

# COURIER-JOURNAL

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## Regionalism ... a Report

By MICHAEL GRODEN

In February 1972, Bishop Joseph L. Hogan appointed 10 regional coordinators. According to the Directory of Regional Leadership, issued by the Office of Pastoral Ministry in 1973, a coordinator was selected to "generate and organize regional committees for liturgy, education and human development; to form regional conferences which represent all parishes and institutions of the region; and to create a new spirit of cooperation across parish boundaries."

Recently each regional coordinator made a progress report on his region.

The Yates, Ontario, Wayne (YOW) region reports that the cooperation among the clergy in the region has been excellent. Father Richard Tormey, coordinator, said that these regular meetings have been very successful. Periodic workshops on liturgy and care of the sick were also successful when lay persons were able to meet. Parishes in the region are spread widely apart and it is difficult for these people to come together, Father Tormey said.

Father Albert Cason, Tompkins-Tioga coordinator, stated that one significant accomplishment of the region was conducting workshops on liturgy, education and human development in both counties. This allowed the committees in each area to operate on the parish level first, allowing them to move up to the regional level gradually. Tompkins-Tioga also is starting a Youth Ministry Board which will plan such things as Youth Masses, Retreats and social events.

Father Michael Reagan, Chemung-Schuyler coordinator, who died since issuing his report, said, "The Christ Mass was a beautiful liturgical experience. The efforts of many people under the leadership of Father Timothy

McGough resulted in a celebration which will long be remembered by the people of the diocese and the Chemung-Schuyler Region in particular." The region has also developed Personal Alternatives for Catholic Education (PACE) and ad hoc committee which directs its efforts towards the "renewal and education of adult Catholics in the area," Father Reagan said.

Msgr. Joseph G. Gefell, Cayuga-Seneca coordinator, reported that the first regional anointing ceremony in the diocese was held in the region in November 1974. More than 200 elderly people received the Sacrament. St. Alphonsus, Auburn, started the practice of "Service Families" and it quickly spread throughout the region. Each Sunday families take the Holy Eucharist to nursing homes and distribute it to the people who would not have the chance otherwise.

Father William G. Darling, associate regional coordinator for Livingston-Stauben, said that a major step forward was the "clustering" of parishes. Parishes in certain areas of the region came together making it easier for the sharing of programs and training sessions. Father Darling also reported that the region is having problems in revising its regional constitution mainly because a great deal of time is being spent on the revision of parish council constitutions.

In the North Region, a letter of support was sent by the regional conference led by Father Conrad J. Sundholm, to Bishop Hogan on his stand on abortion. William Bleier, publicity chairman for the region, also said that "teacher training programs have been initiated and feedback on these programs has been quite favorable."

Father Thomas W. Burr, coordinator, and delegates from

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Photo by Susan McKinney

Michael Novak speaking to the Pastoral Council Saturday morning.

## DPC Elects Officers At 2nd Convocation

By MARTIN TOOMBS

The Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) had its second annual Convocation Weekend Friday and Saturday, welcoming 14 new members and electing officers for the coming year.

Keynote speaker was Father Charles Mulligan, director of the Office of Human Development. Workshop sessions were conducted by Michael Novak, Parish Services director for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan welcomed the council, and citing the progress of the council's first year, said that he is happy the

council has become a "listening post" for the diocese. Referring to the failures of pastoral councils in some dioceses across the country, he noted that the extra effort expended on the council before it first met, and since, has helped the council be successful.

Father Mulligan, speaking on "The Collective Conscience of the Church of Rochester," told the council that "we live in a turning point in the Roman Catholic Church," even though many "don't realize the slow turn the Church is taking." This change, Father Mulligan said, has been caused by "Vatican II's commitment to shared leadership" in the Church, calling for pastoral and priests councils. This turning point is as great as that caused by the decision to build Catholic schools over a century ago, Father Mulligan said. He predicted that in time "all parts of worship will be influenced by parish committees."

"Just as one generation built the schools (for children) we

need to do the same for the adult population, to take the responsibility of this turning point," Father Mulligan said. "We shouldn't underestimate the task, but I don't think we should be afraid" of the work that has to be done, he added.

Father Mulligan challenged the council to "have great respect for what you do," said that if a member has something to say, to "just say it, but at the same time" be "willing to listen" to others. He said that the members have a responsibility to their constituents to participate actively on the council.

He also asked the council to "help us solve the problem of tapping lay expertise." Referring to the shortage of priests, he noted the importance of making use of lay persons in ministry and other Church activities.

In conclusion, he noted that we are "in the midst of a society where being successful doesn't include participation in a Church." Noting the large numbers of persons who are "unchurched," he emphasized that "we have a duty to be a missionary Church," in our own neighborhoods as well as through foreign missions.

Novak, when starting the workshop sessions, noted that many of the things Father Mulligan said, such as being prepared to listen to others, would be skills he would be emphasizing.

Friday night's get-acquainted

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MICHAEL NOVAK

### TV MASS

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan will celebrate the Mass and give a homily on Independence Day for the 8:30 a.m. Mass, Sunday, July 4 over WHEC-TV, Channel 10.

## Diocesan Appointments

### Associate Pastors

Father Paul Gibbons, to St. Casimir's, Elmira, from St. Michael's, Penn Yan, and St. Andrew's, Dundee.

Father Daniel Wheeland, to Our Lady of Lourdes, Rochester, from St. Philip Neri, Rochester.

Father James C. Burke, to St. Alphonsus, Auburn, from Annunciation, Rochester.

Father Michael Biondi, CSB, to Christ the King, Rochester, from Aquinas Institute faculty.

Father William Darling, to associate pastor, St. Joseph's, Penfield, from assistant pastor in internship, St. Mary's, Dansville.

Father Paul J. Ryan, to associate pastor, St. Patrick's, Elmira, from assistant pastor in internship, St. Michael's, Penn Yan, and St. Andrew's, Dundee.

### Assistant Pastors in Internship

Father William Spilly, to St. John the Evangelist, Spencerport, from St. Ann's, Hornell.

### [Newly Ordained]

Father Theodore Auble, to St. Anne's, Rochester, from Mother of Sorrows.

Father John M. Turner, to St. Ann's, Hornell, from St. Margaret Mary, Rochester.

Father Peter C. Clifford, to Holy Ghost, Coldwater, from St. Michael's Penn Yan and St. Andrew's, Dundee.

Father Daniel L. Karl, to St. Mary's, Dansville, from St. Columba, Caledonia.

Father Thomas J. Valenti, to Holy Apostles, Rochester, from St. Mary's of the Lake, Ontario.

### Special Assignments

Father Neil Miller, to the Office of Human Development, Appalachian Region staff, from St. Casimir's, Elmira.

Father Matthew Vanissery of the Diocese of Ernakulam, India, to associate pastor, St. Ambrose, and faculty of St. Bernard's Seminary.

Father Joseph M. Sasso, associate pastor of St. John the Evangelist, Spencerport, to be temporary administrator of St. Dominic's, Shortsville.

Father Joseph W. Dailey, pastor of St. Mary of the Lake, Watkins Glen, to be temporary administrator of Corpus Christi, Rochester.