What Do You Know about the DPC?

The following article was prepared by members of the standing committee for the establishment of the Diocesan Pastoral Council which will convene for the first time June 13-15.

How aware is the laity of the Diocesan Pastoral Council? This week we contacted people across the diocese and asked their reaction to these three questions:

1. How aware are you of the Diocesan Pastoral Council?

2. Do you feel the voice of the laity will contribute to the effectiveness of the council?

3. What issues do you think the DPC should resolve?

Mrs. Patricia Deegan, St. Margaret Mary's Parish in Irondequoit: "I have limited knowledge of the Diocesan Pastoral Council. I have read the articles in the Courier on a 'hit and miss' basis. I think it will be a great happening and I hope it will be effective. The DPC could tackle the issue of the improvement of our religious education programs and emphasize the necessity of adulteducation. They could encourage parishes to exchange ideas and resources. Perhaps our Catholic school buildings could be used for more parish community activities. The DPC could also take a good look at the allocation of diocesan funds."

Ed Burke, St. John the Evangelist Parish, Clyde: "I have very little knowledge of the Diocesan Pastoral Council. I. think it should be able to carry on the work started in our parish councils. Could it bring about a diocesan-wide coordination of the liturgical changes? Parishes celebrate the liturgy so many ways and I think this confusing to many people. Perhaps there are some pastors who should be made aware of the need for these changes. Our parochial school was closed about four years ago and I feel we are having difficulty educating our children in their religion, particularly in the junior and senior high. How can we make our religious education program meaningful and effective?"

Mrs. Dorothy Mallory, St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Greece: "I know the DPC is starting, but I don't really know

Pentecost Novena Set

A Novena to the Holy Spirit will be conducted by Father Benedict Ehmann at Holy Apostles Church starting Friday, May 9, and continuing through Saturday, May 17.

The pattern of this novena is to be found in the nine days of waiting and prayer which the Apostles spent with Mary and the disciples, as Jesus had directed them to do, after his ascension, until the Holy Spirit would be sent to them. This in the only Novena officially set by the Church on her calendar.

Each service will begin at 7:30 p.m. It will be modelled upon the Church's Evening Prayer, with Psalms, a Scripture reading, a homily on the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and intercessions both stated and spontaneous, followed by Benediction. On the final evening, there will be a Pentècost Mass

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Delivery Service 733-6696 its goals. It's a new thing and there has to be time for people to catch on to its probable importance. Some times in the past the laity has not always been effective in certain areas. We will have to give the Diocesan Pastoral Council time to 'try its wings!' I would like the DPC to determine the basic priorities of the diocese. Because of my work with the exceptional child I feel the DPC could have an effective voice in the various centers for special education."

Al Gillow, St. John the Evangelist Parish in Newark Valley: "I have been made aware of the Diocesan Pastoral Council originally through a talk given by Bishop Hogan and have been following the articles in the Courier Particularly in this day and age with our shortage of priests, we must rely on the talents and skills of lay people. The laity has never been as informed or educated as they are today. Not too long ago the affairs of parishes and the diocese didn't gain our attention. We are the Church and I think the laity

are becoming aware of that fact.
The diocese will benefit from the broad backgrounds of the members of the DPC.

"As to issues lipersonally aminvolved in a liturgy committee and would like to see an attempt made to produce a music book which would be available to all parishes.

"The DPC could also promote a philosophy for the diocese on vocations. I am not sure, that most of our people and many of our priests know how to promote vocation to the religious life."

John Walsh, of St. Louis Parish in Pittsford: "My parish council has made me aware of the Diocesan Pastoral Council. It will certainly be a form of communication for the laity. Things will be brought up that have not been said in the past to the Bishop and the pastors. I would like to see emphasis placed on our Church's service to the community — a raising of our consciences in responding to the needs of others. What is our

response as Catholics to such things as the religious education of our inner city children?"

Mrs. Barbara Daugherty, of St. Charles Parish in Elmira Heights: "I am not nearly as aware of the Diocesan Pastoral Council as I should be. There has been all sorts of publicity in the Courier, but I don't always take the time to read it in depth: Since the DPC will be composed primarily of lay people, it will be able to get their viewpoints. I think that they will have to address themselves to the situation of our parochial schools. Sometimes I feel we are facing a 'Catholic-Cambodia' with our schools. I would like to see more emphasis placed on adultiand total family education.
Because there will be members' from all over the diocese, the areas south of the Barge Canal, should feel closer in spirit to some of the things that seemed to involve only the Rochester areas in the past."

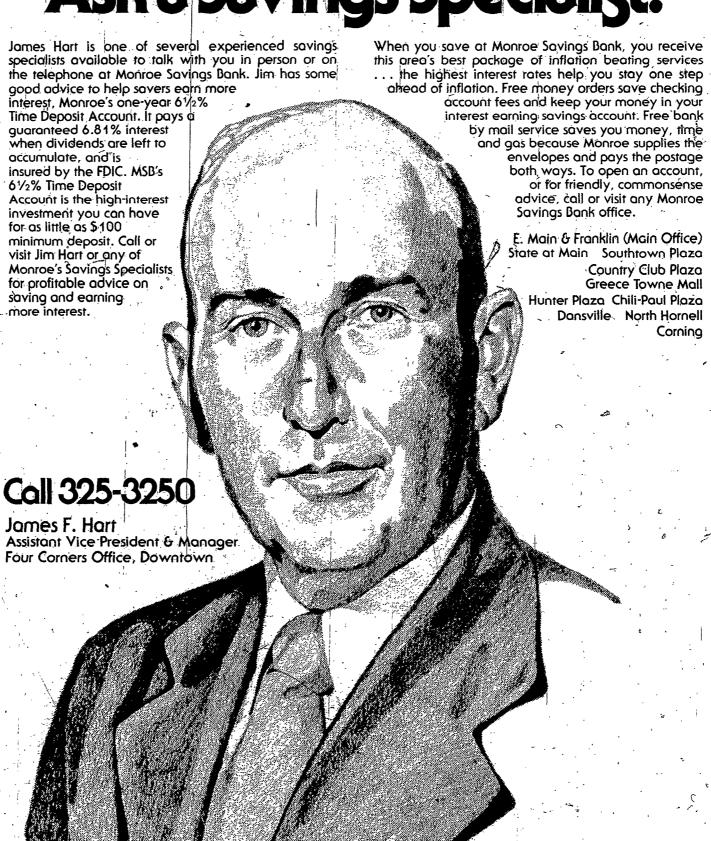
Casimir Kusak, of St. Anne's Parish in Rochester: "We have had discussions on the upcoming

pastoral council at our parish council meetings and I have seen the articles in the Courier. The effectiveness will depend upon how well members feed back information and ideas. If the DPC considers issues which affect people personally then people will really be aware of its existence."

"I think the biggest thing the council faces is the way to go with our Catholic school system. To continue as we are will require an encouragement of the spirit of sacrifice. I think that we could encourage this spirit just as our parents sacrificed for the churches and schools we have today. Consolidation of our schools may be another route to take! I see the DPC really looking into the issue."

Amy individual, parish council, or region can suggest items for the Diocesan Pastoral Council to consider by contacting the executive secretary, Sister Mary Ann Binsack, at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624.

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