

Regional Questions Studied by Sisters

A discussion of the function of the regional representatives to the Diocesan Sisters Council (DSC) at its meeting Saturday resulted in more questions than answers.

The role of the regional representatives has been discussed by the DSC because of the problems caused by new assignments of Sisters during the summer, after elections have taken place. An examination of the regions revealed that they operate very differently. Sister Ann Miller, DSC president, will ask Father Douglas Hoffman, director of Pastoral Ministry, for a clarification of the operation of the regions. The council also decided to request a current flow chart, showing the lines of responsibility between the many diocesan bodies and task forces.

James Noonan presented the

diocesan budget for the coming fiscal year. Questions were raised concerning the breakdown under specific items, and Noonan agreed to supply further clarification. Concern was expressed by some Sisters that the budget surplus should be used to lighten assessments on financially troubled parishes. Noonan said that alternative was being examined.

Sister Frances Sweeney reported for the Social Action Committee, noting the drive for voter registration in the diocese Sunday, June 13, and asking for support.

Father James Boyle spoke on the discussion of priests' personnel policies that are being examined by his committee, the Joint Committee for Personnel Research. The committee is examining the current procedure for the placement of priests.

Operation SIGN . . . A Chance to Serve

The 41st International Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia in August has prompted many people throughout the world to get involved with "people helping people" programs as part of the IEC celebration.

Operation SIGN (Service In God's Name) is a national program offered by young people to those who are needy. The SIGN goals encourage young people to live their belief in Jesus Christ, and to contribute hours of service toward the needy, lonely and disadvantaged.

In this diocese, the program is coordinated by Chuck LaMattina of the Catholic Youth Organization who says, "As a part of Operation SIGN, young people, independently or in youth clubs pledge to perform a certain number of hours of

service to be done in God's name. These services may range from baby sitting, tutoring, visiting shut-ins, to working in a joint effort with adults to help operate a community program. SIGN is not an obligation, but rather an opportunity to bring the love of Christ into view."

One of the groups in the Rochester diocese participating in SIGN is from the School of Religion at Assumption Parish in Fairport. The young people there helped the American Cancer Society, worked around the school and have done various other jobs. There are many opportunities especially as summer approaches to perform service.

Any group that would like to find out more about Operation SIGN, should contact Chuck LaMattina at the CYO office (716) 454-2030.

Pro-Life Strength Seen in Senate Vote

Albany, N.Y. [RNS] — The leader of the New York State Right to Life Committee declared here that she is "heartened" by the U.S. Senate vote to table a proposed human life amendment to the Constitution because it is "indicative of the considerable pro-life voting strength" of the Senate.

The vote to table the measure was 47 to 40.

Helen Greene, chairman of the NYSRTL, said the closeness of the vote to table a proposal by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) was an "encouraging development," even though the committee is backing the concept of a constitutional amendment that would overturn the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court ruling on abortion.

She said the language of the Helms bill does not allow for medical treatment to save the life of the mother in medical emergencies, a stand not favored by the New York group. "The fact that so many senators would vote to continue debate on this particular amendment is significant," she added.

Ms. Greene said the versions of the amendment most favored by the committee are those introduced by Sen. James Buckley (R-N.Y.), and by Rep. James Oberstar (D-Minn.) which contain allowances for the prevention of the death of the mother when medical emergencies arise.

The Bicentennial At St. Boniface

The St. Boniface Parish Council has planned a Bicentennial Weekend for May 21-23, including a pageant, craft demonstrations and parade.

The demonstrations will begin at 7 p.m. Friday. At 8 p.m., a stage program will feature the school children singing and dancing a historical sketch of 200 years in America.

Neighborhood organizations, schools, churches and businesses are invited to participate in Saturday's parade by providing marching units, floats, prizes, or funds. The parade will start at noon at the church parking lot. On Sunday, the Bicentennial theme will be especially commemorated at all Masses.

Portland Unit Opposes ERA

Portland, Ore. [RNS] — Leaders of a Catholic women's agency in the Archdiocese of Portland have voted to oppose the Equal Rights Amendment.

In doing so, they join the National Council of Catholic Women which has opposed ERA for several years.

A strong majority of the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women voted for the anti-ERA resolution.

Delegates also voted to endorse a constitutional amendment which would outlaw abortion and to sponsor a "natural family planning" workshop.

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