### PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

## By Bishop Joseph L. Hogan

# Prayerful Parish Support

I rejoiced to read recently of the many prayerful assemblies convoked at the parish level to ask God's blessings on the Diocesan



Pastoral Council. The weekend of the Convocation was Spirit-filled and the members of the Council join me in gratitude.

On the Feast of Corpus Christi, St. Ambrose Parish had a Eucharistic celebration to support the Pastoral Council. I use this column to include the inspiring message preached by Mr. George Bauer, the chairperson of

their Education Committee:

"The presence of God is a concept that reaches to the beginning of the Old Testament. From the opening of the story of Genesis, we are told of a God who, having created man, desires to be present with him.

"But that it might be felt more vividly, God's presence manifested itself in various signs and wonders. With Moses on Mt. Sinai, God's presence revealed itself in lightning, thunder, fire, and wind. During the Exodus of the Hebrew people from Egypt, this presence was seen in the cloud by day and the fire by night; the Ark of the Covenant placed in the Temple in Jerusalem was the final place of encounter with God's abiding presence in the Old Testament.

"But all these were only a foreshadowing of a more magnificent giving of God's presence which was to find fulfillment in Jesus Christ. By the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit on the Virgin Mary, God accomplished His promises.

"Jesus is the Son of the living God, the very Word of God in the flesh come to dwell among us. Henceforth, it is His Body that is the true temple, the place of encounter with God.

"On the night before He died, the Lord Jesus partook of a sacred meal with His apostles. While He was at table, Jesus took bread and then wine in His hands and solemnly announced: 'This is My Body — this is My Blood of the new and eternal covenant; do this in remembrance of Me.'

"Christ then, gives us His Body and Blood, the Eucharist that He might be present and abide with us, His people, in sacramental sign. Hence, this celebration today — the feast of Corpus Christi — The Body of Christ.

"As we picture this scene of the Lord's love for us, notice another aspect of that first Eucharistic Liturgy. While they were at table, Jesus took water and washed the feet of His Disciples. This He did as an example to us that the Body of Christ and loving service for others are inseparable. Each year on Holy Thursday this scene is reenacted in the Liturgy. From our pastor to our Pope and bishops we see this dramatic witness of faith and loving service as they perform this symbolic. act.

"Today we ask you to picture this Body of Christ and loving service as it is envisioned by Bishop Hogan in the form of a Diocesan Pastoral Council. This is the fondest hope of our Bishop that the Gospel message be lived out in our midst.

"We are aware of our-St. Ambrose Parish Council. Laymen and women, priests and Sisters gathered together to work out the Good News of the Gospel in relation to our problems and needs at the Parish level.

"The needs we see about us are endless and the task overwhelming. As a Pilgrim Church we need each other. 'No man is an Island' is more a profound truth than a mere slogan. So to assist parishes, the Bishop organized the Dicoese into ten regions. We live in the Northeast Region composed of 14 parishes and 3 religious institutions. Our Parish Council sends representatives to this Regional organization — to reflect your views and needs; to share insights, to approach common problems; and to gain from the experience of others who are present in dialogue and in discussion.

"From this Regional structure three delegates have been elected to serve on the Diocesan Pastoral Council. The Diocesan

Pastoral Council is consultative by nature; is a forum seeking the collective wisdom of the local Church. It is called together by the Bishop to witness the Gospel's radical demands in our world. Shared responsibility, regional cooperation, and secular involvement are the marks of this body.

"St. Paul gave us a most explicit example of Church. He compared it to a human body — with head and members working in a marvelous unity of love and order. His vision of the Christian Community is that of a healthy organism, acting, moving, and having being.

"So we are asked to pray that our Diocesan Pastoral Council will be a source of Renewal and Reconciliation among all God's Holy People in Rochester.

"The Body and Blood of Christ present under the appearances of bread and wine is balanced by the Body and Blood of Christ present under the appearances of all those who daily come in contact with us."

"The Sacrament of the Eucharist and Service for the community are complementary to each other.

"The Eucharist is the Bread of Life. It is our strength, it is our source. To gain the effects of this Sacrament, we serve our brothers thus completing Jesus' command to love God — to love our neighbor. We follow the example of Jesus. He was involved. He was committed to the Father's work. In this way we actualize our faith, for as St. James says, 'Faith without works is dead!'

"In the natural order, a man cannot live or work without food. So, too, in the spiritual life, he cannot act without the nourishment of this Eucharistic sacrament. Either sacrament or service without the other is a mockery. In a little country church there hangs a banner over the altar with this thought emblazoned on it: 'Enter to Worship — Depart to Serve.'

"As we entered to worship Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament, may we depart to serve Jesus present in His people."

## vatican news

# 350 Priests Ordained In Holy Year Ceremony

Vatican City [RNS] — In a special and colorful Holy Year ceremony, Pope Paul ordained to the priesthood more than 350 seminarians from 49 nations.

The Pope concelebrated anopen-air Mass in St. Peter's Square with 20 cardinals, in the presence of a large number of other cardinals, archbishops, bishops, and a congregation of Holy Year pilgrims estimated at more than 100,000, on June 29, the feast of the Solemnity of SS. Peter and Paul and the eve of the 12th anniversary of his coronation as Pope.

In a homily, the 77-year-old pontiff described the event as "an assembly of a Pentecostal composition never before equalled."

Vatican Radio commented that the mass ordination liturgy was "a stupendous manifestation of the universality of the Church."

At the conclusion of the liturgy of the Word, Cardinal Luigi Traglia, dean of the Sacred College of Cardinals, presented to the Pope the names of the young

men who were to be ordained. They came from 10 African, 12 Latin American, nine Asian, and 14 European countries, as well as from North America and Oceania.

[An American, who was to have been ordained, was unable to be present. He had returned to the U.S., when he learned that his father, stepmother, aunt, and uncle had died in the Eastern Airlines plane crash at New York's Kennedy Airport June 24 that claimed 112 lives.]

#### SUMMER PROGRAM

The Barley School of Music will offer a special summer program foreteenagers July 7 through July 31 at the Fairport School. Included will be private lessons, theory and jazz improvisation classes, drama, ballet, voice, guitar and piano classes. Schedules will be designed for each person on an individualized basis according to interests and goals. For information, call the Barley School at 377-1220.

Following Pope Paul's homily, the ordinands prostrated themselves before the pontiff, promising him fidelity and obedience, and after a prayer of supplication, the Pope laid his hands on the head of each of the young men, ordaining them "priests forever according to the order of Melchizedek."

The hands of the newly ordained were then anointed and each was presented a chalice and paten to touch. Then the new priests concelebrated their first Mass — together with the Pope and the concelebrating cardinals.

In his homily, the Pope reminded the young men that they were "the salt of the earth and a light to the world," and that they were obliged, as priests, to "minister the word of God and the sacraments of Christ" to a waiting world.

He urged them to heed the groan of the world's poor, the cry of youth, the sign of the suffering, and the criticism of the intellectual—and "never to be afraid," remembering always, that "the Lord is with you."

### Come Back, Pope Asks Church Drop-Outs

Vatican City [RNS] — Pope Paul, emphasizing the Holy Year focus on renewal and reconciliation, has called on Catholic dissidents to return to the fold and not deprive "us or themselves of the joy of new fraternal peace."

"Our arms are open and our heart even more so," the pontiff said in what Vatican Radio described as a "spiritual and pastoral inventory" of the Holy Year and its effect on the Church and the world.

Addressing the College of Cardinals on June 23, the eve of the feast of the Birth of St. John the Baptist, the Pope also said that the Church's struggle against war, artificial contraception, abortion, and mercy killing still merited priority.

Pope Paul noted first that "exceptionally large numbers of pilgrims" had come to Rome for Holy Year observances. "This," he said, "reflects an intense spirituality which prevails in the world and one would have to be blind not to recognize it."

Turning to the situation in the

world, Pope Paul told the car-

"We would not want to forget the horrors of war and the assaults perpetrated today in the name of a misunderstood freedom that offends God and debases man, assaults that are launched by a society that recognizes no other moral law save that of its own self-sufficiency and arbitrary affirmations."

"We are referring," he explained, "to artificial birth control, to abortion, to euthanasia, and to all those forms — whether open or disguised & of manipulation of man, which now pose grave threats for the future of mankind."

The Pope said that he would continue to "sow the words of God in defense of man, especially of the poor, of the innocent, and of those who do not have the ability or strength to defend themselves," and that he would also continue to work for peace, "even if the results do not always correspond to the efforts expended,"