Mercy Fund Raiser

Sister Mary Bonaventure, Sister Mary Rose Schum and Sister Kathleen Ann Kolb study blueprints for the renovation of the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse infirmary. A home-cooked roast beef dinner with a Mini Sale/Flea Market will be held on the Mercy High School grounds April 24 from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. to raise funds for the work.

Sisters Council Sets Election Dates

By MARTIN TOOMBS

Committee reports occupied much of the agenda of the Diocesan Sisters Council (DSC) last Saturday. A smaller group than normal met because the Sisters of St. Joseph's Chapter was being held at the same time.

Election dates for DSC representatives were set, with congregational representatives being elected by May 23 and then the regionals by June 10. Possible changes in the regional representative elections were rejected.

Sister Mary Bernard, transportation committee chairman, asked for feedback on the transportation survey her committee had prepared. The transportation policy has to be written by January, 1977, for implementation the following September. Sister Bernard noted that there is a wide disparity in the handling of convent cars throughout the diocese, and a common policy will help correct the problem.

The DSC heard reports from several other committees. Sister Ann Habershaw reported that the Ministerial Review committee has begun its work, studying the possible overlapping of diocesan staff departments. Sister Barbara Moore reported on a statement of the competency of the three consultative bodies, which has been accepted by the bishop. Sister Ann Miller reported on the second meeting concerning the Urban School proposal, in which many of the concerns aired at the March DSC meeting relating to financial support and personnel were discussed.

Sister Kathleen Kircher reported on the Rochester Regional Task Force on Women in the Church, a group organized as a result of the Detroit ordination conference. She reported that the group is seeking members, and is developing methods for consciousness raising in the Rochester area.

Pursuit of Justice Seen As Part of Christian Life

Philadelphia — Social justice is fundamental to the Church, according to Father J. Bryan Hehir, associate secretary for International Justice and Peace of the U.S. Catholic Conference.

In a recorded meditation on the "Hunger for Freedom and Justice" issued in preparation for the 41st International Eucharistic Congress, next August, Father Hehir traces the roots of the Church's "hunger" to the prophets of the Old Testament, particularly Amos and Isaiah. He points to the Gospels of Mark, Luke and Matthew to show that Jesus perceived his ministry as a pursuit of justice and reconciliation.

Indeed, Father Hehir says, "there is no social gospel of the Church. There is the one gospel of the Christian community which is thoroughly social in its implications."

In the past 80 years, there has been a sustained attempt to think out systematically the social meaning of the Christian vocation, he notes. The thrust of Catholic social teaching has been to provide a "framework of conscience to evaluate the social system in which we live and to direct the action of Christians and others toward a society that really would mean liberty and justice for each person."

At the 1971 Third Synod of Bishops, Father Hehir said, a document was issued which stated that the pursuit of justice in the world is a "constitutional element in the life of the Church." These words, the priest explained, mean that the Church now must be understood in terms of "sacramental life and word of the scriptures and the pursuit of justice as part of Christian vocation."

Fr. Hehir is one of nine internationally-known men and women who have recorded meditations developing the eight daily themes of the Eucharistic Congress.

Region Holds Workshops

Wayland — The fourth Livingston-Steuben Region General Assembly was held April 4 at St. Joseph's School. The assembly drew 96 members from 25 parishes.

Four short workshops were conducted on Education, led by Sister Elizabeth Hughes; Human Development, led by Father Charles Mulligan; Liturgy, presented by Sister Margaret Mattle; Parish Councils, by Father Douglas Hoffman, director of pastoral ministry.

There also was a report by J. Louis Lempert, regional representative of the Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC). He spoke on the role of the DPC as "go-between" for the bishop and the laity, priests and sisters of the diocese. It was also recommended that every parish have an active parish council and that all churches should provide access to the church for handicapped people.

There were two nominations to the DPC in the Livingston-Steuben area. Mary Smith, whose term expired, chose not to run for re-election. The nominees were Edna Carney and Josephine Ciancaglini. Miss Ciancaglini, of St. Ann's, Hornell, was elected.

The keynote address was given by Sister Michael Lappetito, from the diocesan education office. She spoke on the "gifted people in our community who are productive and can help to build a strong church."

In other news of the region, a Marriage Counseling on the Parish Level Workshop has been scheduled for July 12-15 at Keuka College, Keuka Park. More information is available at the Office of Family Life, 50 Chestnut St., Rochester, New York 14604.

History Club Takes Honor

Auburn — Blessed Trinity School's newly-formed history club, the Yankee Doodle Yorkers, came in first place in the Junior High Division in New York State's Bicentennial contest for secondary schools.

Blessed Trinity was the only Catholic school in the exhibit. The contest has held at the Onondaga War Memorial, and was open to private and public schools throughout the state. Announcement of the award was made at a meeting of New York State Social Studies Teacher at the Hotel Syracuse on Saturday, April 3.

The club chose prison reform as its theme and concentrated on the development of the prison system since the early 1800s. The students had made models of cells and an electric chair, a scrapbook, a research paper and slides showing the progress the state has made in the treatment of criminals.

Students in Yorker Clubs are junior members of the New York State Historical Association.

'Friends' Cite Dickens Scholar

The Friends of the Rochester Public Library will bestow their 20th annual literary award on Prof. George H. Ford at a luncheon Wednesday, April 14, at the Chamber of Commerce.

Ford, a Dickens scholar, teaches at the University of Rochester and was English department chairman there from 1960 until 1972. He has written several books on Charles Dickens and other Victorian writers, and is the first American president of the Dickens Fellowship, an international society founded in London in 1902.

Anyone who wishes ot attend the award ceremony should call the library's public relations office, 428-7355.

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