

# Consider Vocations, Youth Urged

The diocese has opened a major thrust for vocations setting a new theme, "A Vocation to Consider a Vocation," according to Bishop Joseph L. Hogan.

The program to be spearheaded by the diocese Vocation Department and Becket Hall College Seminary at St. John Fisher College emphasizes the responsibility of young men and women to consider their future in the light of the needs for religious ministries. Auxiliary Bishop Dennis Hickey, vicar general for Personnel, commented on the increasing concern for vocations to the priesthood and to the religious life.

"Added to basic problems all administrators have had to wrestle with in recent times, we have had an increasing problem in the area of personnel. The need to develop vocations to the religious life is no longer spoken of as a way to keep costs of manpower down, but as a necessity to assure the services needed by the faithful in so many areas of concern."

Father Gerald T. Connor, the diocesan director of vocations, outlined the plan of action opening up multiple avenues of communication. "We will develop and make available monthly posters for every parish and information brochures for every area of religious ministry. We have asked Bishop Hogan to communicate personally with as many young people as possible and we are establishing associate vocational directors throughout the diocese. Their names will be made available as they accept the responsibility."

The quarterly clergy conference, held last week for priests of the diocese, focused on the program for vocations over the next six months.

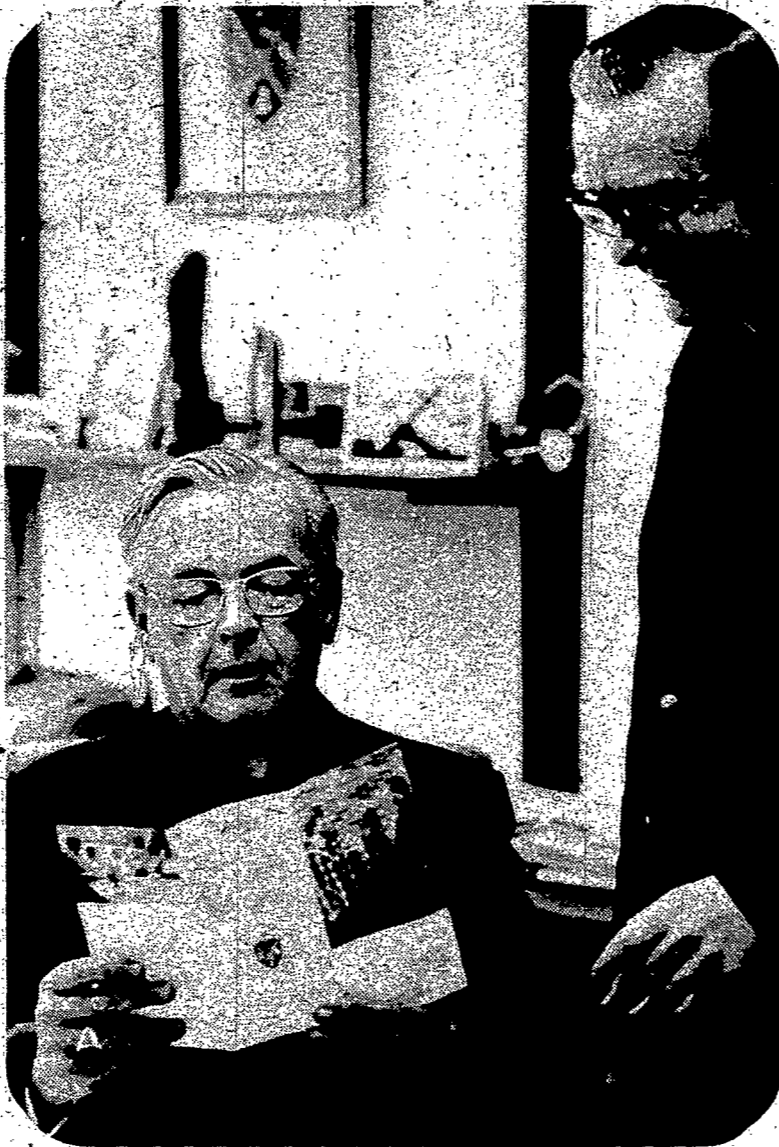


Photo by Susan McKinney

Bishop Hogan and Father Connor check vocation brochure.

## Bishop Hogan GEM Homilist

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan will give the homily at the Ash Wednesday "service of repentance and dedication to lenten self-denial" arranged by the Genesee Ecumenical Ministries.

Clergy and people of all churches are invited to take part in the service at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh, at 12:05 p.m. Feb. 12.

# CICP Schools

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payment really means less because of rising costs.

Another executive committee member said that "the diocese is asking an impossibility — asking bankrupt parishes to commit themselves financially."

Father Raymond Booth, co-pastor of Mount Carmel, termed the report "patronizing."

"The diocese has raised diocesan assessment (on parishes) each year because of the cost of living but the diocesan commitment has not gone up," Father Booth said.

The staff at Mount Carmel distributed a report of its own at the meeting which declared that:

"1. The Catholic Diocese of Rochester; 2. the Council of Inner City Parishes, and 3. the Department of Catholic Education is failing to respond. Their response is asking to be relieved of the responsibility of offering the alternative of a quality Catholic school education for those unable to finance it by themselves."

The Mount Carmel statement,

with 18 signatories, criticizes the diocese and the Bishop for "allowing no fund drives or limiting them; decreasing the subsidy by not acknowledging inflation . . . not listening to professional lay people who believe in the system . . . not making a commitment to education throughout the diocese and especially to the CICP . . . accepting the decisions for inner city people made by those whose view and outlook is only from a distance allowing the expansion of diocesan personnel while not increasing aid and expansion to areas in need."

Speaking for the diocese, Father Hoffman set some deadlines:

By Feb. 13, a balanced budget must be accepted as a whole. . . after that date the right of decision will revert to the Bishop for the sake of teachers, parents and students; by Feb. 28, if the decision is positive for a one-school system, then the Diocese of Rochester and the CICP together will approach foundations if that is part of the budget. . . by March 2, the final decision regarding the school system for 1975-76 must be made.

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