

Bishop Hogan Backs Nonpartisan Choice Of Public Defender

By PAT PETRASKE

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, at the request of the Coalition for the Study of the Public Defender's Office, announced his support of the recommendation that the county public defender be selected on the basis of a nonpartisan merit procedure.

At a press conference last Friday, Bishop Hogan read a statement calling for a procedure "which would insure the selection of a person with the best available administrative and legal talent regardless of political party affiliation."

The recommendation endorsed by the Bishop was made by the National Legal Aid and Defenders Association which conducted an investigation of the Monroe County Office of Public Defender in May 1973. The County Legislature had commissioned \$5,000 for the study.

An outgrowth of the Genesee Ecumenical Ministries' Task Force on Courts, the coalition was formed nearly two years ago after many complaints were received about the public defender's office. The coalition, along with the Monroe County Bar Association, asked the legislature for a study.

Father Charles Mulligan, diocesan director of the Office of Human Development, said that Joseph Ferrari, president of the county legislature, "ignored the recommendations of the report" when he established the "bipartisan" legislative committee that was appointed Tuesday, Dec. 11.

In a statement to the community, the coalition said that the legislative committee "was given the task of screening that we know can best be done by a citizen's advisory committee." The coalition, convened by the Judicial Process Commission of the Genesee Ecumenical Ministries, comprises more than 50 community groups, including Fight Church-Women-United, the Rochester Interfaith Ministries, Office of Human Development and Action for a Better Community.

It believes the selection of a public defender can best be accomplished "by a nonpartisan

advisory committee composed of three members chosen by the coalition and three members of the bar association, whose job would be to screen candidates and give names of the most qualified candidates to the legislature."

When asked if he thought the present method of selecting the public defender was inadequate, Bishop Hogan responded that he was not "pointing a finger of accusation. But the legislature should accept an objective role and (take the office of public defender) out of the temptation of a political climate."

He added that he was not jumping on the bandwagon but "as a spiritual leader, I try to promote God's kingdom. We must take care of the needs of the indigent."

Father Mulligan in a later interview maintained that the point of view expressed by the Bishop was not "commenting on the nitty gritty of the issue. He wants to insure that quality defense be implemented."

The issue of the selection process is "a broad based question," said Father Mulligan. "(The coalition) does not want to give the impression that it is only of interest to activist community groups." He added that since "this was basically a moral issue, this tone and this stance could best be voiced by Bishop Hogan."

Drug Pamphlet Now Available

Available from the New York State Drug Abuse Control Commission (DACC) is a pamphlet which presents, in a series of charts, those provisions of the state Penal Law which govern drug offenses and penalties. The publication, entitled "PENALTIES," lists the criminal penalties according to class of drug and the amounts involved in a possession or sale drug charge.

In addition to possession or sale offenses, the pamphlet outlines the penalties for other criminal drug acts (such as criminal injection of a narcotic drug, criminal possession of hypodermic instruments, etc.) provides definitions of terms used in the laws and lists the street dosage levels of some of the most commonly abused drugs.

For those persons desiring drug abuse treatment assistance, the commission operates a 24-hour, toll-free drug hotline. In New York State, call 800/522-2193.

UKRAINIAN PASTOR

Elmira Heights — Father Stephen Chomko has been named pastor of the Ukrainian Church of St. Nicholas. For several years during the 1960s he served St. Josaphat's in Rochester. He came here from the Boston area.

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Christmas at Cathedral

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan will celebrate the Christmas Eve Family Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral, at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 24.

Bishop John E. McCafferty, rector, will concelebrate the Midnight Mass with priests of the cathedral. A concert of choral and organ music, director by Don Meminger, will begin at 11 P.M.

There will be, as usual, a Folk Mass at 10 a.m. and High Mass at 11:15, but no late afternoon liturgy. The last Mass will be at 12:30 p.m.

PHILHARMONIC CONCERT

American pianist Malcolm Frager will perform Mozart's C Major Concerto tomorrow night with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. David Zinman, back from a series of engagements in the Netherlands, will conduct and will discuss the evening's music at 7:30, before the 8:15 p.m. concert in the Eastman Theater. The program includes Mozart's Overture in the Italian Style and Bruckner's Symphony No. 7.

Church Plans Latin Mass Christmas Eve

Christmas Midnight Mass at Mother of Sorrows parish will be celebrated entirely in Latin this year.

The choir will begin at 11:15 p.m. singing Gregorian Chant under the direction of Mrs. Caroline Effinger.

Traditional and contemporary carols also will be sung, and accompanied by tableaux of costumed parish adults and children depicting Christmas scenes, under the direction of Midge Richards and Carol Light.

Featured vocalists for the evening will be Sheila Bianchi, Ann Berl, Julie Marino, Robert Puleo and Robert Studley. Instrumentalists will be Bonnie Effinger, Allen Power on clarinet, and John Perlich and Jeff Roberts on trumpet.

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FOR YOUR SHOPPING CONVENIENCE
SIBLEY'S SUBURBAN STORES WILL BE OPEN FRIDAY, DEC. 21 UNTIL 12 MIDNIGHT; DOWNTOWN WILL BE OPEN UNTIL 9 P.M.