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The Process of Establishing Diocesan Goals



Sister Margaret Mary Mattle, Blake Duffy and Thomas Cass.

'Spiritual Renewal' Need Seen

By MARGARET CONNOLLY When the Diocesan Pastoral Council set priorities among the tentative goals offered by its study groups, two Worship and Life propositions placed high on the list. Both call for "updated programs in 50 per cent of the parishes" of personal spiritual renewal, in one case, and the use of the revised sacramental rites,

in the other. The 10 people who produced these propositions during the DPC's first convocation June 14-15 included a male nurse, a home-maker, a-teacher, a pastor, a high school student, a college student, a psychiatric social worker and two Xerox employes. Their attitudes ranged from the highly conservative to the broadly liberal, and all seemed to be "spiritually discerning," ac-cording to Sister Margaret Mary Mattle, who led the discussions.

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She and two of her colleagues were interviewed last Wednesday at the Mercy Motherhouse. They talked about the goal setting session and possibilities for the next DPC meeting, Sept. 20 in Geneva.

Tom Cass of Newark said one of the "conservatives" in the Worship and Life group repeatedly pointed out that 'We've got to learn to bring Jesus Christ into the market place," and this statement, he said, could be taken as the theme of their deliberations.

The members "all were open, prepared to listen, to search out the Church," according to Blake Duffy of Palmyra. "They were most receptive."

- Examples given of "updated programs of personal spiritual

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renewal" included such as Cursillo, Marriage Encounter and Teen-Seminar, but, as Blake Duffy said, these are not parishoriented, and the goal is to have this spiritual renewal occur 'within the parish setting.'

He described a movement that he and some friends have launched in St. Anne's parish, Palmyra — the "R and R Weekend," he called it, abbreviating renewal and reconciliation. It is a 30-hour retreat, in which a few couples share their personal insights and prayers and when they gather for a meal, it's a celebration, with a party atmosphere.

This brings out a "spiritual awareness of Christ in our lives, - 'I have chosen you, right where you are today'; it builds community, breaks downssyyfess, Duffyssaid.

The party atmosphere, he added, shows "you can't do too much for God's chosen. The focus is on the self-worth of every person, based on God's call."

"They leave with a com-mitment," Tom Cass bbserved, "The reaction is, we want to do this for others."

Sister Margaret Mary referred to Father Louis Hohman's'recent Open Window column on the once-common parish mission (Courier-Journal 7/23/75). Father Hohman asked people to let him know what they think of reviving the mission, "updated in form and content, but having the goal of individual and parish renewal." Father Hohman is a member of the DPC Worship and Life group, and Sister said 'his column reflected some of the thoughts he during expressed its deliberations.

He also suggested the substance of the other leading tentative goal of Worship and

'Time Pressure' Cited By Teaching Mission

By MARGARET CONNOLLY

The usefulness of the goalsetting cram course at the first convocation of the Diocesan Pastoral Council was called into question at a recent gathering of a few council delegates.

"Time pressure" was referred to frequently by some members of the Teaching Mission group as asserted that any given proposition might have been misinterpreted in the general assembly.

The final afternoon session of the convocation on June 15 was used for hurried voting on the relative importance of proposed goals. Two votes were taken, and between votes a few minutes were allowed for questions and comments. The brevity of the time discouraged any useful discussion, some members felt.

The matter arose during an informal meeting called by Father Peter Bayer for the purpose of casting further light on the council's deliberations, in advance of the second convocation, Sept. 20. Father Bayer is director of planning for the diocese.

The discussion group included Joyce Snyder of St. Christopher's and Carl Loewenguth of St. Augustine's, delegates from the Southwest Region, Dorothy Dobson of Immaculate Conception, Rochester, one of those appointed by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan; J.K. O'Loane of Sacred Heart, elected by the Northwest Region, and Father Joseph Jankowiak of St. Bernard's Seminary, who is not a member of the coundil but served as a facilitator throughout the convocation.

Two of the tentative goals presented June 15 by the Teaching Mission group are:

•'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 of the diocese."

•"To support the continuation of the parochial school system, subject to review every five years, by the Diocesan Pastoral Council

The first one guoted ranked fourth among 26, and the second, 14th, with rank determined entirely by the number of "high priority" votes each goal drew. way and another virtually throughout the hour and a half.

Father Bayer later produced a letter written July 17 by the council chairman, Alan Monahan, in response to a petition and letters from Holy Rosary parishioners regarding the apparent low priority accorded parochial schools.

The "low priority" notion rests on a misunderstanding, Father Jankowiak already had stated.

"Total religious education," he said, assumes the continuance of existing parish schools. Others took it, however, that the expression implicitly does the opposite, because of the way, as one member remarked "everything is keyed to money" remarked, one and the school is seen as a "drain."

Alan Monahan's letter on the subject said, "This goal already includes all modes of religious education for children, whether in Catholic schools or in CCD, through Teen Seminar or Family Camp, or other. Included also would be all forms of adult education. The support of existing Catholic schools, such as the one at Holy Rosary, would fall within the context of this goal."

The chairman was writing to Joseph Mercier of Our Lady of Mercy Parish, liaison member for the Northwest Region. He said the issue should be brought to the attention of the regional executive committee, "which decides on the course of action and response which will best determine how widespread the concern is in the region and will formulate its approach to the next DPC meeting."

The parochial school proposition "was not fully explained, and might have got more support if it had been," according to O'Loane. Mrs. Snyder seconded this. "We thought these Snyder things through and prayed over them," she said, "and then . . . I doubt whether there was enough exchange in open session to make our meaning clear."

'That's why they're tentative goals," Father Bayer observed.

"It was not a vote against parochial schools," Father Jankowiak insisted. He commented also on Ciavarri's reference to Vatican II. No position on U.S. parochial schools was defined at Vatican II,

How DPC Ranked Goal Statements

WORSHIP AND LIFE	A High Priority	B ` Middle Priority	C Low Priorit
To design and update progra	ams in	,	
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To design, initiate and support dated programs of personal sp renewal within the parish s	piritual setting,	-	
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