

# DPC Opens with Challenge to Prayer

[Full text of Bishop Hogan's opening talk, Page 5.]

By CARMEN VIGLUCCI

June 13, 1975.

8:10 p.m.

An historical moment. The first Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) was officially convened at a meeting room at Becket Hall to the strains of "Come, Holy Ghost."

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan had set a reverent tone, for this the first meeting of the body made up of priests, nuns but mostly lay people when in his opening prayer he told the 53 members, "I insist on this. I expect you will pray."

Resort to metaphors was strong as opening speakers attempted to characterize the new advisory body. Sister Mary Ann Binsack, executive secretary, opened the three-day convocation by referring to the DPC as an airliner, herself as a stewardess. Father Sebastian Falcone, keynote speaker, as navigator, and Bishop Hogan as captain.

Later Father Sebastian was to describe it as perhaps a ship but then decided on a more down-to-earth approach when he told the council that he hoped "I might just walk with you."

The occasion was auspicious; yet the theme was simple. Despite talk of ships and planes the main impetus for the DPC was

sought from an eternal source — the power of prayer.

The Bishop also noted of his own appointments to the council, "I never met one until tonight." The bulk of the work had been done by a screening committee with the Bishop making the final selection.

The Bishop spoke of the Kairos, "the moment in time when God's kingdom breaks into man's earthly life." He declared that "God at this moment is breaking into the life of the diocese of Rochester."

Father Sebastian, academic dean at St. Bernard's Seminary, set seven starting points for the council — Christian dialogue; a

Scriptural reminder ("When two or three are gathered in my name there I stand in the midst of them."), climate for lay leadership, ultimate criterion, distinctive roles in DPC, shared responsibility, conciliar context.

In describing the role of DPC members, Father Sebastian said it could be broken into three parts, "advising, consent, and diffusion." He said, "Each member must be ready and able to supply counsel and advice" but noted "the inherent nature of advice — it may be accepted, it may be turned down."

In talking of consent, he told the council members they must be prepared to adhere to ultimate decisions. By diffusion, he ad-

vised that after making decisions and setting directions, DPC members must also engage in effecting implementation of projects.

For the DPC it was a beginning. The tone was solemn on this the first night of the long weekend. Obviously, other moods would play their part before the work of the meeting was concluded. But at first, at least, reverence pervaded. As the Bishop spoke, silence prevailed, not the silence borne of stone ears and lifeless tongues, but the stillness of respect, of supplication to a high source.

A long road lay ahead for the 53 people sitting around the horseshoe of tables. But the journey had begun.

## Dr. Lopez... Providing the Tools

By JOHN DASH

Dr. Felix Lopez offered a new insight into martyrdom in the early Church. It was a good way of changing the power structure, he said, but today the technique would be viewed as "disruptive."

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan asked Dr. Lopez to help the Diocesan Pastoral Council change the power structure and set tentative goals for the diocese. Dr. Lopez, an organizational psychologist, spent last weekend guiding the first convocation of the DPC through the process.

On the serious side, Lopez told the 53 delegates "The Church is in a state of crisis; but all living things go through crises." He said, "The crisis of the Church is not of faith or theology but of administration and organization."

As a human institution, he said the Church is subject to its environment and must adapt itself to that environment. "This is its task: to adapt to its environment without losing its character."

Lopez, a soft-spoken man who "by accident" a few years ago moved into the business of helping the Church with its

organizational problems, has been a major figure in the establishment of the DPC.

The first characteristic of any organization is that it is in the process of change, he said. "The governance of the Church is the governance of change not stability."

He further noted that to manage that change is to manage the future.

He told the delegates that as they set goals, they must be aware that there is "no simple cause and effect," that what they set in motion will have multiple effects.

He told them to "learn to live with uncertainty." Doing this, he said, they will show the Christian values of hope, faith and courage.

He asked the delegates constantly to ask themselves the purpose of the Church, the reason Christ founded the Church.

Often, he said, groups substitute techniques for their purpose. "It takes effort to keep reminding the members of their purpose."

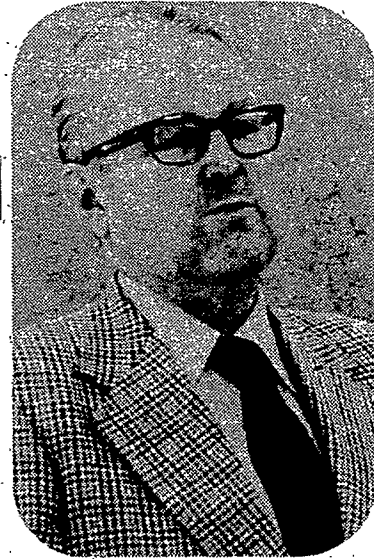
He said changes in the Church will come about through its "milieu: the organizational structure and climate."

He led the delegates through an analytical game in which players were to determine the effectiveness of three companies with differing climates.

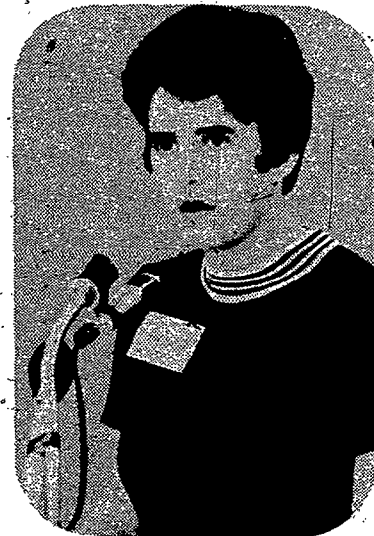
The game demonstrated that a democratic organization whose members are results-oriented, and have a high sense of individuality are the most productive.

This would become the function of the DPC, to contribute to an "achieving climate" in diocesan organization.

A tool delegates are to use in creating this climate is goal-setting, a specific process of achieving results. The process has its own highly defined vocabulary and function, and Dr. Lopez helped the delegates to learn to master the use of the tool.



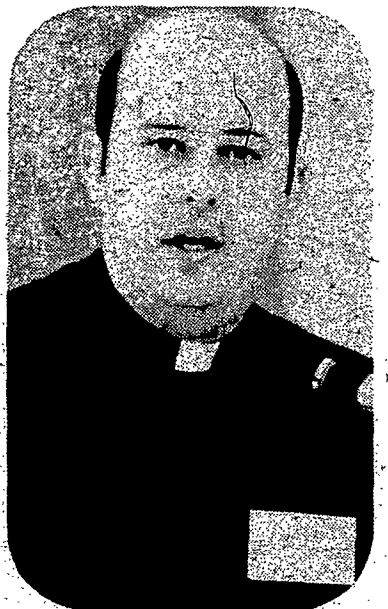
DR. FELIX LOPEZ  
... the road ahead



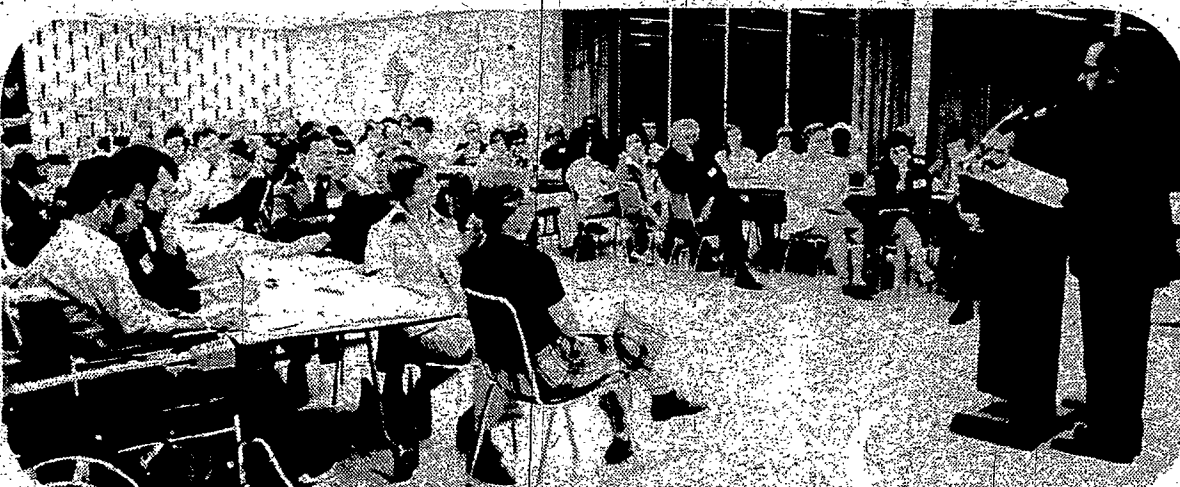
SISTER MARY ANN  
... a new journey



FATHER SEBASTIAN  
... keynote speaker



Father Peter Bayer, diocesan director of planning, chaired the balloting session.



The scene as the DPC began its convocation at Becket Hall Friday.

Photos by Bruce Genut

## Top Priorities:

1. Parish Councils
2. Human Development
3. Rural Centers

By MARGARET CONNOLLY

Establishment of effective parish councils and of neighborhood Human Development programs by the parishes should be the two top goals of the Church of Rochester in the next five years, according to the new Diocesan Pastoral Council.

In non-urban areas, regional centers should be set up for training programs and consultant services, "to increase availability of diocesan personnel."

This was third on the list of priorities when votes were tallied Sunday afternoon at the final session of the initial DPC convocation. The weekend meeting took place at Becket Hall, St. John Fisher College, in suburban Rochester.

Number four concerns "total religious education" and number five proposes recruiting and training parish youth coordinators.

Fifty delegates voted on 26 propositions that had been put together in group meetings. Each group considered possible action within one of the following categories: Worship and Life, Teaching Mission, Social Mission, Pastoral Organization and Supportive Ministries.

The goals, it was stressed, are tentative, representing the majority opinion of the council. They are to be weighed against the goals of Priests' and Sisters councils, diocesan departments, regional and parish councils.

In stating goals, the groups dealt in percentages — for example, 50 per cent, 85 per cent of all parishes in the diocese. In the goal setting process which they had been learning from Dr. Felix Lopez, the figures represent a consensus as to what is possible.

The number one priority defined, by the Pastoral Organization group, is stated thus:

"To establish active and representative parish councils operating, in accordance with diocesan guidelines, in 85 per cent of the parishes of the diocese."

Number two, the work of the Social Mission group, and explained as implying ecumenical action, reads:

"To devise and set in motion, in 80 per cent of the parishes, Human Development programs that fully utilize community resources to meet local needs."

Delegates were asked to rank the 26 propositions in three grades of priority, A, B and C, and to choose at least five as "high" and five as "low."

At the very bottom of the list was a proposal to set up regional

programs to train choirs, instrumentalists and congregations for liturgical celebrations. Its ABC rating of 5, 10 and 35 was attributed in informal discussion to the much greater weight of many of the problems considered.

The parochial school system came out 14th, just under the median, in the ordering of priorities. Only 19 voters gave it an A. There were two tallies, with a little electioneering between, and some resultant changes, in totals. During the interval, a priest delegate remarked that he valued the school system, but that if he voted to continue it he would not be able to vote "A" for anything else, because of the strain the schools put on resources, financial and human. A lay delegate, on the other hand, asked leave to point out that Vatican II had considered the parochial schools fundamental to the whole teaching mission of the church.

Related to the school issue was a proposal to teach Catholic parents their rights as citizens and taxpayers in the matter of choosing schools for their children. This one ended 22nd on the 26-item list, with 19 voters rating it "high" and 27 "low."

The vote on parish councils was 43-6-1; on parish Human Development programs, 42-7-1; on regional training centers, 40-7-3; on total religious education, 38-9-3, and on youth coordinators, 37-9-4.

The religious education goal is "to establish a program of education which will lead to the understanding of the concept and the acceptance of the goal of total religious education, in 80 per cent of the parishes in the diocese."

Some other high ranking goals concerned the permanent diaconate, resource centers "to respond to problems of migrants and the rural poor," parish programs of personal spiritual renewal.

One delegate complained that the actual setting of these tentative goals came too hard on the heels of the learning process the delegates had been put through in their three-day meeting.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, thanking them for their work, referred to the concentrated study as "your Calvary, according to the Lopez model."

Stressing the "representative" nature of the body, he told the delegates "you have to be in touch with your constituents. This is not a glorified oratorical contest."

He attributed "amazing accomplishments" to them. "We're on the right track," he said. "We may not know exactly where we're going, but we do know to Whom we're going."