Discovery of Personhood Seen Vital to Church

By SHARON DARNIEDER

In describing the Lord's work, especially in terms of the "signs of the times" to a Southeast Regional Conference Regional organizational meeting Sunday evening Father Sebastian Falcone said that he felt "fundamentally, Vatican II was really coming to grips with the discovery of personhood!

Father Falcone told 50 southeast Region representatives at the meeting at the University of Rochester's Interfaith Center, that a number of theologians have argued that the fundamental theological thrust of Vatican II is that an attempt was made to re-establish the fun-damental freedom of the human person.

Father Falcone, who's on the faculty at St. Bernard's Seminary, said that he would use the time available to provide a "kind of broad theological context in

> study the entire idea more fully and to make further recommendations.

> The Rev. Kenneth C. Tuttle, director of the Pastoral Counseling Center sponsored by Genesee Ecumenical Ministries (GEM), described services offered by the center.

> Staffed mainly by qualified volunteers, the center is not only open to lay people but religious as well. The DSC has been concerned for about three years about the lack of such services available for religious.

> Sister Ann Miller, RSM, a former DSC member, alerted the council to GEM's counseling The DSC will further center. discuss its use and support of it at future meetings.

DSC members expressed two concerns after James Noonan, process director, explained Process A.

 They pointed out that it failed. to note that consultative bodies concerned with an issue should be consulted simultaneously and that there was no clarification as to what issues should go through Process A, or who would make that determination.

Noonan noted that efforts would be made to present issues to consultative bodies at the same time and that when issues arose, they will all be consulted before going ahead with Process A - Damieder

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which regional identity ought to be a goal to be worked at, and perhaps an attempt to really understand exactly what's happening when the diocese commits itself to trying to fulfill its mission in terms of a regional structure '

He also said that the "discovery of personhood, the principle of participation at all levels of Church experience, and the whole challenge of pluralism are what appeared to be central to Vatican II.

He said that the attempt to understand and interpret Jesus is "at the very heart of the malaise that we're experiencing in the

"If we're really going to un-derstand what is essential to Christianity," he continued, "we're going to have to come back and refocus all of our interest upon the person of Jesus."

Sisters Discuss Variety of Topics

Among the topics discussed at this month's Diocesan Sisters Council (DSC) meeting were counseling for priests and Sister, guidelines for pastoral assistants, Sister's maintenance and Process

The meeting coincided with the Sisters of St. Joseph's Annual Assembly Day Both were at Nazareth Academy which gave SSI's who attended the assembly a chance to sit in on the DSC meeting. Between 60 and 70 observers filed through during the course of the 12:30-4:30 p.m.

Pastoral Assistant Committee members Sister Carol Fox, RSM, and Sister Mary Geck, SSJ, discussed the guidelines with the DSC. Committee members said that because the ministry was only two years old, guidelines should not be finalized yet but room should be left for re-evaluation.

DSC members agreed with the committee and endorsed the guidelines presented by them with the understanding that such re evaluation will take place in

The council also formalized its request regarding the ongoing issue of Sisters maintenance. Its proposal, which will be presented to ombudsman, Father Douglas Hoffman, asks that the issue of Sisters' maintenance be kept on hold until the Fall when it would go into Process A.

This will enable the DSC and the interdepartmental staff to

Father Falcone suggested to the representatives that they take a look at what Jesus really means to us, and within the context of that new interpretation, perhaps some sense of what Church is all about."

He asked them to think of Jesus as the gracious neighbor and suggested that the parable of the Good Samaritan gave a kind of interpretation of the full mission of Jesus, as "not adhering to old structures but being able to move in understanding to the man of the moment."

"The gracious neighbor is one who can identify with, reach out to, and in some very real way begin to understand not only the circumstance in which he finds himself but the way in which to make an effective response to the challenge of that moment," he added.

Father Douglas Hoffman, director of pastoral ministry, urged representatives to act realistically within the confines of their budgets and resources "and not to do too much at one time or it's easy to get frustrated."

Although he pointed out to them that it was a negative way of doing things, he identified several functions which they couldn't do as a region, one of which was running a set of training programs for all the ministries going on in the area or the parishes.

He balanced this by pointing out to them what is possible, especially "communication especially within the groups of parishes and institutions in a region through newsletters, meeting minutes, staff directiories, etc."

Father Hoffman told them he had great respect for the in-dividual human person "but that as regional representatives you represent more than the sum total of youself."

The Southeast Region comprises 19 parishes and several other institutions.

Chest Gets Real Estate

The United Community Chest of Greater Rochester has received a gift of real estate from the Xerox Corp., according to Louis A Langie Jr., president of the Chest

The property, the former Rectigraph plant on Hollenbeck

CONSEDINE RETIRES

Washington, D.C. [RNS] William R. Consedine, 63, chief legal expert for the U.S. Catholic Conference for two decades, has retired as general counsel of the Conference. He will remain with the USCC on assignment as special counsel, Genera Secretary Bishop James S. Rausch General announced here.

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