



# Proposed Constitution of the Pastoral Council of the Diocese of Rochester

## INTRODUCTION

The People of God (1), is called to be one . . . There is but one body and one Spirit, just as there is but one hope given all of you by your call. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, and

(1) *The Documents of Vatican II*, ed. Walter M. Abbott (New York: Gould Press, 1966), "Dogmatic Constitution on the Church," p. 24, footnote 27. . . . The Constitution devotes an entire chapter to the description of the Church as the "new People of God." This title, solidly founded in Scripture, met a profound desire of the Council to put greater emphasis on the human and communal side of the Church, rather than on the institutional and hierarchial aspects which have sometimes been overstressed in the past for polemical reasons. While everything said about the People of God as a whole is applicable to the laity, it should not be forgotten that the term "People of God" refers to the total community of the Church, including the pastors as well as the other faithful.

works through all and is in all." (Ephesians 4:4-6.)

At the same time the Spirit gives this People diverse gifts and varied ministries . . . "There are different gifts but the same Spirit; there are different ministries but the same Lord; there are different works but the same God who accomplishes all of them in everyone. To each person the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good." (1 Corinthians 12:4-6.)

Our being called together as the Diocese of Rochester is our local opportunity to witness our unity in the Spirit through our sharing of His diverse gifts. 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. (2) To the extent that each parish and region shares its gifts from the Spirit, our Pastoral Council shall become a unique participation of the whole People of God in the serving (3) Mission of the Church. (4)

## ARTICLE I. NAME

Section 1. The name of this body shall be: THE PASTORAL COUNCIL OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER.

(2) Hogan, The Most Reverend Joseph L., "Pastoral Council — My Fondest Hope," *The Catholic Courier*, May 3, 10, 17, & 24, 1972.

(3) "Serving" — an all-inclusive word to embrace teaching, serving, working, and worshipping.

(4) cf. "The Mission of the Church to the Diocese of Rochester, 1972," a study paper by the Pastoral Council Formation Committee.