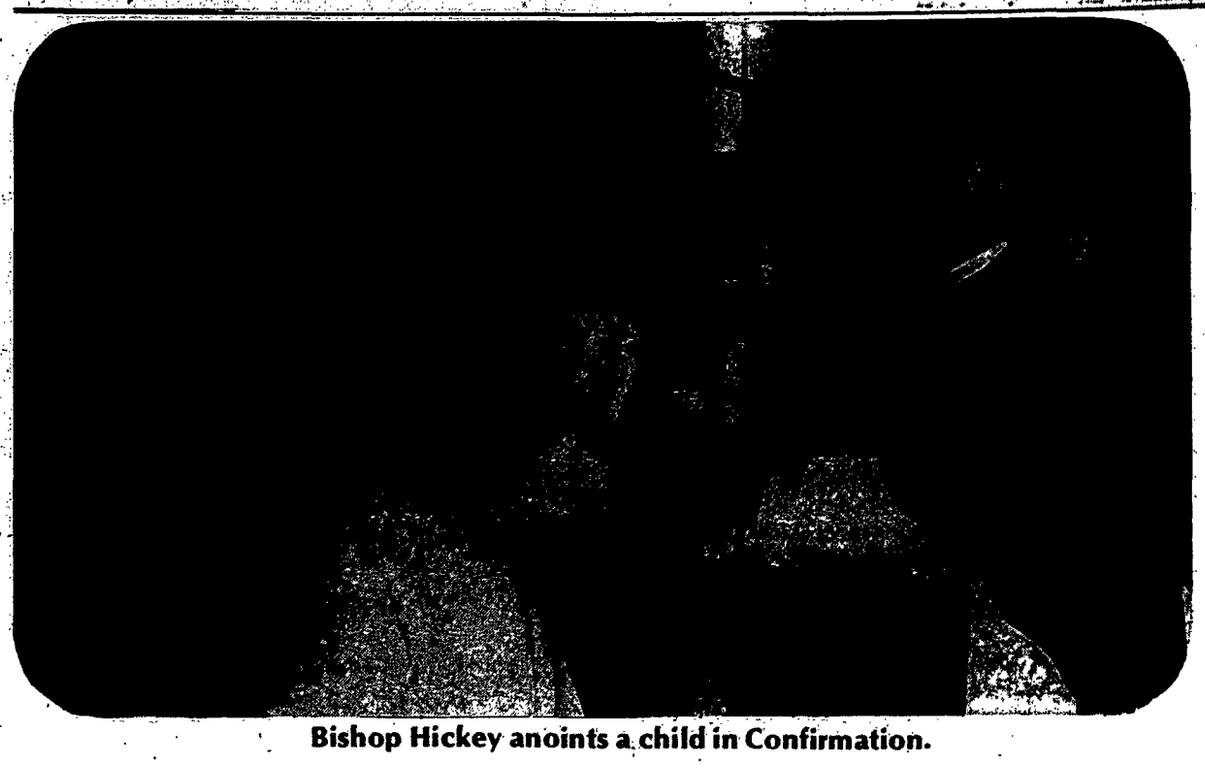

Bishop Hickey anoints a child in Confirmation.

Joining Abraham and Moses

Jesus Is Confirmed

By MARY ANN GINNERTY

Geneva — Abraham, Jesus, and Moses were among approximately 120 adults and children confirmed from the Puerto Rican community in Newark and the Mexican-American migrant workers from the Penn Yan area at St. Francis DeSales Church in Geneva, Sept. 30. Bishop Dennis Hickey, assisted by Father Gennaro Ventura, pastor, officiated.

The Spanish language Mass was concelebrated by Father John Dillon, director of the Spanish Apostolate, Father Ernesto Loera, OFM, and Msgr. Joseph Sullivan, pastor of Holy Family Church, Auburn.

Father Ernesto, coordinator of the confirmation preparatory program, believes this is the first occasion migrant workers have been prepared for the sacrament in this area. Volunteers from the Legion of Mary in Geneva, Newark and Victor and some catechists from Holy Family, Auburn provided instruction in the migrant camps.

"The migrant workers were happy about being confirmed," Father Ernesto said. "For them it was evidence of a Church that cared to seek them out and bring the sacrament to them. For the most part it was the first time and the last time, perhaps, that a Bishop will be in their midst. On the move with the seasons, migrant workers, for the most part, just do not have the occasion to be confirmed."

Confirmation was a family affair in several instances as adults and children were confirmed. The Mexican tradition of confirming children shortly after baptism was respected in several instances.

Father Ernesto reported the migrants felt deeply that the bishop should receive the fruits of their labor and so they presented squash, tomatoes, and peppers at the offertory.

At the conclusion of the Mass, the congregation spontaneously applauded the Bishop as a sign of their appreciation.

Funding Office Under Study

Continued from Page 1

Fathers Raymond Heisel and David Callan, decided in favor of a Fund Development Office.

The proposal was introduced to the council in September by Father James Moynihan, diocesan chancellor, because sources of available funds now will be insufficient to insure the future of the development of necessary programs throughout the diocese.

The purpose of the office would be to seek untapped revenue within the diocese by means of professional know-how, and the proposal suggests hiring an experienced development director and also making use of professional counsel on a per diem basis to assist the director.

Money to initiate it would come from the diocesan reserve but eventually, according to Father Moynihan's proposal, the office would pay for itself.

The proposal includes a budget of $25,000 for the first six months.

Plans to adopt a resolution on the fund office at the Priests Council meeting were changed because diocesan priests needed time to discuss the information. The resolution will be presented for consideration at the November meeting.

In answer to questions about his proposal, Father Moynihan sought to clarify the office goals and point out its importance.

"The Fund Development Office is another way of communicating with people across the diocese, and is one way of letting them know what we're doing in the way of projects, programs, operations, needs etc., at the diocesan, regional and parish levels for which funds are necessary," he said.

He told members the two professionals who took the diocesan survey for the proposed fund office would be present at the November meeting to answer additional questions.

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Priests Council May Be Enlarged

Revisions in the Priests Council Constitution, if accepted by members, could enlarge the council from 18 to 24 members.

Father Richard Tormey, chairman of the nine-man ad hoc committee for the revision of the constitution, said two of these additions would be religious order priests. He reported on committee results at the Oct. 2 Priests Council meeting.

This is the second time the constitution has been revised since its 1967 implementation.

"The Priests Council recognizes the size of the body of religious order men in the diocese," said Father Tormey, "and the experience that their diocesan apostolate has given them."

Right now, the two order priests on the council are Father Leon Hart, a Basilian priest from Aquinas, and Father Sebastian Falcone, a Capuchin, who teaches at St. Bernard's.

"In welcoming two more from their ranks, we're hoping for more input," he said. "In addition, two more members will give them more of a voice at council meetings."

The four other additional members will come from the five regions of Monroe County. In the past, there has only been one representative on the council for all five regions. Now, one will be elected for each region, according to the committee's suggestion.

Other changes proposed by the committee include having age blocks and regions hold their elections in alternate years, instead of every year. In this way, according to Father Tormey, part of the council could change every year (taking into account that some members would be re-elected) instead of every two years.

The present constitution states that no member may serve more than four years, or two terms, on the council.

The committee also recommended that whenever an election is held, the man getting the second highest total of votes be called the alternate. He will substitute at meetings when the elected man is unable to attend, and will immediately succeed in case of death, incapacitation or resignation. In the past, a new election was held.

Between now and the November meeting, members were asked to mail their suggestions concerning the constitutional revisions to Father Tormey, who will then reconvene the committee to discuss the questions.

If no serious objections are made, the committee will submit a fully typed draft of the constitution at the December meeting. Two thirds of the council's vote, plus the approval of the Bishop is needed before the revisions can be accepted.

In addition, after the matter has been through the council, Father Tormey said the revised constitution would also be submitted to all the priests of the diocese for their approval, before becoming finalized. This requires that the majority accept it.

He added that it could be well into Spring before the constitutional revisions are approved by all concerned. —Darnieder.

Bishop Selection To Be Subject For N.Y. Priests

By SHARON DARNIEDER

Selection of bishops will be one of the topics discussed by the Priests Councils of New York (PCNY) when it meets with New York State bishops on Oct. 16 at La Guardia Airport.

Father James Marvin, president of the Priests Council here and a member of the PCNY Board, will attend. Priests Council liaisons to the PCNY are Father James Boyle and Father Richard Tormey, vice president of the council.

The recent Roman document on the Selection of Bishops and the document of the Canon Law Society will be summarized, and those present will discuss the latter which proposes a change in the method of selection of bishops.

Father Marvin said the change involves "more participation from lay people and priests."

He added that although the "new way would be more democratic, it presents some problems."

One is confidentiality. In the past, names submitted as possible candidates for bishoprics have not been discussed in public, and the candidates, as well as the method of selection have been kept confidential. However, although the proposal suggests move active participation on the part of others in selecting candidates, the Pope will continue to make the final decision.

At the Oct. 2 Priests Council meeting, members were asked for suggestions on how the method could be opened for more participation, and yet not create polarization among those concerned.

Father Marvin asked that members give confidentiality special thought not only because other problems stem from it, but because it had been assigned to the Rochester diocese for consideration.

Members were asked to turn in their ideas to Father James Boyle, head of the council's ad hoc committee on the Topic of Possible Alternatives of Selection of Bishops.

Mercy Sisters To Gather In Erie, Pa.

Sister Mary Judith Heberle, Superior General of the Sisters of Mercy of Rochester, will be the main speaker at a regional celebration at the Mercy Motherhouse in Erie, Pa., Saturday, Oct. 13, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

"A Woman for All Seasons — Catherine McAuley" is the theme of the day, which is being sponsored by the Federation of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. Catherine McAuley was their founder.

Mercy Sisters of Rochester, Buffalo, Erie, Cresson, Pa., and Pittsburgh are invited.

Sister Mary Estelle of Rochester prepared the keynote slide presentation, "Sisters in the World Today in the Spirit of Catherine McAuley." Sister Estella, head of the art department of Mercy High School, has been the Rochester representative on the planning committee.

ANNIVERSARY

Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Abel of 2885 St. Paul celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Sept. 18 at an evening Mass in St. Margaret Mary Church and a dinner at the Royal Scot. The Abels are parents of Mrs. Walter Foery, Joseph F. and Francis C. Abel, all of Rochester.

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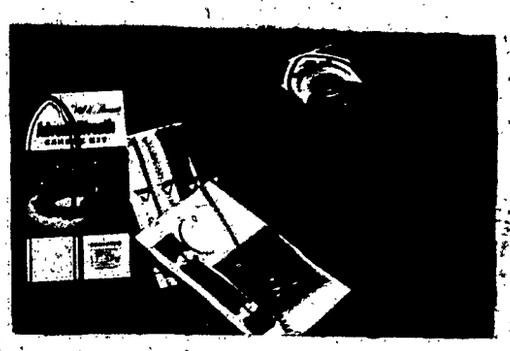

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