. Joseph's Infirmary used to be a typical purchase. Mrs. Alma George, assistant dietician, said they now have only ground beef and a few little steaks in the freezer for the high protein diets. While the infirmary can not get any beef this week, Mrs. George hopes things will improve in the near future. Other meat can be purchased, but the infirmary is cutting back in this area also. "We used to have bacon three times a week; its been cut down to one," she said.

St. Joseph's Villa has been having two meatless days a week since Lent because of the high prices, said Sister Grace Noel, purchaser at the Villa.

"Up to last week we could get meat from two places. Now they've asked us to cut down on the amount of meat ordered," Sister Grace said. She does not include chicken or turkey under the term meat, and these as well as cheese and fish are being served. Children at the Villa have not been complaining about having the same old thing, she said, because the dishes are "spaced out."

Prison Accepts New Program in Problem Solving

By PAT PETRASKE

The Monroe County Thresholds program, which changed its name to CHOICE to avoid confusion with an existing city youth program, has been accepted by the Monroe County jail. The course in decision-making and problem solving will be taught by community volunteers to women inmates beginning in January.

An intensive weekend of preliminary training for volunteers is slated for Sept. 14-16 at the United Church of Christ, 570 Kelm Road, Webster. Milton Burglass, a former prisoner who devised CHOICE, and his staff from Correctional Solutions, will conduct the training session. The \$15 fee includes all training sessions, a training manual, coffee breaks, and Saturday evening dinner. A 13 week follow-up cycle will complete the training. About 40 volunteers are expected to take the course.

the premise that a large part of the average inmate's problem is a functional deficit in decision-making ability, explained Carolyn Micklem, a member of the jail ministry and of the CHOICE strategy task force.

She said that approval for the program was given by Robert Stanwick, superintendent of the jail, to work with the women initially because they are not receiving the services of the Mental Health Team.

"We hope by January any continuing questions will have been answered and we will begin working with the men," Miss Micklem said. She explained that a basic fear held by the several members of the jail staff was that the various jail projects were competing for the same inmate.

"There are plenty of inmates for all. Right now we're concerned with the inmate who is not being helped by other programs; CHOICE will start with the women as a pilot program to see how it will work," she said.

In prison use, CHOICE rests on

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