

Supportive Ministries Raise Issues for DPC

By CARMEN VIGLUCCI

Technology need not be the name of the game as far as the Church is concerned; nevertheless its widespread societal infusion can be recognized even in spiritual pursuits.

For instance, the Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC), in the long-range process of establishing goals for the diocese, will be getting "feedback" at its next meeting, Sept. 20 in Geneva. At its first convocation in June, the DPC established a list of tentative goals. Since then, Father Peter Bayer, director of planning, has sent letters to all parishes and specialized diocesan groups, seeking their reaction to the tentative goals established by the DPC.

But while technological terms may have wormed their way into everyman's language, those concerned with spiritual planning apparently are not ready to embrace the machinations of the business world wholeheartedly to the Church's bosom.

To wit: One of the tentative goals established by the DPC group on Supportive Ministries is "to computerize all diocesan and parish records, such as sacramental records and

finance." On a scale of 27, it came in 25th.

Father John T. Walsh, pastor of St. Paul's in Webster and a Priests Council representative on the DPC, confided at a recent informal meeting of members of the Supportive Ministry group, that he was a bit surprised at this low ranking.

He thought it might be advantageous for all concerned, particularly for the Bishop and his departments, to "be able to plug in" to pick up information on any of the various segments of diocesan life.

Two laymen in the group agreed but said they were not too concerned.

"It's something that will happen anyway," said Joseph Mercier, DPC liaison member from the Northwest Region. "There's no way to avoid it."

"Kind of pulling the Church screaming into the 20th Century," added Edward Gartland Sr. of the Northeast Region.

Members of the group, however, did voice some consternation over the overall prioritizing process at the first DPC convocation.

Sister Mary David McCall, SSJ, a Sisters Council representative,

'Encounter' Set For the Engaged

Rochester's second Engaged Encounter weekend will be held at Divine Word Seminary Sept. 19-21. The Encounter is designed to give engaged couples the opportunity to talk privately about their prospective, lives together — their strengths and weaknesses, desires, goals, their attitudes about money, sex, children, family, their role in the church and society. Dialogue is stimulated through presentations by a team of two married couples and a priest.

The weekend is approved by the Office of Family Life and may be substituted for the required Pre-Cana conferences, but couples need not be Catholic. The weekend begins Friday, at 8 p.m. and closes with Sunday liturgy about 3:30 p.m. The cost is \$60 per couple.

For reservations or further details: Jim and Pam Rosseau, 338-7699, or Jerry and Terry Patti, 342-2279.

DPC . . . Confusion, but Progress

The infant Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) may be feeling its way along gingerly, but it seems certain that the exercise will someday develop muscle.

The council was born, baptized, confirmed and sent forth into the diocesan world all on one weekend in June. So there should be little wonder that there may be some faltering in its first steps, steps which Bishop Joseph L. Hogan hopes will develop into long strides for the diocese.

At its first convocation, the DPC set up a tentative set of 26 goals. At a series of informal meetings since then, DPC members discussed some second thoughts on the whole process in preparation for the next meeting on Sept. 20. For purposes of discussion, the members were divided into the same principle areas of concern in which they served at the first DPC convocation. The areas are Worship and Life, Teaching, Mission, Social Mission, Pastoral Organization and Supportive Ministries.

Misgivings about the goal-

setting process, at least as they have known it up to now, were expressed by the DPC members.

"Time pressure" hampered deliberations of the goals, members of the Teaching Mission thought.

There was talk of "stress," and some members of the Supportive Ministries thought that the machinery of the Dr. Felix Lopez goal-setting process negated "spontaneity." Some felt that goals had to be so worded that in many cases they lost purpose.

Others felt that goals received the wrong ratings because of lack of in-depth discussion.

Still there seemed to be a developing realization that this was all part of the goal-setting game; that eventually all the pieces would join; that "work will be saved later on."

And as for criticisms of goals or priorities, Father Peter Bayer, diocesan director of planning, has pointed out that they are "tentative" for the very purpose of further discussion.

feels that "we were victims of process, that in trying to fulfill stipulations from Lopez (Dr. Felix Lopez, whose goal-setting process is being employed by the diocese), that in trying to make goals fit his descriptions, spontaneity was hindered."

Both Sister Mary David and Gartland said that some possible goals just didn't make it through the process because "they didn't fit the mold" provided by Lopez.

For instance, it was pointed out that the group tried to formalize a goal to provide financial support for the Spanish community but because the goal was not diocesan wide in scope it had to be re-phrased — and watered down — at least to some thinking. The final goal stated, "To design, establish and operate a program to deliver through different cultures, the various pastoral ministries of the Diocese of Rochester." Rank: 18.

Such phraseology apparently bothers the Spanish community, according to Jose Rodriguez, a DPC appointee for the Hispanic community.

"My community wants to know simply how are these priorities going to work in the Spanish community?"

Implying that the people he represents are critical of the diocese, Rodriguez said, "A politician will go out of his way to help in a community where he needs votes. Doesn't the Church want our votes?"

Rodriguez came to the informal meeting already armed with some of the feedback that will supply the grist for the next DPC meeting.

He said that a Spanish-speaking group has discussed the tentative goals and picked three as most important — to design, initiate and support updated programs of personal spiritual renewal within the parish setting in 50 per cent of the parishes (rated ninth by the DPC); to recruit and train a youth coordinator who will provide a forum for discussion of questions and issues relevant to adolescents in 75 per cent of the parishes (rated fifth); and to establish a permanent diaconate program in the diocese resulting in the ordination of five permanent deacons each year. Rated seventh.

In the face of the concern over the process, Mercier said, "This is probably part of the strategy." Noting that Dr. Lopez is a psychologist, Mercier joked, "I

suspect malice aforethought. Admittedly, a weekend full of stress may not be optimal but it may be part of the long-range process."

Father Walsh seemed to express the sentiment of the group when he said, "The DPC is sort of a research group."

"Consultative," said Sister Mary David, as opposed to executive.

Mercier pointed out what may be a prime key: Where it's got to happen is at the parish level. Not up here," meaning the diocesan level.

"That's right," Father Walsh concurred, "we are not as policy-making a group as is a parish council."

All pointed out a fundamental principle, that the DPC will provide input to Bishop Joseph L. Hogan and that final action will be his.

"Parochial input is pressure," Mercier said. "I think Bishop Hogan is sticking his neck out. No one questions his authority but still his neck is out. You can't ask several groups for input and then ignore it. When the groups respond he'll be listening."

Father Bayer summed up the position, "The DPC is a research group to form overall direction." This direction will be expressed in goals and then parishes will be asked, can you implement any of these goals.

Asked how a major undertaking, such as a permanent

diaconate, ranked seventh by the DPC, can come from the parish level, Father Bayer said:

"In that case, it wouldn't come from the parish level but it must be carried out at the parish level." The implementation would be up the parish.

The DPC's goal must be attainable, Mercier said, indicating that many good ideas may face discarding because of impracticalities.

"We shouldn't let them be dropped," he said. "We must keep talking about them."

Father Walsh had another thought in the same vein. Sometimes, he said, the DPC must come up with ideas that may seem shocking. "Something that won't happen next week but something that should come along at a future time."

So the implementation of the eventual goals will be accomplished outside of the DPC.

Sister Mary David mentioned that it would be unfair to expect people to implement goals that they had no part in choosing. She explained that "everyone expected to implement these goals did indeed have representatives on the DPC. They were represented by us in goal-setting so actually they were involved in the whole process."

The next step in the process that should establish five definite goals for the diocese by some time in 1976 will take place Sept. 20. Feedback time.

How DPC Ranked Goal Statements

	A High Priority	B Middle Priority	C Low Priority	Rank Order
SUPPORTIVE MINISTRIES				
To increase the number of lay and religious people in the pastoral ministry of each parish.	28	10	12	11
To establish a permanent diaconate program in the diocese resulting in the ordination of 5 permanent deacons each year.	30	14	6	7
To centralize cooperative financial planning in such areas as purchasing, credit and financing.	12	16	22	23
To computerize all diocesan and parish records, such as sacramental records and finance.	7	8	35	25
To establish team and cluster ministries to more effectively utilize priests, religious and laity.	19	16	15	14

Your Heritage

Sept. 4, 1893. Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid, founder of the Rochester diocese, was most noted as an educator. He built up a strong parochial school system throughout the diocese; but he was proudest of St. Bernard's Seminary, which opened on Sept. 4, 1893. Provided with an able faculty, it soon became known as one of the best schools in the country for training priests. St. Bernard's continues to maintain its McQuaidian standards. It has trained over 4,000 seminarians from many dioceses and several religious orders. About 2700 of these have been ordained priests, and 19 have become bishops or archbishops. Today, women as well as men, Protestants as well as Catholics are able to take courses at St. Bernard's.

Sept. 5, 1781. A crucial event in the American Revolution was the treaty of alliance between France and the American Colonies on Feb. 6, 1778. September 5, 1781 marked the beginning of the end for the British forces. On that day the American-French army of 16,000 arrived at the head of Chesapeake Bay, under Washington, the Marquis de Lafayette, and the Count de Rochambeau. At the same time, the Count de Grasse, commander of the French fleet, crippled the British fleet and thus cut off the British army in Virginia from possible reinforcement by sea. Allied victory at the Siege of Yorktown (Sept. 29-Oct. 29) was a foregone conclusion. The Americans were duly grateful for the help given by Catholic France and its largely Catholic military and naval personnel. — Rochester Diocesan Bicentennial Commission.

establishing final goals and providing the general direction for the diocese. Though there may be a few loose nuts in its inner workings, the DPC seems to promote no friction with either the bishop or other diocesan bodies, such as the Priests and Sisters council. Authority doesn't seem to be on anyone's mind. More important seems to be concern over their effectiveness as a body. Indeed one of its tentative goals is "to establish the diocesan pastoral council as an effective consultative body according to its constitution."

Undoubtedly, at the Sept. 20 session when feedback is due from all around the diocese concerning the tentative goals, a new outlook will be fostered. There will be a new set of problems demanding solution. The trying will be difficult, frustrating.

But no one ever said that the voyage would be smooth. Which, by the way, was exactly how one of the leaders put it on the opening night of the convocation.

Some members of the DPC seem to have a deeper dissatisfaction with this present setup of goals. Proponents of Catholic schools particularly resent the low rating (14 in 26) given the priority: "To support the continuation of the parochial school system, subject to review every five years, by the Diocesan Pastoral Council."

A representative of the Spanish community says his people want to know how the DPC will relate to their needs, implying some unease with the lack of specific goals relating to the Spanish-speaking.

So there are misgivings over the mechanics of the first convocation, some doubt over the tentative ranking of priorities.

Still there is inherent optimism. A member of the Worship and Life group said, the sessions were "a living example of what the Church can be — people of vibrant faith interacting."

Another said, "A holiness was evident."

Members talk confidently of