

Educators Discuss Goals, Problems

By PAT PETRASKE

Priorities and problems were aired at the first diocesan department of education meeting to launch the new school year.

Relaxing at the retreat house, High Acres in Geneva, Sister James Lynch, coordinator of educational services, summed up a major stumbling block for the administrators and staff. "The problem is we're always developing." The organizations and new structures that have sprung up in recent years to handle educational needs have led to problems of interrelationships, communications and delineation of responsibilities.

One of Sister James' priorities is the education committees that are being created under the various parish councils. Twelve parishes are presently training for education committees. "The members are asking where does

the parish council come in, what kind of leadership do they have, what relationship do they have with the religious education coordinator," Sister James explained.

The need for internal communications among the divisions of the department of education and among the various education structures was also emphasized by Sister James. Sister Edwardine Weaver, recently appointed coordinator for curriculum, noted that "there are so many committees in a parish that they drain the resources of the people."

A typical parish may have a pastor, religious education coordinator, parish council, education committee, school board and a principal. Sister Michael Lappetito, director of religious education, interjected that another problem is determining which training program for a particular committee should be given to each parish.

Tying the education structures together will be the recently created position of consultant for parish educational planning. The new consultant, Padraic O'Hare, will be responsible for the "future use of resources to effectively fulfill parish responsibilities."

At the meeting each of the divisions outlined their goals for the 1974-75 school year and their staff members summed up their spheres of responsibility and plans for the year. Father Daniel Brent, superintendent of schools, will be concentrating on planning "so that the future of Catholic schools is not hanging by its fingernails."

He advocates a re-examination of curriculum that is "more than a Mass series . . . but looks at what society needs and how schools can answer these needs." Father Brent said. The division of general education handles the responsibilities of financial aid, personnel, instruction (supervision of principals) and curriculum.

Leadership skills and foundational values are among the long range goals for the division of religious education. Sister Michael envisions a permanent training center that would strive to aid in the development of staff and parish committees and make necessary resources available.

Under the division of religious education are the consultants for adult education, high school CCD, youth ministry, and religious education coordinators.

Sister James noted the need for accountability and a system of reporting of goals. "We must also identify publicly what's been

done each year," she said.

She added that while each staff member is concerned with his responsibilities, each staff member should also be concerned with prayer and person development. "Remember to honor your self with occasional refreshment," she said.

Bar Appeal Brings Help to Law Agency

An appeal for money and volunteer help has begun to bear fruit for the Monroe County Legal Assistance Corporation. One lawyer has offered his services and contributions totalling \$300 have been received, according to David Leven, executive director.

Attorneys of the county were asked to help last month after the full-time staff of Legal Assistance had been reduced from eight to six because of reduced Federal funding and increased costs.

Established nationally in 1965 by the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO), Legal Assistance began in Rochester in 1968 with the objective of offering services to "those who cannot afford an attorney for civil matters," Leven said.

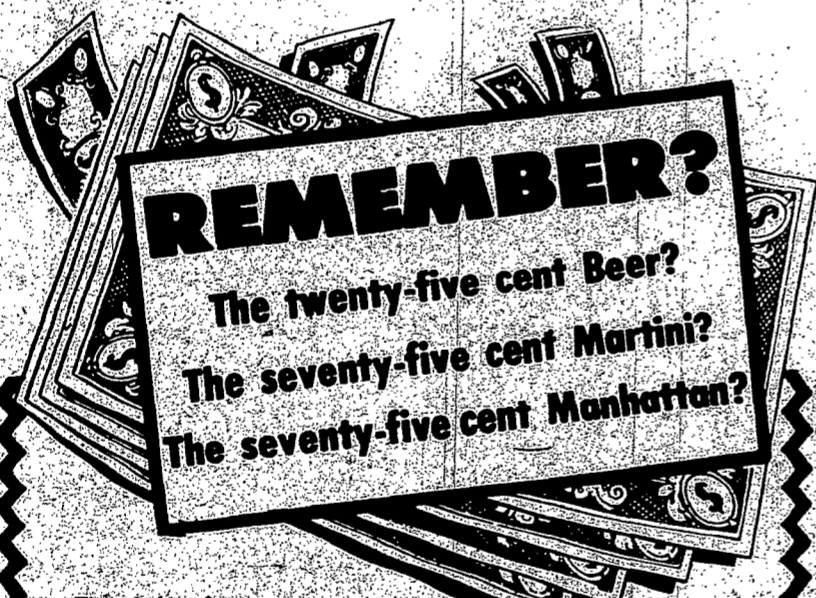
OEO cut its funding to the

Monroe County corporation from \$204,000 to \$193,000. Proposals for additional funding sources are being drafted, Leven said.

The Monroe County Bar Association helps sponsor Legal Assistance locally. President Charles F. Crimi made a request for help in a letter to the 1,200 members.

"Unless financial, as well as volunteer assistance is forthcoming, the corporation will no longer be able to provide effective and quality legal representation to the poor of this community," Crimi said. Approximately 10,000 people have been helped by Legal Assistance.

Crimi says he believes all lawyers have an ethical responsibility to represent people who cannot pay.



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