

Sisters Council Okays Fund Development Office

By SHARON DARNIEDER

The rewritten proposal for a Diocesan Fund Development Office was voted on and accepted by the majority of members at the Jan. 19 Diocesan Sisters Council (DSC) meeting at Nazareth College.

It was accepted, however, on the condition that two concerns voiced by Sister Alice McLaughlin would be included in the letter of acceptance sent to Father James Moynihan, diocesan chancellor, whose office is responsible for the original proposal.

"The paragraph (in the rewritten proposal) on diocesan priorities is very vague and we should keep our ears to the ground as to who will be responsible for establishing these priorities," said Sister Alice.

She also indicated that members should be "very much aware of fund-raising for religious congregations and its relationship to the Fund Development Office."

Council Discusses Medical Ethics

In a report to the Diocesan Sisters Council (DSC), Sister Gratia L'Esperance pointed out several recent and possible future medical advances that have necessitated the Church's concern. The council met Jan. 19 on the Church's responsibility in problems of medical ethics.

Her report was based on her attendance at the National Meeting of Family Life Directors With Members of the Kennedy Center for Bio-Ethics last February in Washington, D.C. and informal sessions with other clergy and medical personnel in the diocese.

"Some of the needs that we came up with at our informal meetings were the education of voters, priests and Church leaders in certain medical-moral issues," she said, "and we also felt the importance of a medical-moral consulting team, seminars on issues and a think-tank."

She said levels of decision-making for family, parish staffs, chaplains, medical personnel, hospital policy boards and county medical societies also were discussed.

Topics brought up at the Washington meeting included the whys and hows of population growth, test tube babies and sex determination of a child before birth.

She told the council that "the Church is concerned about these problems and we, as the leadership of the Church, should be too."

A member of the diocesan Department of Religious Education, Sister Gratia stated that her interest in the subject was a sense of "personal concern and not part of my job."

She added that she's not an expert, just "someone who's worried about the data. I don't claim to be a medical or moral theologian."

Sister Gratia said that as a result of the Washington meeting and the informal sessions here, she would be informing diocesan groups of the medical-moral problems involved in some scientific techniques today.

Sister Margaret Tuley, St. Mary's Hospital, mentioned that the Catholic Hospital Association also was concerned about similar problems and was looking into them and "will keep all Catholic hospitals informed as to the results of their findings."

should be clearly stated in the proposal."

The original proposal, presented to DSC members in October by Father Moynihan, raised too many questions in the minds of DSC and Priests Council members (who heard about it at their September meeting).

For this reason, a committee headed by Father Richard Torney was appointed by the Priests Council to rewrite the proposal. Committee members included representatives from both councils and Father Moynihan's office.

Many DSC members felt as Sister Margaret Tuley did when she said that "it's evident there is conciseness and clarity compared to last time. They (those on the rewriting committee) did take into consideration the questions we had last time about the proposal."

Sister Louise Weber, president, echoed that by adding, "I think the committee did do what we asked them to."

Other council business included a report from Father Douglas Hoffman, director of Pastoral Ministry, and chairman of the Priests Council long range ministerial needs committee.

In the first direct contact with the council, Father Hoffman told members his committee would be expanding and asked for members from the DSC and sister's congregations.

Representatives from St. Joan's Alliance asked for the DSC's support in their endeavors to fight for equality and openness for women in the Church.

Sister Elizabeth Ann LeValley and Sister Edwina Butler spoke about the success of the recent Clergy Conferences and noted that it might be effective for each region to hold its own conference.

A meeting to discuss such a possibility will be held Feb. 2.

Sister Judith Whalen reported from the Diocesan Vocation Council and said support for the recent campaign to increase vocations "varied from parish to parish, but the overall picture was very, very successful."

Vocation workshops will be held from 7:45 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Feb. 4 at Becket Hall, Feb. 6 at St. Stephen's, Geneva and Feb. 12 at St. Mary our Mother, Horseheads, to explain vocations to parish council representatives, Knights of Columbus representatives and others and to encourage them to begin active campaigns in their local areas. Darnieder.

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The rewritten proposal was presented to DSC members by Sister Rosalma Hayes, a DSC representative on the rewriting committee.

Bishop Hogan Will Address North Region

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan will speak at the North Region's first General Assembly on Feb. 7 at 7:41 p.m. at Annunciation Church.

Besides the election of officers by the parish delegates, brief committee reports and goals will also be presented. Interested parishioners and parish council, committee and society members are urged to attend.

Buckley Sees Movement

On Amendment

That right-to-life amendment to the Constitution "isn't gathering dust," even though action on it is very slow.

Sen. James Buckley, who introduced the measure in the Senate, told the Courier-Journal last week that the next stage in the amendment's progress is "a couple of days of hearings next month" by a Senate judiciary subcommittee.

But he confessed, the amendment will require more than two days of hearings.

Nevertheless, he said, "It isn't gathering dust."

Legion Launches Drive In Homell Parish

Homell — Recently, James Kildea, Legion of Mary president of the southern tier curia, and John Murphy, extension chairman here, spoke at several Masses at St. Ignatius Kildea said that the Legion of Mary started in Dublin, Ireland on Sept. 7, 1921 and has extended its membership to the five continents of the world.

It has been publicly praised by every Pope since it was founded. It was especially honored by Pope Paul VI when he named Frank Duff, its founder, one of the few official lay observers at Vatican II. It is the only known Catholic organization still functioning in Communist China today.

Murphy explained the work that the members do in the parish. They give religious instructions to public school students, visit patients at hospitals and nursing homes and those confined to their homes.

They offer their services to their pastor to aid him in performing spiritual works in the parish.

There are two groups for active members, one for men and women over 18-years of age and the junior membership for students in grammar and high schools. The auxiliary, or praying

members, do not have to attend any meetings. Their obligation is to say certain prayers and to recite the rosary daily. Their prayers are very important for the success of the work of the Legion, Murphy stressed.

Father Leo Mans, pastor of St. Ignatius, noted that there are more than 50 sick calls in the parish and through his former association with the Legion of Mary in other parishes, he plans on having an adult and a junior praesidium at St. Ignatius in the near future.

PRIVATE AUDIENCE

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope Paul received U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Henry Shultz and his wife in private audience on Jan. 18.

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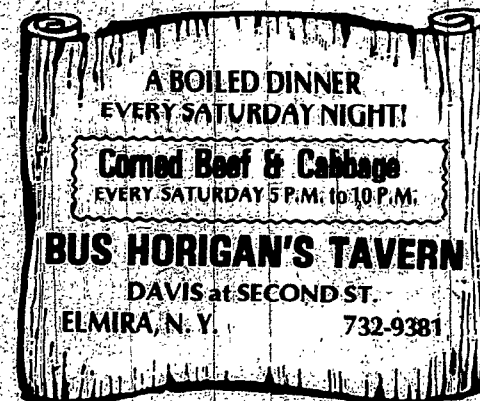
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