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Justice, Peace Unit Okayed

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan late last week communicated to the heads of the three diocesan consultative bodies that he has approved the establishment of a volunteer, ecumenical commission which will found a diocesan office for international justice and peace.

The action followed debate in the three bodies studying the "Justice and Peace Proposal." Both the Sisters Council and the Diocesan Pastoral Council approved the proposal, while the

Priests Council rejected the measure.

Bishop Hogan has named Father Charles Mulligan of the diocesan Office of Human Development and Father Joseph Reinhart of the Pontifical Societies Office to head the commission. Funds for the project will come from Catholic Relief Services and the Diocesan Missions Office.

It is expected that the office will eventually become a fully established office in the Diocesan Pastoral Center.



Ordination Slated For Father Valenti

"The Spirit of God rests upon me, consecrates me, sends me forth" is the theme of the ordination of Deacon Thomas J. Valenti to the priesthood. Bishop Joseph L. Hogan will ordain the son of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony T. Valenti of Brighton on Friday, April 2 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary's of the Lake Church in Ontario, where he has served his deacon-internship. A reception will follow the ordination at the Ontario Golf Club.

Father Valenti attended St. Boniface School and Cardinal Mooney High School. In 1967 upon graduating from Cardinal Mooney he began his seminary education at Becket Hall, the diocesan college seminary on the campus of St. John Fisher College. Upon receiving his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology from St. John Fisher College, Father Valenti went on to St. Bernard's Seminary where he received his Master of Divinity in Theology.

While a seminarian at St. Bernard's his field education placements were at Bishop Kearney High School where he taught Theology. He spent two years working with youth and assisting with the weekend Masses at St. Monica's Parish. He also worked at DePaul Clinic and during his deacon year at the seminary he was a member of the guidance department of McQuaid Jesuit High School. During that same year he assisted with the weekend Masses at St. Thomas the Apostle Church in



FATHER VALENTI

Irondequoit. While at St. Thomas he became the chaplain of the Irondequoit Council of the Knights of Columbus.

In his fourth year at St. Bernard's, Father Valenti was elected president of his deacon class.

Father Valenti participated in the Clinical Pastoral Education Program of Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. during the summer prior to his ordination to the diaconate.

Father Valenti will celebrate his first consecrated Mass of Thanksgiving on Saturday, April 3, at 7 p.m. at St. Mary's of the Lake in Ontario, New York. Another Mass of Thanksgiving is scheduled on Sunday, April 4, at noon at St. Monica's Church.

Doubly Busy

While the parish council and staff of Our Lady of Mercy met at weekend retreat at Round-towner Motel to set goals, parishioners at home were greeted by an unusual substitute, Bishop Joseph L. Hogan. Photo stories on Pages 8 and 9 depict both sides of busy parish weekend.



Elmira School To Close

Elmira — St. Peter and Paul elementary school will be closed at the end of the current school year, following a vote by the Chemung County General Education Board at a Sunday evening meeting which did not end until early Monday morning.

The General Education Board
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Changes Announced

Father Paul R. Schnacky is stepping down from the pastorate of St. Patrick's, Cato, and St. Thomas, Red Creek, and Father William J. Gordinier will succeed him, the Pastoral Office announced this week.

Father Gordinier has been co-pastor of St. Joseph's, Penfield, since September 1972. He will not immediately be replaced.

Father Schnacky will be associate

pastor at St. Philip Neri, Rochester. He had been associate pastor of Holy Redeemer in inner-city Rochester for 10 years before his appointment last June to the rural pastorate. He was ordained in 1953, from St. Boniface parish.

Father Gordinier was ordained in 1958, from Holy Rosary. He is a former Fire Bureau chaplain and spiritual director of the Legion of Mary Junior Curia.

'Data Does Not Determine Truth' — Archbishop Bernardin

NORC Study: Encyclical Crux of Problem

A decline in Roman Catholic devotion during the past several years is directly attributable to Pope Paul's 1968 encyclical on birth control, *Humanae Vitae*, and not to changes brought about by Vatican II, according to a study on American Catholicism published by the National Opinion Research Center (NORC).

The study also stated that support for Catholic education in the U.S. continues to be strong and that the decreasing enrollment in Catholic schools resulted largely from the "failure" of the Church leadership to build new schools in suburban areas where Catholics have moved in large numbers.

The study "Catholic Schools in a Declining Church" was written by Father Andrew Greeley, Dr. William

Summary in Courier

Beginning next week, the Courier-Journal will begin a six-part series written by Father Andrew M. Greeley summarizing Catholic Schools in a Declining Church. Prepared by Father Greeley and his colleagues at the National Opinion Research Center (NORC), the series will be based on the first intensive study of Catholics in America in more than a decade. The survey suggests that American Catholics are in the midst of a religious crisis unparalleled in their history. The first of a six-part series will begin next week with a statistical overview of the 'American Catholic, his belief and practices.

McCready and Kathleen McCourt of NORC, and is based on two national samples of American Catholics, one taken in 1963, prior to the end of Vatican II and the other in 1974.

Father Greeley, a nationally syndicated columnist (appearing

weekly in the Courier-Journal) researcher on the project, pointed out that it is not the task of sociologists to make theological judgments on such developments as the birth control encyclical, but "merely to report its organizational impact." However, he said, "it now appears that *Humanae Vitae*, as far

as the American Church goes, was one of the worst catastrophes in religious history."

Archbishop Joseph L. Bernardin of Cincinnati, president of the U.S. Catholic Bishop's conference, reacted to the study, noting that it "says a great deal concerning the teaching of the Catholic Church" expressed in *Humanae Vitae*. But, he added "Catholic truth is not determined by sociological data or analyses."

"*Humanae Vitae* contains the authentic teaching of the Church concerning human sexuality and the morality of contraception," he explained, "and that teaching is not affected by the sociological analysis contained in the study. Acknowledging that the study reports 'valuable and important

data," he said it also "contains interpretations of these data which are problematical and open to question."

The study went on the claim that the Catholic education system, despite enrollment declines, is one of the "few pillars of preconciliar Catholicism to remain strong." Ninety per cent of American Catholics favor the continuation of Catholic schools, and 80 per cent would be willing to increase their contributions to the Church to sustain the school systems, it indicated. The study's authors estimated that about \$2 billion of annual support may be available for Catholic education.

All of the decline in Sunday Mass

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