

To Work for Housing

Archbishop Sheen Challenges Youth

By PAT PETRASKE

Celebrating the fifth anniversary of the launching of his war against inadequate housing, Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen called on the members of the Bishop Sheen Housing Foundation, Inc. to expand their resources by exploring the untapped area of the young.

Pausing from his vacation to attend the annual meeting at Becket Hall last week, Bishop Sheen said that "the young people are ready for sacrifice" and maintained that through sacrifice the Foundation will be built up.

His voice rising in determination, the 78-year-old former bishop of Rochester exclaimed that only "when the atmosphere becomes more charred with Calvary (will) the donations flow in."

The now famous story of Calvin Hill, the young black boy who took the bishop to see his rat-infested home, laid the ground work for the foundation, which originally gave families an average grant of \$2,200 for down payments on homes. Twenty-five families involving 232 people were housed between 1967 and 1971 at a cost of nearly \$52,000.

Since 1971 the foundation has set new guidelines and has expanded services to cover all

twelve counties in the diocese "so people don't think we end at the Barge Canal," said Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, chairman. The Home Ownership Program offers seed money to organizations planning to provide land or low income housing. Project Support gives a shot in the arm in the form of financial or educational aid to projects relating to housing or community development. Participation in a simulated "game" on the housing crisis and research into housing and development problems are part of the three phase education program called Action for Housing.

Bishop Sheen explained that his interest in the poor began at the age of eleven when he and his brother gave their two nickels to a lady in a shawl, "although she insisted she wasn't poor. In those days, poverty was a shawl," he laughed. He believes the youth are waiting for some kind of similar challenge of social concern.

"(They) lack an overpowering objective in life," Bishop Sheen began and added that at least Watkins Glen had given them a goal.

"Tell the teenagers of the diocese to go out and find a house and report to the particular committee about it. Then they can make a pledge to help buy that house. Young people want that challenge," he said.

Insight into the challenge facing the Housing Foundation was provided by a polished color tape and slide presentation produced by the education and public relations committees. Evelio Perez-Albuerne, outgoing chairman of the public relations committee, said that the slide presentation will be used for the campaign to approach non-profit institutions and businesses as well as individuals in an attempt to obtain a steady flow of income for the foundation.

The problem of maintaining a diocesan-wide outreach is being combated by the new brochure, "Look Out My Window," which concisely defines the program available to strengthen community response. It is not the Foundation but the community that are actually going to build the houses, Father Charles Mulligan, president of the foundation said.

After committee reports were submitted, foundation members unanimously ratified the constitution which had been adopted by resolution of the Board of Directors. Major changes included setting the number of directors at a minimum of three and a maximum of 25 and the establishment of an executive committee. The latter is responsible for the day to day transaction of business and implementation of policies.



Archbishop Sheen makes a point.



Archbishop Sheen, Bishop Hogan.

Sex Education Program to Focus on Parents

Los Angeles [RNS] — The Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles is initiating its first sex education program this Fall, but with classes for parents rather than for children.

The parents will then serve as the sex education instructors for their children, passing along the information in the way and at the times the parents consider most appropriate.

Sister Carol Ann Dee, coordinator of the new Christian Family Life Education program, said discussions with parents

would cover roles of family members in society, sexual development of children and such controversial issues as premarital intercourse, homosexuality, birth control and abortion.

"We do not get into a polemic discussion on these latter topics," she said. "The focus is on how to discuss these matters with children."

The classes will be held in parishes where there is interest in such a program, and not in the schools of the archdiocese.

In 1969, in the wake of national controversy over sex education, the archdiocesan board of education adopted a policy prohibiting teaching about human reproduction in grades one through eight.

Currently human sexuality is dealt with in archdiocesan high schools in classes such as biology, health and religious education, according to Msgr. Donald Montrose, superintendent of high schools.

In elementary schools, teachers may answer questions the children ask about sex.

Some of the 324 parishes of the archdiocese have already been dealing with sex education in evening classes for parents and children. Sister Carol said she did not know how many parishes had such programs, but she said "it's a common practice."

Explaining the rationale of the new program, she said, "We appreciate the right and responsibility of parents to educate children in the delicate, intimate area of sexuality."

Parents understand better than teachers, she said, the level their children have reached in

physical, emotional and intellectual development.

She added that the purpose of the new program is not only to assist parents in educating their children "in the Christian dimension of human sexuality," but also "to strengthen communication within the family."

Teams of adults, mostly Catholic parents, have been trained to lead the classes, which include eight weekly sessions of two hours each. Teams are being trained under the direction of Dr. Gerald Lubin, a child psychiatrist with the University of Southern California Medical School.

Abortion Ruling Reversal Predicted by Cardinal

Chicago [RNS] — Cardinal John J. Cody of Chicago, who heads the U.S. bishops' pro-life committee, told Roman Catholics taking part in the American Health Congress here that the day will come "when this evil decision (on abortion) given by the Supreme Court will be reversed."

He also predicted that people in the medical field "will find this whole thing so revolting that they will say 'We have had enough of this and we want sane laws made for the government of our country.'"

The prelate made his remarks following a Mass he celebrated with 10 priests during the second annual congress here.

The American Health Congress is a joint convention for four groups: the American Hospital Association, the Catholic Hospital Association, the Health Industries Association, and the American Nursing Home Association.

The cardinal said he felt it his duty as episcopal chairman of the bishops' committee on pro-life

activities to speak "about the problems that we are all facing today in the moral field in hospital care."

Noting that there are many problems of a medical-moral nature, he said that in the last year "we have been given a challenge that will test our unity and faith and determination to live up to the norms and basic principles of the teaching of the Church."

"Some weakened by constant struggle, may want to take the easy way out," he asserted. "We cannot, if we are to uphold the natural, the moral law in the vast fields of health care."

Cardinal Cody said it has been a joy to receive comments from health care officials of non-sectarian institutions commending the Church for "not permitting unlawful or illicit operations."

"They are setting up safeguards for protecting the unborn and they admire us for taking a determined stand not to permit any operation of this kind in our Catholic hospitals," he related.

Whatever Happened to Key 73? Evangelism Changes Urged

Dallas [RNS] — Key 73, the broad-based evangelistic program "calling our continent to Christ," will get the 1973 "disappointment of the year" award unless dramatic changes are forthcoming, according to a United Methodist newspaper that has backed the effort.

"What Ever Happened to Key 73?" asked an editorial in the August 17 issue of the Texas Methodist/United Methodist Reporter, which has 131 weekly editions with 230,000 subscribers across the nation.

"Not much" has apparently happened with Key 73, the editorial stated. "We have received reports of successes in a few scattered communities," it added. "In most local congregations, however, Key 73 seems to have produced nothing more than a giant yawn."

The newspaper noted the diversity and autonomy of the denominations, dioceses, independent groups and regional organizations taking part in Key 73.

It said the campaign was "a good idea" and asked "what went wrong?"

"One obvious conclusion is that the same loose-knit structure which preserved individual autonomy and avoided centralization also made an administratively effective approach to Christian evangelism impossible from the start," the editorial said. It added that "an additional restricting factor was the lack of any clear sense of unity among the participating groups about what it would mean to 'call our continent to Christ.'"

But the Texas Methodist/United Methodist Reporter thought there is a more basic reason for Key 73's "failure." It said:

"Authentic Christian evangelism grows out of a compelling commitment to Christ and a compelling urgency to share one's faith with others. Programs may assist in the task of Christian evangelism. But evangelism itself cannot be

programmed — no matter how many gimmicks and how much ballyhoo are thrown into the package.

"Key 73 unfortunately represents an attractive package with very little substance. Hence it has produced very little response."

The editorial concluded that "calling our continent to Christ" is still a worthy goal. "It is time for us to stop playing evangelistic games and to start sharing Christ," it said.

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