

# Coordinators Discuss Regional Conferences

By CHARLES RANDISI

**Canandaigua** — Spirited discussion kept the winter cold from becoming too harsh as the regional coordinators of the Diocese of Rochester met Tuesday, Dec. 11, at St. Mary's School library here.

Father Douglas Hoffman, director of pastoral ministry, convened the meeting, which brought together 17 coordinators and associates from the 10 diocesan regions.

Regional conferences and the problems coordinators have encountered in setting them up was the subject of Father Hoffman's preliminary remarks. He listed the necessary steps toward establishing them and gave his views on what obstacles and failures must be dealt with.

Reading from a mimeographed summary, he said the main difficulty of regional conference development was the failure to "build up grassroots support for regionalism right from the begin-

ning by involving many parishes and people in the creation of regionalism."

He then asked for coordinators' reactions and thoughts on how the situation can be turned around.

Father Robert Kanka, associate coordinator for Livingston and Steuben counties, said he was "not sure there's a desire among priests to work regionally yet... maybe for a while we should concentrate more on involving priests."

Livingston and Steuben coordinator Father Eugene Sweeney said that "distance" was the main factor that kept his regional activities from success.

A lack of enthusiasm on the part of laity and clergy was to blame, said Father Robert Smith, coordinator for Yates, Ontario, and Wayne counties. "The only (regional) meetings that were well-represented were when we discussed priests' salaries and when the Bishop showed up."

Monroe-Northwest's Father, Thomas Reddington thought that perhaps there was "no need for all this unnecessary structure." He expressed "serious doubts as to the efficacy of the (regional) assembly."

He did have hope for individual regional committees in Education, Human Development, and Liturgy. "Where there would be any real success would be in committee work rather than assembly," he said.

Father Hoffman was more optimistic, and urged the coordinators not to be disheartened. "Maybe we've been expecting too much too soon," he said.

Regional conferences are a part of the process toward establishing a diocesan-wide pastoral council. Father Hoffman compared the pastoral council goal to the building of medieval cathedrals, which used to take several generations to complete. "Here we're trying to build spiritual structures," he said.

After much more debate, Father Hoffman moved that two goal-setting sessions be held, one for the Monroe County regional leaders, and one for the "non-metropolitan" leaders.

It was decided that the former will meet Jan. 29, and the latter Feb. 5.

Diocesan chancellor Father James Moynihan then presented the diocesan plan for a fund development office, and asked for the cooperation of the coordinators. The office, he explained, would solicit funds from "people who are most capable of giving support."

A funding office is needed, he said, because "the Sunday Offertory collection is no longer adequate to meet the needs of running the diocese and parishes."

Without the office, which is scheduled for a Priests' Council vote in January, Father Moynihan said, there is a feeling that "we're not going to be able to continue some ongoing programs at the pastoral center, much less start up any new ones."

An ecumenical survey of the diocese is being undertaken by an



Father Hoffman at the regional coordinators' meeting.


ad hoc committee to the Priests' Council. Father Charles Latus, chairman of the committee, explained to the coordinators that out of the survey will come a directory of all major active ecumenical groups in the diocese, recommendations to Bishop Joseph L. Hogan on the now inactive Ecumenical Commission, and a clarification of the relationship of Genesee Ecumenical Ministries and other groups to the diocese.



A-V Festival

Sister Alma Caroline [left] of St. Margaret Mary, and Sister Beth McGlynn of Holy Redeemer, watch a film projected by a DuKane Supermicromatic, a combination film strip projector and record player. They were part of a group attending an Audio Visual Festival, at St. Thomas the Apostle School Dec. 5, designed to show teachers of the North Region materials available for their use. It was sponsored by the Catholic Schools Committee of that region.

Phone **Philippone Realtors**  
 "The Sign of Action"  
 OFFICES  
 CHILI 247-5679  
 PITTSFORD 381-0740  
 GREECE 277-0458 254-8230  
 DOWNTOWN 232-8610  
 Call "Any Time - Any Day"

**ATTENTION CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS**

We're selling out Nationally Advertised Fashion Frock Clothing for men and women. Interesting selection of winter styles in all sizes. Tremendous savings. Phone: 381-6592, 271-0917, 1-315-589-8915.

**OLD TIME VAUDEVILLE NEW YEAR'S EVE**  
 at **NAZARETH ARTS CENTER**  
 8 Big Acts 8  
 Featuring **THE INKSPOTS**

2 Shows (8 P.M. & 11 P.M.)  
 Tickets: \$5.00

Gift on Art Center **SEASON PASS**  
 for Christmas  
 2 Shows Pass — \$12.00  
 8 Shows Pass — \$28.00

Box office open 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. Mon. - Fri. to send check and self-addressed stamped envelope to: Arts Center Box Office, Nazareth College, 4340 East Avenue, Rochester, N.Y. 14618. Include MasterCard or BankAmericard Number if charging.

**GALA NEW YEAR'S PARTY**

**VALLEY ECHO PARTY HOUSE**  
 2326 BROWNCROFT BLVD.

Phone Reservations Now  
**288-7655**

9 P.M. to 3 A.M.

Live Music  
 Noise Makers  
 Buffet

Open Bar  
 Hors D'Oeuvres  
 Continental  
 BREAKFAST



**YOUNG IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS**

**TEEN GIFT CERTIFICATES**

Give every teenager on your gift list the one gift he or she will really appreciate... a Gift Certificate for pants, tops and stuff from the Shed. Stop at any of the 10 convenient Shed locations and pick up an attractively printed gift certificate in any amount. Use MasterCard or BankAmericard and parking is free at the door.

**PANTS 'N' STUFF SHED HOUSE**