



Photo by Susan McKinney

Chrism Mass

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan prepares the mixture of perfumes and oil which will become Holy Chrism at the diocese's annual Chrism Mass in St. Stephen's Church, Geneva. With

the bishop are [l.-r.] Deacon William Laird, Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, Father Michael Conboy and Bishop John E. McCafferty. More pictures, pp. 12, 13.

Non-Metro Workshop... Some Expectations

By SHARON DARNIEDER

Non-metropolitan parishes can be found all over the diocese. Nestled among the hills in Dansville, at the foot of Seneca Lake in Watkins, Glen or in cities such as Elmira or Geneva.

Whether you label them non-metro (to distinguish them from those in large cities, like Rochester) or prefer the old term rural for some areas, a Non-Metro Parish Workshop for clergy scheduled April 30-May 1 at Notre Dame Retreat House,

Canandaigua, calls them all, "the challenge of the '70s."

Area priests are looking forward to the workshop, the first of its kind in the diocese and the nation, as a means of exchanging ideas, discussing methods and hearing others speak on the problems and joys of non-metro ministry.

"I hope it's a program that'll give us tools to use, and not just theory," said Father Paul Ryan, St. Michael's, Penn Yan, who'll represent his parish at the workshop.

"Tools that we can use to meet the spiritual and social needs of the people better," he added.

Father Richard O'Connell, pastor of St. Mary's, Dansville, thinks the workshop "will be of help to our people, and our attendance at it will be an evidence to them of our willingness to learn."

His assistant, Father William Darling, is also going and both feel the workshop's importance justifies canceling Masses for one day.

The workshop features three key speakers. Father Bernard Quinn, director of the Glenmary Research Center, Washington, D.C.; Father John McRaith, co-director of the Rural Life Division, United States Catholic Conference, and Father Louis Miller, CSSR, editor of the Liguorian Magazine.

"From their expertise," said Father O'Connell, "I hope to understand the needs of the people better so we can be more effective in our ministry."

"One thing I hope they hit on," added Father Darling, "is this. The people here have a very strong, traditional faith. I'd like to see how we can keep these qualities and help them use them in the Church of the '70s."

"Something the people have to get used to," he continued, referring to the current shortages of priests and religious, "is taking leadership in the parish and the liturgy."

Dansville, a town with a population of about 6,000 has roughly 750 families attending Church. Father O'Connell has a background of work in non-metro parishes and St. Mary's is Father Darling's first assignment.

"I see my role as challenging as

those of priests in large cities," said Father Darling. "There's a different type of work in parishes such as ours but it's no less challenging."

The word used to describe such parishes, "non-metropolitan," has caught the fancy of some and dismayed others.

"I like the word rural," said Father Ryan, "it seems to indicate more of the way Jesus did things."

Father O'Connell reacts negatively to the word rural and said "he thought, 'non-metropolitan was a better word. Our people are just as sophisticated as city people,' he added.

"I want the workshop to say something to me as a priest in Dansville that it couldn't say to my classmates in Rochester," inserted Father Darling.

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Bishop Describes Chrism Mass

A rather special perspective on last week's Chrism Mass is offered on Page 3 by the main celebrant of the Mass, Bishop Joseph L. Hogan. The Bishop gives his personal impressions of the Mass, annually a symbol of the unity of the entire diocese.

A portion of this week's Courier is devoted to Catholic Charities participation in the Community Chest program. Turn to Pages 18-22 to learn about the worthwhile programs conducted by Catholic Charities which receive Community Chest support.

Father Sirianni Ordination Slated

"Bless the Lord, O My Soul" will be the theme for the ordination to the priesthood of Louis A. Sirianni this Friday evening, April 19, at 7:30 p.m.

Father Sirianni will be ordained by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan at the Church of the Holy Family, where he has been serving his deacon internship since last June. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony F. Sirianni of Atwell Street, Rochester.

The new priest will celebrate the Eucharist at Holy Cross Church, his home parish, on Saturday, April 20 at 7 p.m. A reception will follow in the school hall. He will also celebrate the Noon Mass at Holy Family on Sunday, April 21. This is to be followed by a coffee hour in the parish center.

Father Sirianni graduated from St. John Fisher College in 1969 with a B.A. degree in English. He earned a B.D. degree from St. Bernard's Seminary in 1972. His field experiences include teaching religion at the Al Sigi Day Care Center, working with Rochester Area Multiple Sclerosis and acting as a student chaplain



FATHER SIRIANNI

at Rochester General Hospital. He has also spent two summers as a student minister in a Christian Ministry in the National Parks. He received his clinical pastoral training at the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond, and worked at St. John the Evangelist Church during his last year at St. Bernard's.