

Sisters Council Seats Three New Members

The Diocesan Sisters Council seated three new members June 14 and elected two of them to the executive committee for 1975-76.

The new delegates from the three major communities in the diocese are Sisters Barbara Moore, RSM; Mary Patrice, SSJ, and Ann Habershaw, SSND. Sister Barbara was named recording secretary for the executive group and Sister Mary Patrice, an at-large member.

Sister Ann Miller, RSM, is president of the reorganized committee, which is responsible

for the agenda. Sister Kathleen Kircher, SSJ, is vice president; Sister Mary Bernard, RSM, treasurer, and Sister Boniface, SSJ, a member-at-large.

Details of sisters' living needs remained undefined at the council's final meeting of the season. Questions from the constituency indicated a need for more specific information. The committee dealing with salary, housing and transportation will consult the treasurers and financial secretaries of the three orders in preparing a report for the September meeting.

A procedure for consultation on the closing of parish convents was approved by the DSC and, on June 17, by the Priests Council. Designed to improve communications between a parish and its resident Sisters, the measure requires that consultation begin no later than March in any given year if there is a question on either side about continued operation of a convent. The procedure awaits the approval of Bishop Joseph L. Hogan.

Pope Seeks Pardon for 'Offenses'

Vatican City (RNS) — In a plea for reconciliation among Catholics, Pope Paul said he was begging the pardon of any of the faithful he may have "offended."

Speaking on the Holy Year theme of reconciliation at his mid-weekly general audience, the Pope said:

"If we who are speaking to you like this, if we have been guilty of having offended our brothers and of having disturbed their peace and serenity, their joy of living in the Church, well then, we with God's help will have the strength to ask for pardon."

"Pardon us," he went on, "if we have not served you well. Pardon us if we have not been giving you the example you expected from one who is the representative of the Lord."

"But you must also make your own efforts. Forgive us. Forgive one another. Let us give the Church her great joy and peace lived in the name of Jesus."

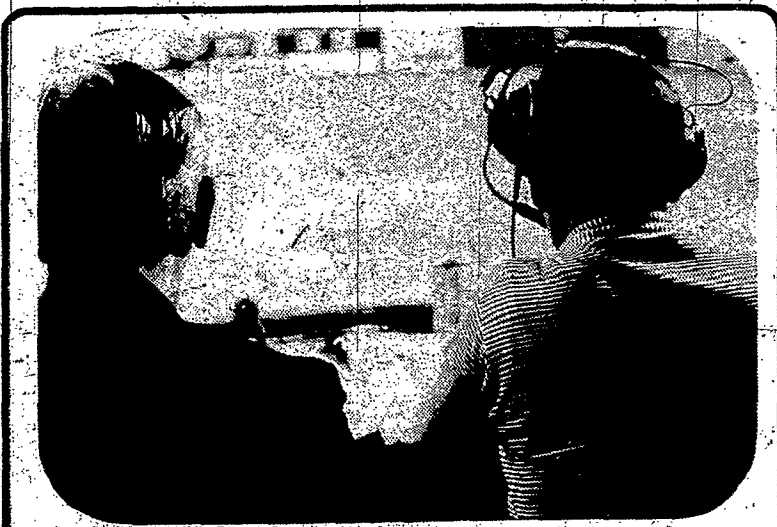


photo by Bruce Genut

View From The Top

That's Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, left, sitting with announcer Pete Brown in the Red Wing radio booth. The bishop did a brief stint over the air at Courier-Journal night at Silver Stadium. (Centerfold)

Decision Postponed

The committee of the Genesee Regional Health Planning Council that has been studying which Rochester hospital should be asked to close its maternity ward recently was granted a two month extension on its deadline to submit its report. The report was originally deadlined for April, then a week ago. The extension now gives the committee until August.



Emotional Arrival

Thuong Bu Nguyen, a Vietnamese doctor, gets a tearful arrival at Twin Cities International Airport from the Rev. Dwight Johnson, a Lutheran Church in America clergyman from Winthrop, Minn., where Dr. Nguyen and his family will make their home. They were met by some 75 Winthrop residents on their arrival. (RNS)

Not on Bread Alone ... But It Sure Helps

By MARGARET CONNOLLY

During the Mass that closed the first convocation of the Diocesan Pastoral Council, Bishop Joseph L. Hogan thanked all the groups involved in the launching of this new enterprise.

He did not forget the people "behind the scenes," the ad hoc household staff that ran Becket Hall like a first-class holiday retreat.

This small staff included one "pro," Vincent Gordon, the cook from St. Bernard's Seminary. Helping him at various times were four Becket seminarians, Daniel Almeter of Hilton, Frank Paolotto of Rochester, Kevin Mannix, Elmira, and William Scafidi, who is from the Archdiocese of New York.

In addition, there were a few outsiders, including Dennis Geiser of St. Margaret Mary Parish in Apalachin. His wife, Marian, is a representative on the council of the Tompkins-Tioga Region, and he "came along to help," he said.

Chef Gordon and the young men prepared five full-scale meals, setting the dining room tables for 50-odd people each time. And they cleaned up afterward. Between meals, they set up coffee-break snacks to give the delegates relief from the rigors of their goal-setting study.

The three-day convocation brought the Becket Hall guest total for the first two weeks of June to about 165. On Thursday, June 12, the second of two priests' retreats ended. Seminarians George Hegman of Rochester and Eric Harer, from the Diocese of Syracuse, went through the place like a bevy of chambermaids, getting the rooms ready for the guests due Friday evening. Seminarians Harer, Scafidi, and Almeter had done the housework also for the priests' retreats.

The head of the house, Father

John Hempel, is a Priests Council delegate to the Pastoral Council. He had nothing to say about his "innkeeper" function on this occasion, but he did admit that as rector he is "assistant custodian-when-necessary."

Although Father Sebastian Falcone was very much up front during council sessions, he also operated back stage, attacking the typewriter keys with deadly accuracy. Sister Betty Mulcahy ran his pages through a pre-Xerox

duplicator, continuously supplying the delegates with records of their work.

Sister Betty, who is pastoral assistant at St. Francis Xavier in innercity Rochester, described herself as "maintenance." When her print shop was idle, she might be playing the role of bus boy or cuing the assembly to a hymn. And at the final Mass, there was "maintenance" holding up the Cross at the head of the procession.

Unique Joint Effort To COPE with Recession

By BONITA BALDWIN

Project CORE is a unique church-sponsored program fighting recession on a wide basis. Judy Wehrin of the Office of Human Development said that she is certain it is the only such program in the state, and Bill Droell, coordinator of the fledgling project, reported that he knows of no other similar effort in the country.

In a recent meeting at the Office of Human Development, Judy Wehrin explained that COPE is a joint effort operated through OHD and funded by Catholic Charities. Four pilot parishes act as information centers and focal points for the unemployed, using materials compiled by a 16-member task force. Materials in the information packet explain unemployment insurance, food stamps, and Medicaid. Anthony Rosati is currently chairman of the task force.

Bill Droell outlined how the four pilot parishes utilize the materials. Holy Cross in Charlotte has a counselor available one hour a week in their thrift store to answer questions. They have also distributed flyers on food stamps and social security to senior citizen complexes in the area. The human development

committee at Holy Apostles in Rochester counsels the unemployed in a group setting monthly and follows up individually as needed. St. Mary's in Auburn has established a workers' hotline, and St. Charles parish in Elmira is cooperating with other groups, assisting with information and follow-up.

Monroe Community College students are researching more areas to be included in the packet under the direction of teacher Jean Cardinali, associate coordinator of COPE. She reported that they are investigating such topics as health facilities in the entire diocese, deferred payments, mortgages, the spending of Compensatory Employment Training Act funds, credit unions, and veterans' problems. One student is doing a complete study of resources available to the unemployed in the Geneva area.

Judy Wehrin explained that it is hoped that the expansion of the information packet and development of the pilot parishes will encourage other parishes to become centers of help for the unemployed.

Any unemployed person interested in receiving the information available through COPE should call 716-328-6400.