



Special Mass

Photo by Susan McKinney

Joining Bishop Joseph L. Hogan in the celebration of a liturgy at Veteran's Administration Hospital in Canandaigua are from left to right, Father Harold Higgins, Father Roger Brady, Bishop Hogan, Father Michael Conboy and Father Joseph Keating. The special liturgy was held in the hospital's auditorium Ascension Thursday, May 8.

Regions Warned About Deteriorating Innercity

By BONITA BALDWIN

"It's important that the regions understand the gravity of the situation in the innercity parishes," Father Charles Mulligan said last week at the Office of Human Development, which he directs.

For the past three years OHD has been under contract to the Council of Inner City Parishes to produce a study of the parishes and their neighborhoods to provide a basis for grasping the situation. Sister Grace Miller of OHD was principally responsible for the study. The concluding of

the study now coincides with the end of CICIP itself.

Prompted by the closing of the CICIP school system, the executive committee of the CICIP voted April 27 to recommend to parish councils the total dissolution of the organization by June 30. In the light of the school closings and dissolution of CICIP, Father Mulligan stressed that the importance of the study has become even greater.

CICP Parishes Vote to Disband

The member parishes of the Council of Inner City Parishes (CICIP) have voted to accept the recommendation of their Executive Committee that the organization be disbanded as of June 30.

A second recommendation of the Executive Committee that a coordinating team be established to develop funding programs in the absence of CICIP was defeated by the parishes.

Thus neither the CICIP nor any such fund-raising organization formed under its auspices will be in operation after June 30. A spokesman said there is a possibility that a committee might be organized but if it were it would be in a "brand new form."

The parish vote to disband was unanimous, with only one abstention, St. Lucy's. The member agencies of the CICIP, the Spanish Apostolate and the Office of Human Development, had voted earlier with the Executive Committee to disband the inner city group.

The vote on the proposal to

form a new fund-raising committee drew more complicated reaction. The Executive Committee proposal called for seven members, four from the inner city parishes to be appointed by the ordinary, and three from the diocese.

Mount Carmel wanted to change the format to one from the diocese and seven from the inner city, one from each parish. Then, in addition to St. Lucy's, St. Bridget's also abstained from the final vote but the rest of the parishes joined to defeat the proposal.

Father Anthony J. Valente, co-pastor of St. Michael's and chairman of the CICIP, explained that the main reason for the disbandment had to do with the school picture. The CICIP had voted in February to close its schools as of June 30 because of a poor financial outlook. Father Valente said that since the primary purpose of the CICIP, which was organized in 1971, was to run its schools, it was difficult to gear up for new procedures.

He described the organization as a "valiant and important effort. There was a multiplicity of reasons for the present situation and they are much more complicated than meets the eye."

Parishes belonging to the CICIP, in addition to the three mentioned above, are St. Michael's Holy Redeemer, and Immaculate Conception.

PRIESTS COUNCIL

The Priests Council last week approved a new policy on marriage preparation Page 7
The group also passed a resolution on Attica Page 7
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Bishop Urges Mission Support

My dear Friends,

Next Sunday, May 18, will be the annual observance of our Diocesan Missions Sunday. By coincidence it is also the Feast of Pentecost which serves as a very appropriate reminder of the missionary nature of the Church which received its charter and its life-giving principle, the Holy Spirit, on the first Pentecost.

When the Spirit of God descended upon the Apostles, one of His many gifts was the gift of tongues. Men and women gathered from every nation under heaven marveled to hear the Apostles speak in voices understood by all as they proclaimed the wonderful works of God.

Ever since that day of fire and light, the Church, aware of her missionary nature, has extended herself to every nation and people, speaking the one understandable language of the Spirit of love and leading all to a deeper understanding of the marvels of God.

The Diocese of Rochester has been keenly aware of its responsibility to share the love and fire of Pentecost with our brothers and sisters in every part of the world. For more than 10 years we have labored in Latin America sharing the talents of our own dedicated Sisters, priests and laity with the Church of Brazil, Bolivia and Chile. For almost 35 years we have sent Sisters to Selma, Alabama—and that mission of mercy and love still merits our support. We have been trying, too, to do more each year to relieve some of the problems within our own diocese in both the urban and rural areas.

Our mission labors must continue. Clothing the naked, feeding the hungry, instructing the ignorant remain ongoing human needs which today have reached desperate proportions. Our mission is one of justice and not of a condescending handout to beggars. We must respect the dignity of our brothers and sisters as we strive to help them help themselves.

In the name of all who will receive hope and comfort through our offering of prayers and material assistance, I express my gratitude and extend my blessing.

Devotedly yours in Christ,

+ Most Reverend Joseph L. Hogan, D.D.
Bishop of Rochester

Test Your Knowledge Of Church Statistics

P.J. Kenedy & Sons annually publishes the Official Catholic Directory full of numbers and statistics. We have devised the following question and answer approach to bring to life the occasionally dry figures.

Questions

1. Membership in the U.S. Catholic Church increased in 1974. True or false?
2. In 1974, enrollment in Catholic colleges and high schools increased. True or false?
3. The number of priests in the U.S. Catholic Church increased in 1974. True or false?
4. The number of Sisters and Brothers showed an increase in 1974. True or false?
5. There are more students in Catholic educational institutions now than in 1945. True or false?
6. More Catholic students received released time religious education in 1974 than in the previous year. True or false?
7. The number of converts to the Catholic Church increased in the U.S. in 1974. True or false?

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"For God so loved the world that he gave..." [John 3:16] In response to God's great love can we do less than to give in turn to the helpless, homeless, hungry child pictured on the front of this week's Courier-Journal and to thousands like him? This Sunday's Diocesan Missions collection provides the opportunity for giving. See pages 11-14 for more on missions.