

work. I ask their patient and firm commitment to this project. I also ask the cooperation of the consultative bodies, the regions and the parishes in the efforts of my staff to move to a planning basis. It does not mean that they will solve all the problems of effective service overnight. It does mean that they will take them seriously. I also ask that all other sectors of Church be open to planning as a tool in service of the mission. Within the next two years I would hope to have the regions and parishes of this Diocese making solid beginnings in planning.

7. I must urge everyone of you to be serious and realistic in regard to our Catholic elementary schools. As a boy I went to a Catholic school in Lima that is now closed. I value these schools and I value the commitment of generations of Catholic people who have made them possible. It is a priceless heritage of the Church of this Diocese. I back completely the efforts made by the Department of Education to give each parish a format for realistic planning. We must plan the future of these schools with our eyes wide open. I want them to endure in the Diocese, but they will not if their future is left unchallenged and unexplained. Some schools will have to close because of the reality of harsh facts. But many can remain strong in the service of the youth of this Diocese, if we collaborate. I was deeply hurt — indeed all of us were

deeply hurt — by the closing of the inner city schools in Rochester. As a community we must arrive at a method of continuing the schools that offer their services to the poor. I wish to reaffirm my commitment to the School Planning Assistance Program.

8. I will be asking that some of our priests and Sisters be sent away to study for leadership positions in this Diocese. I need highly trained specialists at the Pastoral Center and the Seminary to continue the tradition of professional leadership in the Diocese of Rochester. I ask the priests' and sisters' personnel boards to plan this effectively for me.

9. I wish to explore the possibility of uniting the Office of Family Life and the Tribunal. I feel this is an area of special urgency today. Family life is besieged by pressures unknown to previous generations. Both offices deal with the task of strengthening and helping those called to the vocation of marriage. Both have a profoundly pastoral orientation. I think each could be strengthened by close collaboration with the other. I ask my Administrative Assistant and the heads of these two offices to enter into dialogue on this matter.

10. I want the Church of Rochester to be a missionary Church, for I believe this is central to abundant life in Christ. The Church of Rochester shares its blessings all over the earth,

especially in Chile, Brazil and Bolivia. I ask the Priests' Personnel Board to follow up on the report of the mission of our priests in La Paz by designing future possibilities for our priests to serve in missions outside the Diocese for a limited period of time. I pledge ongoing support and encouragement to the Sisters of Mercy and the Sisters of St. Joseph in their missionary efforts. I urge the consultative bodies to give careful attention to the proposal on Justice and Peace before them and include at some point the possibility of lay missionary efforts in this proposal. I see no division between concern for justice in the world and what we have known as the "missions."

Finally, my beloved people, I express the hope and prayer that these pastoral directions will provide a basis for your own prayerful reflection and discussion. I look upon this Pastoral Letter as a study document, and I shall welcome the dialogue that will, I trust, follow your reading of the text. Even more shall I welcome the day of its translation into positive and cooperative action.

My litany of concerns expressed here is not intended to exhaust the possibilities of our initiatives. What I have proposed is, rather, my vision of what is sufficient for today and a statement of my fondest hope for what can be reasonably accomplished at this moment of our history.

