

## Sisters Take Action On Two Key Issues

The Diocesan Sisters Council moved decisively last week toward the disposition of two matters affecting the spiritual and work-a-day lives of the women it represents.

The council took a new lead toward a long-standing question — whether to have a vicar of religious. A new approach to the "maintenance" problem also was outlined.

A Summer education program open to laity as well as religious was accepted as a council project.

In other business, the delegates supported California agricultural workers who are attempting to secure collective bargaining rights.

The committee studying the Vicar of Religious subject recommended that, instead of instituting a full-time position, under that title, the council might have the guidance of a "vicar service," which would be provided by one of the three bishops in the diocese, the DSC president and the Sisters' 10 regional representatives. This proposition will be made known through the council's newsletter, and the Sisters will be asked to tell their regional representatives what they think about it. If they say they want the vicar service, the committee will seek Bishop Joseph L. Hogan's permission in June for a year's trial of the plan.

Sister Bonaventure reported that the Priests Council had withdrawn from the discussion of Sisters' maintenance by asking Father Douglas Hoffman, director of pastoral ministry, to serve as ombudsman. At the March DSC meeting, some discontent was expressed over proposals that seemed to narrow the freedom of choice regarding living

arrangements that Sisters enjoy within the limits of their own community rules. At that time, Sister Judith Weber, SSJ, remarked that "the sisters on the grass roots level haven't been given a chance to express their views." Sister Bonaventure's committee will seek further comment from the constituency and secure an early appointment with Father Hoffman.

Sister Elizabeth Ann described the program being developed as an alternative to the Sisters' institute of last summer. There will be a series of evening classes in July, open to everyone, with speakers who are specialists in various fields. Among the topics she mentioned are marriage counseling, the role of women in the Church, the Holy Year, ministry to youth, the elderly, prisoners and unwed parents.

The council declared support for the California farm workers, maintaining that the workers have a right to choose in a free election "whether or not they want union representation, and if so, which union they want to represent them."

The statement "calls on every sister to become informed on this issue and to make what she believes is an appropriate response, personally, within her local community, and in her professional situation."

The next council meeting will take place May 18 at Nazareth Academy, while the Sisters of St. Joseph are holding their annual assembly. The various commissions within the St. Joseph community will have exhibits that outline their work, and delegates from other orders will be able to look over these exhibits in the course of their 12:30-4:30 p.m. meeting.



Photo by Susan McKinney

During a blustery day at St. Ann's Home and the Heritage, Bishop Joseph L. Hogan gave Paolini Sante a hand with his overcoat. The Bishop visited St. Ann's in connection with Senior Citizens Month, celebrated in May each year since 1963. For more pictures turn to the centerfold pp. 12, 13; Bishop Hogan writes this week on the Elderly page 3.

## Scenarama Boosts Vocations

The varied world of Church careers was highlighted during a two-day Scenarama last week in the Elmira area. Courier-Journal staff writer Sharon Darnieder and photographer Susan McKinney were on hand to provide a word-and-picture description. **PAGE 7.**

Father Robert F. McNamara of St. Bernard's Seminary describes another of the diocesan churches which are serving as pilgrimage centers during this year of preparation for the 1975 Holy Year. **PAGE 8.**

The world's smallest circus was in town last week and among its cast of three is Father Nick Weber, SJ. For a Pat Petraske report on the Royal Lichtenstein Quarter Ring Sidewalk Circus turn to **PAGE 18.**

## Button Up Your Overcoat

## TLC Service Unit Organized In Corning

**Coming** — With the brunt of flood recovery work in Corning completed, the Office of Human Development here has been phased out, replaced by a new organization. The Loving Congregation (TLC)

The replacement was voted on recently at a meeting of OHD-Corning's advisory board. According to Richard Wardell, a member of the TLC "core group," and an attorney for Corning Glass, TLC aims to fulfill the "need for an organization to measure how the people of the Corning-Painted Post Area feel about their needs being served.

The proposed key to the new organization needs to be education in the community as to

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## Diocese to Note Day of Prayer For Vocations

The diocese will be observing a World Day of Prayer for Vocations on Sunday, May 5, it has been announced by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan. The day of prayers has so been designated by Pope Paul VI.

Father Gerald T. Connor, diocesan director of vocations, has called on every parish to make vocations the subject of the homily on Saturday-Sunday, May 4-5.

He noted that the day of prayer "ties in directly with the diocesan prayer campaign for vocations begun last September." The campaign solicited prayers for vocations from throughout the diocese. More than 10,000

pledges of prayer were received and have been read by those training for the priesthood, Sisterhood and Brotherhood.

Father Connor said that May 5 serves the diocese "as a kind of checkpoint between last September's call for prayer and the next diocesan drive in the Fall. All who have pledged prayers should renew and revivify their commitments."

Father Connor has sent letters to each pastor and a separate message to the some parishes that have vocation chairmen. Posters, liturgy outlines and a special message from the Pope also were distributed to vocation chairmen.