



Working hard on the Pastoral Council constitution at St. Stephen's, Geneva, are Patricia Schmidt [left], Sister Mary Ann Binsack, Father John Mulligan and Father Douglas Hoffman, director of Pastoral Ministry and committee chairman.

Committee OKs Constitution for Pastoral Council

By SHARON DARNIEDER

Geneva — The 18-member Pastoral Council Formation Committee unanimously accepted the final draft of the council constitution at their last meeting June 11.

The committee has been working on the constitution since its establishment in 1971, assembling and discussing its input as well as the revisions and suggestions that came from other diocesan groups, such as the Priests and Sisters councils, when the first draft of the constitution was submitted to them in May 1973.

The recently completed constitution will again go to the various diocesan groups for approval starting in the Fall when meetings resume.

According to the constitution's provisions it must be ratified by two-thirds of the voting members of the Priests and Sisters councils and each regional conference with final approval given by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan.

The introduction states that "the Pastoral Council of the diocese of Rochester is the coming together of the Bishop, priests, religious and laity on a regular basis to provide for the ongoing needs of the people of God."

The nature and purpose section classifies the council as "consultative by nature" and is a "forum seeking the collective wisdom of the local Church."

It goes on to say that "by its nature, the council is broadly based and composed of persons aware of the hopes and needs of the people they represent. This membership with its variety of

ministries gives the council a unique competence.

It also adds that while it's distinct from other consultative bodies, it should function in close cooperation with them under the Bishop's coordination.

According to the constitution, membership consists of the Bishop, the director of Pastoral Ministry, five priests, five sisters and 30 regional representatives (three from each regional conference), at least two of whom should be lay persons.

There also would be an executive secretary, four youth members, one brother and five to ten other members representing minority groups and special ministries, all of whom would be appointed by the Bishop.

"Any Roman Catholic in the diocese of Rochester who has evidenced a real concern for the mission of the Church and a personal commitment to service is eligible," according to the constitution.

It also adds that proposed nominees should have a reasonable understanding of the time, effort and travel involved in regular attendance at council meetings, committee activities, regional contacts and must express willingness to serve on the Pastoral Council if elected.

Council officers will be the Bishop, the chairperson and the vice chairperson.

The Pastoral Council Formation Committee, which worked on the constitution, is composed of regional, Sisters and Priests Council representatives. It has been chaired by Father Douglas Hoffman, director of Pastoral Ministry, since September 1973.

Congress

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congress in Philadelphia is tied to a "nationwide spiritual renewal with the Church in America," the Philadelphia archdiocesan spokesman pointed out. It will be preceded by two years of special devotion and prayer — the local 1974 Holy Year observance and the 1975 Holy Year in Rome, both decreed by Pope Paul.

Philadelphia civic officials, including Mayor Frank Rizzo and City Representative Harry Berlinger, have already pledged their assistance.

Berlinger said Philadelphia offers facilities for mass meetings "unmatched" anywhere in the world. "We can accommodate 100,000 people in John F. Kennedy Stadium, and if necessary, put another 65,000 in Veterans Stadium and another 20,000 in

the Spectrum (an indoor arena)," he said.

The Philadelphia archdiocesan spokesman said the congress will encompass a variety of events, including outdoor Masses, seminars, inspiration and instructional services, and will attempt to "focus on the Eucharist as the center of sacramental life in the Catholic Church."

He added that the congress will also serve as a "means of unifying and strengthening the Church, increasing understanding and devotion to Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, and relating this liturgy of worship to life."

Participants will include Catholic clergy, religious and laity from all over the U.S., as well as thousands from foreign countries, he added.



GARY AYERS

Ayers to Head Newspaper's Production

Gary Ayers, 36, has been named director of production at the Courier-Journal. In his new position he will be responsible for all pre-press production of the newspaper, with composing room functions his main responsibility.

Anthony J. Costello, general manager of the Courier-Journal said the new position was established because the newspaper has been increasingly handling its own production responsibilities.

"As we have added modern equipment and have begun doing all of our own typesetting and layouts it has become necessary to coordinate these functions under one person," Costello said.

Before joining the Courier-Journal in March 1973, Ayers was assistant foreman of production at the Daily Record where he worked for 10 years. Before that he put in eight years at the Gannett Newspapers, including his apprenticeship.

He and his wife, Elnora, live on Chili Avenue in Chili and have three children, Karen, Sharon and David.

NURSING GRADUATES

Elmira — Bishop Joseph L. Hogan conferred diplomas on 35 students at the graduation exercises of St. Joseph's School of Nursing at St. Peter and Paul's Church here Sunday. The graduates completed 33 months of study.

Mary Lou Mitchell of Corning received the Rev. Francis J. Walker Memorial Award for highest scholastic achievement.

Dinah Scott of Towanda, Pa., received the St. Joseph's Hospital Alumni Award for excellence in nursing practice.

Maryanne Blum of Rochester received the District 3 New York State Nurses Association Award for outstanding leadership in student nurse activities.

Mary Rose Lepore was awarded the Mary Lou Lambert Award for excellence in professional attitude.

Hospital chaplain Father Cyril Guise assisted.

Pro-Lifers Seek Wider Religious Support in U.S.

Washington, D.C. [RNS] — Participants in a national pro-life convention here, seeking to gear their efforts toward strong support of a constitutional amendment protecting the unborn, called for broader religious support of the anti-abortion movement in the U.S.

They said the involvement of people with pro-life sentiments from all religious backgrounds would "give the lie to the oft-heard accusation that the pro-life movement is strictly a Roman Catholic endeavor."

More than 1,000 pro-life people from across the country attended the three-day, second annual convention of the National Right to Life Committee (June 7 to 9). The meeting was devoted to speeches and some 20 workshops designed to deepen understanding and commitment to the pro-life cause.

The NRLC's board of directors, sole policy-making and decision-making body within the organization, took several actions during the convention, including a vote to reverse its position on a "human life amendment" proposal drafted last year for consideration by Congress.

The board announced that after "very thorough debate" it could no longer support the proposal because not all pro-life groups endorsed a segment of the proposal which permitted measures to prevent the death of the mother in childbirth.

The board also decided to hold regional conventions in the future so that more pro-life adherents could participate. It adopted a series of resolutions submitted by local, state and regional pro-life groups, including a motion to "withdraw support" of the Young Christian Women's Association because of its pro-abortion stand.

In addition, the board urged the development of "sufficient political sophistication, contact and wisdom to approach the very best sponsors for our (human life) amendment."

In an opening convention speech, Sen. Dewey F. Bartlett (R-Okla.), co-sponsor of a pro-life amendment in the Senate, declared that "a guarantee of the conditions of life for a human being during the first nine months are perhaps more important than those of any succeeding nine months."

"If a human being's life is terminated in the first nine months, he is absolutely denied all of his inalienable rights and has no second chance to regain them — ever," the senator declared.

Several speakers emphasized non-Catholic involvement in the pro-life movement after the committee's board discussed ways of continuing to involve people with pro-life sentiments from all religious backgrounds. Three of the six officers elected to the board are now Catholics.

The Rev. Robert Holbrook of Hallettsville, Tex., president of Baptists for Life, asserted that pro-life people are not trying to legislate any specific religious doctrine into the Constitution. He condemned what he said was the attitude which allows Churches to speak out on any other social issue and yet commands them to be silent about "abortion's manifest social evil."

The Rev. Michael Baldwin, a United Methodist from Yellow Springs, Ohio, charged the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights with using "deceptive rhetoric to substantiate support of abortion on demand."

"Woe unto them for continuing to give the impression that major Protestant bodies endorse their position," he said.

The Rev. Charles Carroll, a priest of the Episcopal Diocese of California, told the delegates that if opposition to "permissive abortion is a Catholic issue, I am prepared to stand with Catholics who oppose such devaluing of innocent human life."

Skylab astronaut Dr. Joseph Kerwin, who acknowledged that the world faces a shortage of food and natural resources through over-population, said the "elegantly simple solution" put forth by proponents of abortion is not the real solution.

He said food and resource problems are being solved and the real answer is making every country a "highly developed" country.

In what was described as a "significant development," the board reversed its January 1974 approval of a proposed human life amendment because not all pro-life groups could endorse a section permitting measures to prevent the death of the mother in childbirth.



Astronaut Kerwin chats with Dr. Jefferson at the convention of the National Right to Life Committee.