

# Regionalism ... a Report

By MICHAEL GRODEN  
Last in a Series

The regional coordinators report published last week dealt with how successful regionalism has been.

The coordinators this week respond to three questions — How involved are you with the DPG? Is regionalism working? Do you have any future plans?

The coordinators agreed that regionalism is working although it is still growing. Father Emmett J. Halloran, Southwest coordinator, said, "I believe the whole concept of regionalism is still in its infancy and it will become more effective when member parishes of the regions become acquainted with regional programs."

Not all the regions were as

optimistic. Both the Northeast Region (at the time of the interview led by Father Thomas Burr) and the Cayuga-Seneca region (Msgr. Joseph C. Gefell) report apathy among the clergy. Msgr. Gefell said, "In general regionalism is not a vital concern of the priests or the parishes. Too many priests still give the impression that regional activities are just so many more burdens imposed upon their already too-busy schedules." He concluded by saying that regionalism is slowly starting to work in the parishes. The parish councils are beginning to "get with it," he said, but the process is a slow one.

Father Richard Torney, YOW coordinator, felt that regionalism is a "good idea" but it won't succeed completely until the 10 regions are decentralized. He feels that each

region should have three offices (liturgy, human development and religious education), independent of the Pastoral Office in Rochester, that are paid for, by, and serve only that one region.

Some future program highlights in the regions:

The North hopes to expand its membership to include delegates from the priests and sisters councils, St. Ann's Home and Bishop Kearney High School.

The Northwest will try to promote a forum and process for dealing with future parish disputes.

The Southwest hopes to draw up a new constitution which would streamline completion of programs.

The Northeast hopes to "cluster" its parishes. It is felt, by the region, that when parishes are brought together regional programs can be implemented more effectively.

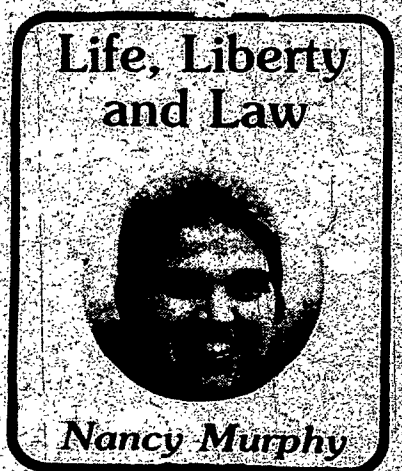
The Cayuga-Seneca will try to start a "short" concise monthly news sheet.

The Tompkins-Tioga Region also hopes to start a newsletter and will build up the standing committees on liturgy, education and human development.

## PARISH REUNION

St. Peter & Paul's Church, Rochester, will have a reunion starting at 10 a.m. on Sunday, June 27. The reunion celebrates the

"Feast Day" of the 133-year-old parish. All present and past parishioners and friends are invited to participate.



### Life, Liberty and Law

Nancy Murphy

To repeat: I have yet to find a Catholic school sex education program which teaches "Natural Family Planning." In some, all forms of artificial contraceptives are explained openly and candidly (except the newest "belly-button" surgery, vaginal suppositories, intra-cervical devices, vaginal rings, implantation disruption, medicated IUDs, chemical tubal occlusion, male contraceptives, and prostaglandins which are being researched by the UN's WHO); but when it comes to the natural, moral and safe way, educators and sexologists tend to follow a less candid approach. Ortho Pharmaceutical Corporation, giant of the growing contraceptive industry, distributes a four-color booklet which best sums up these "open and candid" guidelines for pregnancy prevention. Just why the "new" Catholic approach is similar to the Ortho approach (it may be coincidental) is a matter for conjecture, but the Ortho people also candidly list the advantages and disadvantages of family planning methods except when the natural method is explained. Ortho then strangely concludes that the natural approach is "ineffective" because 1) it is too complex (untrue); 2) no way has yet been found to determine "safe" days (untrue); 3) a woman must keep a written record of her menstrual cycles for at least a year before she attempts the natural method (untrue); and 4) it is unsuitable for women with irregular periods (untrue).

It took very little effort on my part to discover 1) Ortho manufactures and profitably markets seven different contraceptives plus a diaphragm — in fact they manufacture little else; 2) Ortho will probably be the first U.S. company to advertise contraceptives on radio; and 3) Ortho does not speak from the viewpoint of Catholic morality any more than most Protestant ministers and Catholic dissenters do — for the same reason. They do not accept the infallibility of the Pope and/or they display a peevish disregard for *Humanae Vitae*.

To continue last week's abbreviated bibliography papers which do not advise early classroom sex education: Sex Education: The Basic Issues, von Hildebrandt; On the Doctrines of Modernists — Condemning their Errors, Pope St. Pius X; Christian Education of Youth, Pope Pius XI;

Christian Marriage, Pope Pius XI; Atheistic Communism, Pope Pius XI; On Certain False Opinions Which Threaten to Undermine the Catholic Doctrine, Pope Pius XII; Holy Virginity, Pope Pius XII; Near the Chair of Peter, Pope John XXIII; Christianity & Social Progress, Pope John XXIII; Christian Education, Pope Paul VI; Priestly Celibacy, Pope Paul VI; *Humanae Vitae* (Human Life), Pope Paul VI; Priests Should be in the World Not Of the World, Pope Paul VI; Sexual Ethics, Pope Paul VI; Is the Schoolhouse the Proper Place to Teach Raw Sex, Drake; The Superstition of Sensitivity Training, von Hildebrandt; The Struggle, Faith of Chardin, Rambaud; Charity Sex and the Young Man, Raterman; A Clergyman Examines Playboy's Interview With SIECUS President Mary Calderone, Cleary; In Defense of the Catholic Faith, Against Certain Errors, Sacred Congregation; Sexual Regulations and Cultural Behaviour, Unwin; Sex Education, Its Role in the Anti-Life Trend, Fraser; A Psychoanalytic View of the Sex Education Controversy, Lorand; The Canonical Significance of Papal and Curial Pronouncements, Morrissey; Sex Education the New Manicheism, Beach; In the Image of God, O'Reilly; The Catholic Religion, Stewart; A Parent Looks at Sex Education, Richards; NFP Conference, Ujicchio; The Art of NFP, Kippley; The Infertile Period, Marshall; Fertile and Infertile Days, Thyma.

NOTE: Although they unfortunately do not teach NFP, the Rochester Family Life Office will refer couples to teaching sources. Vatican II stated that young people must receive "positive and prudent" information concerning sex, as they advance in years — suitable to their age; and that parents must accept the very grave primary responsibility of guiding the young in these matters. The Church has appealed time and time again to the bishops and teachers to teach sound Vatican doctrine, always enlightened by the Magisterium. Therefore, as every author listed above enforces and supports the wisdom and the leadership of the Vatican, it stands to reason that every author should appear in the bibliography of every Catholic sex education program. But do they?

I respectfully suggest that you check, as I did, the bibliographies of the actual books used by the schools to teach sex.

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