

Pastoral Perspective

By Bishop Joseph L. Hogan

A Profile of the Church of Rochester

Part IV

PURSUIT OF A COMMON GOAL

Our society tends towards polarization today. As has been pointed out in some detail, the Church of Rochester is a living creation of the Spirit enhancing the uniqueness of its members by a free and reverend unity. Unity does not imply the covering up of differences. But in this age in this country we can become victims of a false tendency to affirm diversity in such an insistent manner that basic unity is forgotten.



Diversity need not promote strident competitiveness on an either-or model. The Catholic schools must not compete with CCD. We must care deeply about Christian education. Young priests and old priests have a shared responsibility to respond to the needs of the ministry. Competition over questions of the rights of priests and those of the laity should be submerged in the cooperative efforts to fulfill our common call as Christians. Men and women do not have a particular "place" in

the Christian community. Both are equally called to help in the building up of the Body of Christ. Young and old should serve each other rather than demanding that "the Church" do more for each.

We have not mentioned the diversity of priests and religious men and women who are the servants of all the people of God. We have been blessed by their lives and most of them through their generous giving achieved some degree of holiness. The question of religious vocations in the future to serve the Church of Rochester, is one that all should pray over and respond to. We need sensitive men and women to serve all the people of the diocese and all the people of all nations in our missionary effort. We have a long tradition of serving the Gospel even beyond the boundaries of our diocese. Not only can we take justifiable pride in the men and women who serve in orders and missions beyond our twelve counties, we must continue this commitment to the Church and the world at large. The crisis is not ended and future vocations should be a concern of all our people.

REFLECTIONS AND EXHORTATIONS

We began our series of articles on the Profile of the Church of Rochester with the analogy of a field to be cultivated. The validity of this image is confirmed by the

Lord of the harvest in the growth parables. They speak of the life of the Kingdom in terms of wheat and cockle, of the variety of the responsiveness of soil to the growth of the Word of God (the seed) and of the harvest time (the final coming of the Lord).

Pope Paul VI used the same imagery in reference to the call to renewal of the Church issued by the II Vatican Council: "The seeds of life planted by the Council in the soil of the Church must grow and achieve full maturity."

Our Diocese of Rochester exists to manifest such growth of the seed that will merit a rich harvest. The pioneers beginning in 1868 have planted well. These days of renewal are the watering stage. But it is always the Lord who "gives the increase."

If the Church of Rochester is to be a believable sign of growth, it must nurture in its own soil the values of human dignity, of freedom, of justice and peace.

Brotherhood, reconciliation and fraternal service must flourish among us. We must become the rich soil that will nourish God's love for the world, and offer ample sustenance for the poor and disadvantaged. Failing in this, the Church here, as elsewhere, will needlessly encumber the ground.

Institute Draws 200 To John Fisher Campus

More than 200 people from all walks of life gathered last weekend at St. John Fisher College's St. Basil's Hall to probe the meaning and direction of their liturgical experiences.

The gathering was billed as "Liturgy, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," and featured a nationally known liturgist, Father Robert Hovda.

Sponsored by the diocesan liturgy commission the event also featured a number of workshops designed to help develop parish and regional worship committees.

Father Hovda addressed himself to three major areas of concern: problems in community, ministry and symbol and style.

"We need to tap the talented people around us for counsel. We need professionalism. A good liturgy is a work of art," Father Hovda said.

He described liturgy as the

summit of the Church's activity and asked a realignment of priorities in spending money away from parish upkeep to encourage professional artists' contributions to worship.

Father Hovda, a native of Fargo, S.D., is now a resident of Washington, D.C., where he works on the national bishops' liturgical conference and edits the magazine Living Worship.

While a spirit of informality was evident throughout the weekend a number of weighty considerations were proposed and discussed, focusing on deepening the experience of prayer at the parish level, especially through the development of more effective parish worship committees.

To this end, a special meeting was held on Saturday morning among Bishop Joseph Hogan and regional leaders, the diocesan liturgical commission, the diocesan education office, the Office of Human Development,

and the faculty of St. Bernard's Seminary.

At the meeting, Bishop Hogan noted his pastoral concern for people of the diocese regarding their prayer lives and outlined a program of integrated parish ministry involving a three-fold thrust in education, social action and worship, all seen as elements of one Church action.

He noted that there could be no adequate social action without developing prayer and faith through education, no thorough education without prayer and social involvement, and no real prayer apart from education and expression of concern for society's problems.

Father Charles Mulligan, director of OHD, outlined the philosophy of this multifaceted approach.

Sister James Lynch, coordinator of educational services for the diocese, explained the role of training programs for parish



Photo by Susan McKinney

Miss Rose Nasca, St. Patrick's parish, Mt. Morris, meets Father Hovda.

councils and subsidiary committees on education, human development and liturgy.

Sister Michael Lappetito, director of religious education, outlined a projected program for sacramental training to be piloted by OHD, and the education and liturgy offices next spring.

Father Sebastian Falcone, academic dean of St. Bernard's, outlined programs in continuing education in the area of liturgy that will be available next semester at the seminary, and noted a growing interaction between the school and the Pastoral Center.

Msgr. William Shannon, chairman of the liturgical commission, offered his plans to continue the publication of current developments in liturgical renewal and models for celebrating special liturgical events.

Sister Margaret Mary Mattle, secretary of the commission, spoke on the consultant services available to parish worship committees, and noted special efforts by the diocese to train regional personnel to serve as consultants on the parish level.

She also noted that committees of the commission were developing special liturgies for families, children, high schoolers, and services for the sick and aging.

Sister Virginia Hogan, chairman for the music subcommittee of the commission, noted plans for three workshops in liturgical

music to be held this year. The workshops will deal with church music repertoire, and the training of choirs, cantors and music directors.

Knights Plan Pilgrimage

The New York State Knights of Columbus will hold their 35th Annual Pilgrimage at the Auresville site of the Shrine of the North American Martyrs, Sunday, Sept. 16, at 2 p.m.

The chairmen of this event, James J. O'Connor Jr., of Rotterdam, announced that the schedule will include living rosary, Stations of the Cross, Benediction, and pilgrimage Mass.

CRS AIDS CAMBODIANS

New York [RNS] — The U.S. bishops' overseas aid and development agency pledged to supply \$25,000 in material and equipment to the Neak Luong Hospital in Cambodia that was mistakenly bombed by U.S. aircraft on Aug. 6. The contribution by Catholic Relief Services matches a grant by the Danish interchurch agency, DanChurchaid.

The CRS grant came in response to a report from Msgr. Andrew P. Landi, assistant executive director of the agency, who visited Neak Luong and surveyed the results of the bombing. He said CRS is supplying hot meals daily to 27,000 refugees in Phnom Penh, the Cambodian capital, and making supplementary food rations available to another 13,300 refugees in the area.



Photo by Susan McKinney

Bishop Hogan discusses some of the points presented during workshop session. Also sitting in on the group session are Sister James Lynch, left, and Sister Anne Guerin, center.