



Bishop Hogan, Dr. Theimer and Sister Elizabeth Hughes, associate coordinator for the Southwest Region.

Cayuga-Seneca Holds Second Regional Meet

Auburn — Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, welcoming representatives from area parishes at the second annual regional assembly of the Cayuga-Seneca Region, June 3 at Sacred Heart, indicated a pastoral council will be inaugurated next spring.

Bishop Hogan described the council as evolving through the painful process of growth and renewal, beginning with the formation of parish councils, building up to regional councils, culminating in the pastoral council. The pastoral council will have representation from the laity, clergy, and religious of the diocese, and will open further avenues for communication. Bishop Hogan described regionalism as the forum through which special gifts and inspiration can be shared.

Father John S. Hayes, Cayuga-Seneca regional co-ordinator, reported increased involvement of the laity in the mission of the

church was made more visible by the appointment of several laymen to regional coordinator positions.

After the general meeting chaired by Mrs. Mary Martin, discussion groups were held for committee members. Dr. Hugo Theimer, newly appointed co-ordinator for liturgy, chaired the liturgy session and Mrs. Charlene Sawchuck, chairman of Cayuga Human Development Committee, Cayuga-Seneca Region lead the human development meeting. The education session was chaired by Miss Penny Perez, religious education coordinator, St. Mary's; and Mrs. Barbara Schreck, St. Mary's, Waterloo, led the parish council representatives discussion.

The assembly was attended by about 80 priests, sisters and representatives of parish councils, worship, human development and education committees.

THE OPEN WINDOW

Father Louis Holman

Dear Father Holman,

We are told to keep the Ten Commandments etc. so that when we die we will go to Heaven, but we are told that Heaven and Earth will pass away. If Heaven is going to pass away also, why are we trying to get there — where will we go from there?

Sincerely,
K.C.L.

The passage, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my word will not pass away" (Matt 24:35, Mk 13:31, Lk 21:33) is using the word "heaven" to refer to the sky and not to the dwelling place of the blessed. It is sometimes referred to as the firmament. The ancients did not know that the sky was the space between stars and planets, but rather thought of it as sort of a canopy over the earth. For them the earth was the center of the universe and all else out there referred to it.

The heaven of the blessed is a separate thing. We really know very little about it. We know that it is a state of eternal union with God and therefore totally happy and perfect. And we know that it

is eternal — a concept we cannot really grasp because our only experience is of time. Heaven is the fulfillment of man's destiny.

You say that we are told to keep the Ten Commandments etc. so that when we die we will go to heaven. I would like to dwell on that a little bit. I think we have put too much emphasis on the idea that life is some kind of examination which we are trying to pass in order to get to heaven. I suppose in a certain sense it is, but I'd rather look at life as a challenge to growth — a growth into Christ and therefore into God.

We become, hopefully, more in the image and likeness of God as we go along. Of course, for most of us this is a somewhat uneven growth because of the detours of sin we tend to make. But taken as a whole, it is ideally a kind of crescendo which explodes into Heaven. We then find that completeness which is intended for us. Jesus said, "Be perfect (that is, complete) even as your heavenly Father is perfect." As God is completely what He is, so we are destined to be completely what God intended us to be. And when you think about it, that's the beginning of heaven already.

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New Santa Fe Bishop

Washington, D.C. [RNS] — Father Robert F. Sanchez, a 40-year-old Mexican-American priest was appointed by Pope Paul to be the Archbishop of Santa Fe, N.M., following the acceptance of the resignation of Archbishop James P. Davis.

Archbishop-designate Sanchez, pastor of San Felipe de Neri parish, Albuquerque, N.M., is a native of Sorocco, N.M.

Currently elected president of the Santa Fe archdiocesan Priests' Senate, the newly-named prelate had also served two years as

chairman of the priests' personnel board in the archdiocese.

The retiring Archbishop Davis, a native of Haughton, Mich., was raised in Flagstaff, Ariz., and was ordained a priest of the Tucson, Ariz., diocese in 1929. In 1943, he was named Bishop of San Juan, P.R., and in 1960, when the diocese was raised to an archdiocese, he was named archbishop of San Juan.

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