

Don't Forget the Missions on May 16

Special Section in center of paper

COURIER-JOURNAL

24 Pages

Wednesday, May 12, 1976

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

20 Cents

Progress: Satisfactory

Future: Optimistic

DPC Ends First Year

By MARTIN TOOMBS

The final meeting of the first year of the Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC), last Saturday in Waterloo, set the stage for the second annual June Convocation weekend, June 11-12. An evaluation of the progress of the council included reports from each standing committee, a general evaluation, and a Mass celebrated by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan.

The DPC received many communications since the March meeting, with the change in the diocesan medical coverage from Blue Cross/Blue Shield to Wausau being the topic of several. The council did not take up the issue itself, but it was noted by the executive council that the plan change has been implemented by the Bishop, and was an administrative decision made with the recommendation of the Priests Council.

Sister Mary Ann Binsack, the executive secretary, also reported that of the 16 positions in next year's council filled so far, 10 of them have been filled with re-elected current members. She also reported that liaisons from the diocesan departments to the appropriate DPC standing committees will be named soon.

It also was noted that Michael Novak, the Parish Services director of the Diocese of Cincinnati, will conduct the workshop sessions at the June Convocation weekend, Friday, June 11, and Saturday, June 12, at Trenholm East Inn in Victor.

The issue of DPC appointments to task forces and committees in the diocese surfaced again, with a request to appoint a member to the Mission Task Force, and to the Board of Arbitration. The Executive Committee, which previously voted not to appoint a member to the Permanent Diaconate Task Force, decided not to appoint to the Mission Task Force, feeling that the DPC should study proposals, not provide members for diocesan task forces. But the committee agreed to reappoint James Dornbeck to the Board of Arbitration, at the request of Bishop Dennis W. Hickey. The Executive Committee voted the conflict, and asked the DPC Organization Task Force to study the issue.

Each of the standing committees also reported on what they are doing currently, in preparation for

the new council members next month.

An evaluation session on the council's first year revealed that most of the members are satisfied with the progress the council has made, and are optimistic about the future. Several questions were raised concerning the effectiveness of the Regional and Parish Councils. A survey the members completed showed that they were generally satisfied with the progress the council has made in its own actions, but less sure of the impact the council has made on the diocese as a whole.

The Mass concluding the meeting, celebrated by Bishop Hogan, turned out to be a special event. In his homily, the Bishop commented that he is satisfied with the progress of the council, and looks to the future with optimism. Noting that he was concerned when the council began, because he knew of failures in other dioceses, he feels that the extra planning and effort, and the effort of the first year, insured that the DPC will be a success.

Father Wedow Named To St. Alphonsus

Father Edwin Wedow was appointed last week to the pastorate of St. Alphonsus, Auburn, to take the place of Msgr. Joseph Gefell. Father Wedow was assistant pastor of the Auburn parish from June 1964 until March 1967.

The Pastoral Office said that Msgr. Gefell and his twin brother, Msgr. Gerard Gefell, who lately resigned the pastorate of St. Mary's, Ontario, would be studying at Dunwoodie, in a program set up by the New York State Bishops. They will return to parish work after the end of the course, in November. Both retired from the military chaplaincy in 1973.

Father Wedow, 50, has been pastor for the past five years of a cluster of rural parishes in Livingston County — St. Thomas Aquinas in Leicester, St. Lucy, Retsof, and St. Raphael, Piffard. He is a Rochesterian, educated in the diocesan seminaries and ordained in 1953. He has served at Blessed Sacrament and Sacred Heart Cathedral, St. Cecilia, Irondequoit, and St. Francis DeSales, Geneva. While at St. Alphonsus, he was associate director of Family Life for the diocese.

His new appointment is effective June 23.

Black Ministries Sets Elmira Celebrations

The diocesan Office of Black Ministries will take its Black Cultural Worship celebration to Elmira this weekend, May 15 and 16. Masses will be celebrated in the Elmira Reception Center, and Correction Facility for their residents, and then in St. Peter and Paul Church at noon on Sunday, May 16. An invitation is extended to everyone.

Father Jerome R. Robinson, OP, Black Ministries director, will be the principal celebrant and homilist. The Black Ministries Gospel Choir, directed by William Grimm, will lead the singing.

The Black Cultural Mass is specifically designed to deepen the appreciation of multi-cultural

worship. The liturgy also serves as a point of introduction to the newly established Black Ministries office. All are also welcome to attend the informal coffee hour after the Mass.

Further information can be obtained about this and future liturgies from the Black Ministries Office, in the Pastoral Center.

Bishop on TV

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan will make a special appeal for the missions over the television Mass at 8:30 a.m., Sunday, May 16 [Mission Sunday] over Channel 10, WHEC-TV.



Our Lady of Czestochowa

The "maternal protection" of the people of Poland by the Virgin Mary over the last six centuries was underscored in a joint pastoral letter by the nation's Roman Catholic bishops. In the letter, the prelates called attention to scheduled celebrations in honor of Our Lady of Czestochowa, the special patron of Poland. Czestochowa in south-central Poland is famed for possession, since 1382, of a "Black Madonna" icon, housed in a basilica that is one of the most renowned Marian shrines in Central Europe. In preparation for the 600th anniversary of the arrival of the icon from the Ukraine — it was the gift of a prince — the Polish hierarchy has dedicated the next six years to special devotions.



Joan Smith, RapAround editor of the Courier-Journal, recently visited Red Square in Moscow as well as other parts of Russia and will bring our readers first-hand reports of her tour. The first of Mrs. Smith's reports, *The Courier Visits Red Square*, will be in next week's Courier-Journal.

Vietnamese Form Group

"The Community of Vietnamese" is the name adopted by the Vietnamese founders of a cultural and social organization for their compatriots in the Rochester area. The new organization met April 30 in the Manhattan Square complex in downtown Rochester.

The program consisted of speakers, songs, music, and a great deal of social activity. Translations of the speeches were made for the sponsors present, but it was a night designed by and for the Vietnamese. The children, especially, enjoyed the opportunity to meet former acquaintances, and were quick volunteers when it came time to pass out refreshments.

Although the meeting was arranged with the assistance of the Catholic Family Center, it was run by the Vietnamese. That may explain the apparent lack of interest in starting on time. Americans always seem to be in a hurry to get things started; the Vietnamese were all on time for the scheduled 7:30 start, but the activities didn't get underway until well after 8 p.m. and nobody seemed to mind at all.

The speakers concentrated on the purposes of the organization. One noted that America became great because it is a melting pot, and that the Vietnamese would have their own contribution. But he also called for the preservation of the Vietnamese culture among the people, and for the Vietnamese to remember their heritage.