

Diocese Joins in Prayer for the DPC

"To fulfill its purpose the Pastoral Council must create a prayerful atmosphere." In response to these words from the Diocesan Pastoral Council Constitution, Bishop Joseph L. Hogan has designated the period from the Ascension, May 8, to the DPC Convocation, June 13 through 15 as a time of prayer throughout our diocese.

Initially, parishes have been asked to include the Pastoral Council in their weekly Prayers of the Faithful. Pam Schaeffer of Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Greece reported that "our parish is using the prayers each weekend. We hope that they will heighten our parishioners openness to the deliberations of the upcoming Pastoral Council."

The second stage of this time of prayer will occur on June 1, the feast of Corpus Christi. On that weekend the Bishop has urged each parish to prepare a special liturgy using the theme "We, though many, are one body in Christ." Suggested readings and homily notes have been distributed by the Diocesan Liturgy Commission under the direction of Sister Margaret Mary Mattie. She commented that "most of us were brought up in a church with a very individual type of spirituality. While it's necessary for each of us to have a solid, personal relationship with our God, in these days of committee and group decision making, we also need to be able to pray together with other people. These times of prayer will help the members of the Council

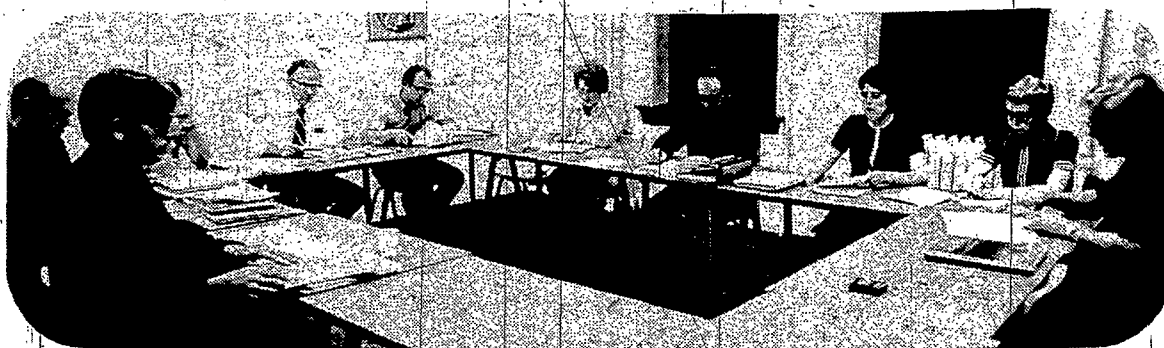
share their faith concerns with each other."

Some regions are placing special emphasis on activities for June 1st. Members of the North Region with Father Conrad Sundholm as regional coordinator have been invited by St. Salome's Parish Council to join in a Mass and Procession at 3 p.m. to pray for the region's Pastoral Council delegates.

As the diocese prays together, plans are being finalized to create the "prayerful atmosphere" at the weekend convocation of the DPC on June 13th & 15th. Bishop Hogan has emphasized that prayer is the essential component of the council. In determining membership on the DPC he urged parishes and regions to "look for thought-filled and especially prayerful people as the prime ingredient of the Pastoral Council."

Father Peter Bayer, director of Planning, felt "a council with the responsibility for planning and decision-making in the Church has to be a praying group. They have to consciously call to mind the presence of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the members and acknowledge their dependence on the inspiration of the Spirit. Skill in goal-setting is very important, but it is not enough. Prayer is necessary, too, if we want to do God's will and not just our own."

Armand Tanguay a member of the DPC Steering Committee felt strongly that, "at key moments in the midst of a planning session,



From left to right are Fathers Douglas Hoffman and Peter Bayer, co-chairmen; Edmond LeRoux (partially hidden) Armand Tanguay, Father Joseph Jankowiak, Mrs. Patricia Schmidt, Father Sebastian Falcone, Sisters Mary Ann Binsack and Margaret Deegan and Father Louis Hohman.

members of the DPC should be free to remind one another of their need for prayer."

"Much of our weekend scheduling takes into consideration the need of a clear connection between business activity and prayer activity," emphasized Sister Margaret Deegan also a Steering Committee member. "This will be achieved in a variety of prayer forms and we will be asking the members of the DPC to take leadership roles in the various prayer events."

Sister Mary Ann Binsack executive secretary of the DPC, pointed out "that in planning the weekend, we are building in

opportunities for the members of the DPC to get to know one another well, so they can work together in an atmosphere of trust and support. This sense of trust is important for prayer."

"Members of our new DPC need all the support we in the church can give them," added Mrs. Patricia Schmidt, member of the DPC Steering Committee. "We have asked them to fill a demanding leadership role and I think it is most important to sustain them with our prayers."

The weekend convocation will climax with the formal Installation Mass celebrated by Bishop Hogan at 4 p.m. on June 15 at the Athletic Center on the

campus of St. John Fisher College. Each parish in the diocese has received an invitation and is encouraged to send representatives to this celebration.

"Convenience of the college to the thruway was one of the reasons for the selection of St. John Fisher College since people will be coming from all over the diocese. But more importantly, the choice was made because St. John Fisher is the patron of the Diocese," commented Father Douglas Hoffman Director of Pastoral Ministry. "The spaciousness of the campus is a good setting for the event which is of such significance in history of the Church of Rochester."

Geneva Churches To Conduct Census

Geneva — More than 300 women from the two Catholic parishes here will conduct a Geneva Area Catholic Census beginning June 7.


General information about the religious practices of Catholics residing within the boundaries of the parishes will be sought. Volunteer enumerators will visit all dwellings in Geneva and on roads in outlying areas within a two to three-mile radius of the city.

Data, which will be asked of Catholics only, will include basic information such as age and marital status. Among other points of information to be gathered will be the number of pre-school children and whether there is intent to enroll them in one of the parish schools; children enrolled in other than Catholic schools and whether they are receiving religious instruction; the names of persons who are handicapped or housebound, and whether

parishioners are willing to serve on one of various parish committees.

Pastors of the two parishes—Father Richard Tormey of St. Stephen's and Father Gennaro Ventura of St. Francis De Sales—announced co-chairmen of the census committee as follows: St. Francis—Mrs. Barbara Deane and Miss Frances Merriman; St. Stephen's—Mrs. Marlene Anastasi and Mrs. Jeanne Pullano.

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SEE PAGE 2

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