

How to Present Proposal To Pastoral Council

Action by the Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) at its meeting Jan. 31 established a definite procedure for the handling of proposals in the diocese.

Any person or group in the diocese may make a proposal to the DPC. The proposal may involve correcting a problem, setting a particular course of action or establishing a policy, anything that deals with the operation of the diocese. Each proposal must end in a single statement that clearly and concisely states the specific decision being asked for by those making the proposal.

Each proposal received by the DPC will be handled in the following manner:

1. The Executive Committee will examine each proposal and refer it to the appropriate standing committee, or set up a task force to study the issue.

2. The Executive Committee will report to those making the proposal and to the DPC how they referred the proposal.

3. The standing committee or task force will evaluate the proposal, and prepare a written response. The proposal and the response will be sent to the Executive Committee to be placed on the agenda of the next DPC meeting.

4. If the DPC approves the proposal, the Executive Committee will present it to the bishop.

The final decision as to whether the proposal will be implemented or not is up to the bishop; the DPC is a consultative body, not a legislative one.

DPC

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and regions; what the responsibilities of the standing committees were; communication in general.

"We sought feedback from parishes and regions as to the goals, almost from a lack of knowing how else to move with them. The problem was that all the regions and the parishes were in a different state of order or disorder, and the effectiveness of the DPC is directly linked to the effectiveness of the regional structure and of parish councils. There is a difference in the quality of parish councils and regions, and a distribution within the DPC as to the quality of what were able to learn. Therefore the feedback from the goals varied from fair to poor, none of it was really good. Then we organized into committees, and met with the departments. Once again, each committee behaved differently. Some felt they were implementers of goals and should go to the regions and parish councils. Some thought they were just advisors to be called on when needed. That led to the task force to look at the relationships and definitions of liaisons, representatives, procedures for standing committees, disposition of the tentative goals, and how to handle a proposal.

"I really think it was the Holy Spirit working through the Southeast Region that got us on the right track with the proposal for access to all diocesan buildings for the handicapped. I guess we can look at that and say it's really not important to anybody who isn't handicapped. But it was very important. I think the bishop pointed out that that's really what he wants us to do. He doesn't want us to flog the goals until everybody is sick of them.

How important do you think regionalism is going to be in the future of the DPC?

Monahan: I'm anxious to get working in the region when this is all over, because I really think that's where it's at. I've been to individual parish council meetings and I've been to regional meetings, and I get a far better feeling of the broad basic concerns of the people when I go to a regional meeting. So I think regionalism is crucial to the DPC.

How much reaction have you received about the actions of the DPC?

Monahan: I've gotten very little. I really don't feel that the people in the diocese know what the DPC is. To use an analogy, the DPC is where parish councils were 10 years ago. If you had asked the average person in a parish 10 years ago what the parish council was, 9 out of 10 couldn't tell you. I think the DPC is in the same situation now. There is a real need for a public relations job, in addition to getting the ball rolling. Through the committee recommendations as to how we ought to receive and act on proposals, we have to show some concrete example of council action right now, before this term is out.

What is the most important contribution of the DPC to the diocese?

Monahan: Looking at myself as a layman back in the parish, I'll know that I can bring a legitimate concern right to the top, through procedures now set up in the parish councils, regions and DPC. That's number one. The DPC also has to address broader issues than just those outlined in the goals. The DPC has to assert itself and be sure that the concerns of the people are really reflected in the budget, the way the dollar is split in the diocese. The DPC shouldn't be a meddler, it should be a leader, saying yes, this is a good thing or a bad thing.

[Next week Father James Marvin, president of the Priests Council, will be interviewed.]

HOMESPUN DAY AT HOLY GHOST

Children at Holy Ghost School began their celebration of America's Bicentennial Jan. 29 by exploring a number of handicrafts. Their "Homespun Day" was organized by Charlotte Nowton, Ann Predmore and Olivia Abbott, under the direction of Yvonne Goh of the Rochester Museum and Science Center. Faculty members and 25 adult parishioners helped with the demonstrations, which included candle dipping, butter churning, quilting and log sawing. Follow-up activities will include a visit to the museum.



Photo by Ben Sussio

Double Celebration

Corpus Christi School is celebrating Catholic Schools Week in a big way. Events planned for the week include the grand opening of the school library, Grandparents' Day, and a film festival day. Since it's also Black History Week at Corpus Christi, some of the students made a pertinent flag display. Here, seventh-graders Brenda Pacheco, Mary Kay Burch, and Charlotte Jefferson join eighth-grader Cynthia Prescott in putting on the finishing touches.

Pope Assails Extreme Feminist Stands

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope Paul, while insisting that men and women should be equal in professional and social life, criticized "extreme" feminist positions that he said run the risk of "virilizing" and "depersonalizing" women.

The pontiff was addressing the Vatican's Study Commission on the Role of Women in Society and the Church at the close of its sixth and final plenary session. The ad hoc commission, set up in 1973, was authorized only until this past January.

The Pope thanked the commission, which was composed of 15 women, including two nuns, seven priests, and three laymen, and was headed by Archbishop Enrico Bartoletti, for its "intense and difficult work," which he said had produced "a full dossier on women's participation in society and in the life and mission of the Church."

The pontiff told the group that women's "essential" role is motherhood, but added that "the bringing up and education of children should be the joint task of the father and the mother."

"There is certainly progress to be made in order that men should take their part in this task to a greater degree," he said.

Recalling that men and women are created "in God's image" and

Eggs Flung In Cathedral During Protest

Milan (RNS) — A group of Italian feminists threw eggs in Milan's famed Catholic Cathedral during a demonstration in favor of abortion and against the Vatican's recent document on sexual ethics.

Some 300 women, members of radical feminist groups, gathered first in the broad piazza outside the cathedral, one of Italy's most notable buildings. Then a group of 50 entered the cathedral itself to register their protest.

When police, who had been summoned by church authorities, arrived and went into the cathedral to quell the protest, the women began hurling eggs at them.

Meanwhile, a group of marchers including Iranian students, was gathering near the cathedral to protest alleged executions of political prisoners in Iran. Following cries from women protesters in the piazza, "We're being attacked!" the student protesters moved to their aid and a violent clash with police ensued during which Molotov cocktails were thrown and at least one car set afire. No serious personal injuries were reported.

are therefore "equal before God," the pontiff emphasized that women should share equality with men in professional and social life.

Alluding to women's liberation movements and to drives for sexual freedom, divorce, and abortions, Pope Paul warned:

"We would also like to put you on guard against certain possible deviations in the contemporary movement for the advancement of women. The equalizing of rights must not degenerate into an egalitarian and impersonal leveling."

Egalitarianism, he said, was being "blindly pushed forward by our materialistic society" and thereby runs the risk of either "virilizing" women or "depersonalizing" them. In both cases it does violence to women's deepest qualities.

Following the Pope's address, Mrs. Deborah Seymour (Cheloman), an American college student and the youngest member.

Fr. Schwab

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involved in Adult Education, a Youth Program and Teacher Training. He also has been Regional Family Life coordinator for the Northeast Region.

Upon his appointment, Father Schwab said he was "surprised" but felt "challenged" at the thought of setting direction for Religious Education.

He admitted to "mixed emotions" about leaving Father Marvin's staff and the people of St. Ambrose parish, who have been very responsible for my growth in the last few years," but is still "excited at the education role with which I have already been involved in different dimensions."

Sister Michael has been at the Pastoral Center since September 1968 when she became a consultant to High School Religious Education. She became director of Religious Education in February 1970.

Sizing up the evolution of Religious Education, Sister Michael said:

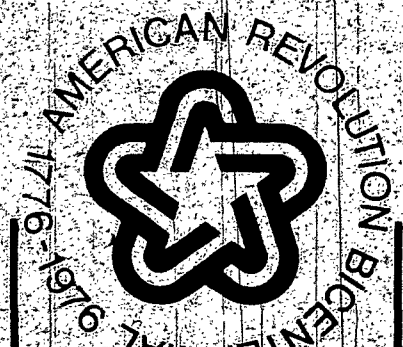
"Religious Education as a relatively new professional and pastoral ministry in the Church, got off to a precarious beginning across the country in the mid 60's. Today, in our diocese due largely to the efforts and experience of the Religious Education Coordinators, the field is perceived not only as acceptable, but also as a necessary ministry. Religious Education is rewarding work. Futuristic trends, of course, must continue to practically implement the concept of Total Parish Education with a particular emphasis upon developing adult education and family education."

of the commission, who was recently married, thanked the Pope on behalf of her colleagues.

Said Mrs. Seymour: "It is because I am the youngest, they tell me, and so a symbol of hope for the future, that my friends of the commission have chosen my voice to express our feelings at this time."

"First and foremost, our gratitude — for having created this special commission, directly at the service of Your Holiness; and for the great trust you have shown us by calling us to work together under your instructions."

"We have endeavored to bring to you, Holy Father, information as to the problems, the injustices, the distress, and questionings that women experience, so that the Church may more readily bring aid and the light of the Gospel."



Your Heritage

Jan. 12, 1976. The Bishops of the Administrative Committee of the National Catholic War Council issue the "Bishops Program of Social Reconstruction." When the American hierarchy, in 1917, formed the National Catholic War Council as a coordinating agent, they intended to address themselves not only to the wartime needs of the service personnel but to the needs of the peacetime years to come. Father John A. Ryan, of the Catholic University, worked out a projection for the better solution of America's social needs. The bishops liked it so much that they adopted it as their own program. It dealt with such subjects as housing, minimum wage scale, social insurance, child labor, labor participation in management, etc. Some critics accused the bishops of going socialist. Even the federal government was slow to legislate in some of these forward-looking matters until the time of Franklin D. Roosevelt. — Rochester Diocesan Bicentennial Commission.