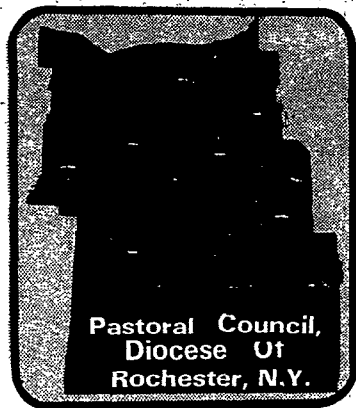


How Parish Lay Leaders View the DPC

[During the past week, the Steering Committee for the Diocesan Pastoral Council [DPC] interviewed leaders of eight parish councils from various areas of the diocese. The following article summarizes the interviews.]

All eight leaders of parish councils from the diocese were quick to indicate that they were hopeful about the Diocesan Pastoral Council which is currently being formed and will be convoked by Bishop Hogan in June. At the same time, they expressed the feeling that the Pastoral Council will not gain automatic acceptance and credibility, but will have to prove its value to the 10 regions and 170 parishes of our diocese.

The lay leaders interviewed expressed hope that the DPC would improve communication within our diocese and through this improvement bring about a greater sense of unity and belonging throughout the diocese. "Communication will be an important issue that the Diocesan Pastoral Council will have to address itself to because we do not always know what is going on," stated Mrs. Barbara Schreck, the chairperson of the



Steering Committee of St. Mary's Parish in Waterloo.

Anthony Mazza, chairperson of the Parish Council of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Spencerport said: "The Diocesan Pastoral Council must impact directly and strongly on the parishes. I hope it doesn't become another group that deliberates in a vacuum."

Mazza also cited the need for greater unity in the diocese. "The parishes and the diocese should have clearly aligned objectives. Parishes have been off on their own for a long time. Our parishes are becoming too different."

John Bittner, chairperson of

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish Council in Rochester, agreed. "The Diocesan Pastoral Council must support the regions and their activities. I feel that our parish is sometimes working alone," he said.

Two parish leaders cautioned that residents of the diocese should not expect instant results from a newly formed Pastoral Council. Ronald Jones, the chairperson of St. Margaret Mary's Parish Council in Apalachin, warned that "the Diocesan Pastoral Council must first of all get itself well-organized. All new groups have the tendency to move too fast and this hampers their long-range effectiveness."

Robert Meteyer, chairperson of St. Philip Neri Parish Council in Rochester, expressed the same feelings. "I'm delighted that the laity will now have a voice and a vehicle of communication in the diocese, but we have to remember that it will have a slow beginning."

The consensus was that isolation and apathy are the difficulties which will most seriously challenge the ultimate success of the DPC. F. W.

Bobrick, chairperson of St. Vincent de Paul Parish Council in Corning, summed up the concern of several others when he said: "Our parishioners are not at all aware of the Diocesan Pastoral Council, in fact, they are not even as aware of the parish council as we would like them to be."

Mrs. Joan Starkweather, chairperson of St. Joseph's Parish Council in Rush, felt that her parish had succeeded to some degree in education. "The parish was made aware of the Diocesan Pastoral Council through the pulpit, the parish bulletin board and the distribution of the Pastoral Council Constitution. Our council considered it a priority and I feel that the council is aware of the Diocesan Pastoral Council."

Most parish councils have nominated a member of the parish as a candidate for election to the pastoral council, using the criteria for candidates sent out by Bishop Hogan. Mrs. Joan Haviland, chairperson of St. Patrick's Parish Council in Mt. Morris, said that perhaps they were too impressed with the criteria. "We realize that it is a priority of Bishop Hogan's and we are very encouraged that the

criteria for membership emphasized the sharing of spiritual gifts. However, we feel that the time commitment was so overwhelming that only Jesus Christ could fill the requirements."

All indicated that their parish councils are strongly supportive of the DPC. Parish leaders are looking for direction and they are hopeful that the DPC may provide the broad-based direction and communication which the diocese needs at this time. Experience has shown these leaders that the new Diocesan Pastoral Council faces many difficulties, the same difficulties their parish councils face, multiplied by 170 parishes. Nevertheless, they are hopeful that the Diocesan Pastoral Council will offer our diocese the opportunity to take another step in the direction of shared responsibility as indicated by the Second Vatican Council. And most important of all, the lay leaders of our diocese are to roll up their sleeves and join in the effort to take the next step.

[Next . . . an interview with Bishop Hogan on his hopes and fears for the Diocesan Pastoral Council.]

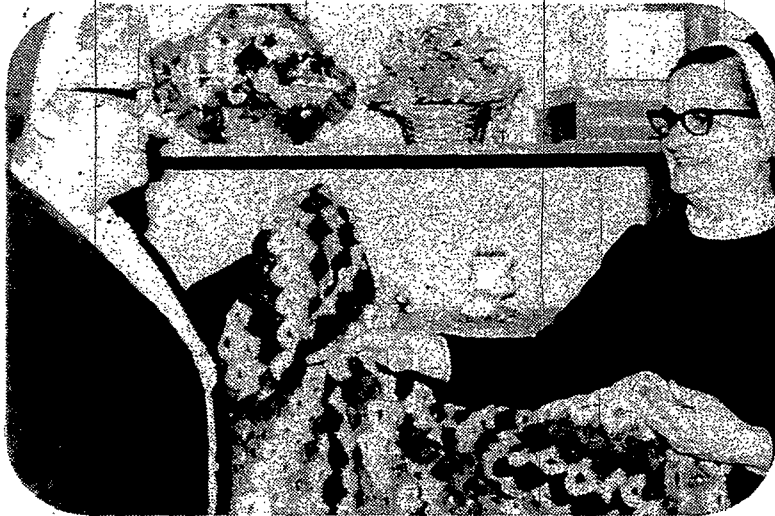
Chrism Mass Draws Throng To St. Rose

An enthusiastic crowd of more than 600 representatives of all parts and ministries of the Diocese of Rochester gathered at St. Rose Church last night, Tuesday, March 25, to celebrate with Bishop Joseph L. Hogan the annual Chrism Mass.

Following a pattern established over the past three years, delegates from each of the developing regions in the diocese attended the rites to pledge their solidarity with the bishop.

The Chrism Mass is the occasion for blessing holy oils and is a celebration of the healing and consecrating gifts of the Church. Furthermore it is a rite which signifies the unity of the priesthood, both hierarchical and lay.

A somber note was struck at the beginning of the Mass as the assembly entered into a rite of penitence; but the mood of the congregation shifted radically during the course of the liturgy to a demonstrative and enthusiastic sign of peace.



Supper and Sale

Sister Mary Bonaventure and Sister Mary Dismas look over the articles which will be sold at the Sister of Mercy Roast Beef Supper and Flea Market Sale, set for April 5 from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Mercy High School cafeteria and gym. The sale features homemade bread and handicrafts. Tickets are available from any Sister of Mercy or by calling (716) 288-2710.

Bishop on TV

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan will celebrate a Mass of the Resurrection and give the homily over the Sunday television Mass at 8:30 a.m. Easter Sunday over WHEC-TV, Channel 10.

Bishops Meeting To Help Shape Future of Church

Directory discussed, Page 10

The Bishops Region II meeting here in April will be a landmark in the modern development of the U.S. Church.

It will bring together not only the bishops of New York State, but also educators — religious and lay people — to ponder ways of presenting the truths of the Faith to America's children for years to come.

The meeting, April 14-17, will concentrate on the National Catechetical Directory, now in preparation through a back-and-forth process of presentation and criticism.

"Every appropriate group" has been asked to study and comment on the current draft of the work, according to Sister Michael

Lappetito, director of religious education and diocesan coordinator for the directory.

It is "certainly the most widespread consultative process on any Church document that has ever gone on within our history," Sister Michael declared.

Her colleagues at the bishops' meeting will be Sister James Lynch and Father Daniel Brent of the education department; Thomas Driscoll, a religious education coordinator at St. Jerome's in East Rochester, and Dr. Joseph Kelly of St. Bernard's Seminary.

Each diocese will be represented similarly, and the delegations will serve as a sounding board for Father Alfred McBride's exposition of the directory's dimensions. Small group discussions and their reports take up the greater part of the allotted time in the Tuesday and Wednesday sessions at the Americana.

Meanwhile, parishes are ordering, on an average, 10 to 20 copies each of the directory, "so you know something is happening," Sister Michael said.

The bishops' meeting will be highlighted by a Mass and colorful procession at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 15, at Sacred Heart Cathedral. Cardinal Terence Cooke will be the principal celebrant, and Bishop Joseph L. Hogan has invited everyone to take part.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Washington, D.C. [RNS] — A conference on capital punishment will be conducted at the University of Notre Dame, March 23-26, sponsored by the National Council of Catholic Laity. Roger L. Shinn, acting president of Union Theological Seminary and Reinhold Niebuhr Professor of Social Ethics, will be keynote speaker. Theme of the conference is "Punishment in a 'Civilized' Society." Other scheduled speakers include Dr. Karl Menninger.

The Bishop's Public Appointments



April

- 4—Theology Lecture, St. Bernard's Seminary — 9 a.m.
- 4—Confirmation, Holy Rosary Church — 7:45 p.m.
- 6—Celebration of the Eucharist and Homily, Installation of Parish Council, St. Alphonsus Church, Auburn — Noon.
- 8—Priests' Council Meeting, Becket Hall — 10:30 a.m.
- 8—Canandaigua Council, K. of C., Vocation Dinner, Caruso's Restaurant, Canandaigua — 8 p.m.
- 10—Pastoral Concerns Meeting — 9 a.m.
- 10—Priesthood Ordination, Holy Ghost Church, Coldwater — 7:30 p.m.
- 12—Diocesan Sisters' Council, Mercy Motherhouse — 12:30 p.m.
- 15-17—NCCB, Region II Meeting, The Americana of Rochester.
- 18—Confirmation, St. Paul's Church, Webster — 7:45 p.m.
- 19—Radio Message, Family Rosary Network — 7 p.m.
- 20—Celebration of the Eucharist and Homily, St. Mary's Church, Corning — 11:30 a.m.
- 21—Aquinas Institute Board of Trustees' Meeting — 9 a.m.
- 21—Confirmation, St. Andrew's Church, Rochester — 7:45 p.m.
- 22—Confirmation, St. Mary's Church, Dansville — 7:45 p.m.
- 24—Celebration of Eucharist and Homily, Rite of Candidacy, Saint Bernard's Seminary — 4:45 p.m.
- 25—Priesthood Ordination, St. Jerome's Church, East Rochester — 7:30 p.m.
- 26—K. of C., Charity and Benevolent Presentation, Towne House — 7:30 p.m.
- 27—Confirmation, St. Mary's Church, Geneseo — 3 p.m.
- 27—Annual Scouts' Awards Dinner, Guardian Angels School, Henrietta — 6:30 p.m.
- 28—Celebration of Eucharist and Homily with Priests' Jubilee Class of 1940, St. Lawrence Church — Noon.
- 29—Annual Meeting of Bishop Sheen Housing Foundation, St. Louis, Pittsford — 7:30 p.m.
- 30—Confirmation, St. Theresa Church, Stanley — 7:45 p.m.