

Sisters Approve Proposal on DPC

By Martin Toombs

The Diocesan Sisters Council approved the proposal that would place sisters and priests on the standing committees of the Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) at their meeting Saturday, following a lengthy discussion. The council also was asked for input for a national meeting scheduled for October and heard committee reports.

The proposal, by the Joint Executive Committee, calls for one to three sisters and priests to join the five standing committees of the DPC. The change would not influence the committee structure of the Sisters Council, Sister Kathleen Kircher explained, or necessitate council members being appointed; a committee member could be any sister of the diocese.

During the discussion, questions were raised over who would be available to serve on the committees. Two sisters who are members of the DPC, Sisters Jamesine Riley and Judith Heberle, noted that they thought the inclusion of sisters who have experience with committee work would assist their work on proposals.

The proposal was approved with one objection and one abstention.

The council also heard a report from Father Daniel Tormey on the October conference to be sponsored by the U.S. Catholic Con-

ference in Detroit. The conference, which will draw more than 1,000 delegates, Father Tormey said, will write a church response to teachings on social justice. The delegates will analyze papers on eight topics, he said, and study 24 draft proposals that were the result of 800,000 suggestions received from parish forums held during the Bicentennial, and the five volumes of testimony from regional hearings. They will then make proposals for social action by the Church for the next five years, which will be evaluated by the U.S. bishops at their spring meeting. Father Tormey asked the Sisters Council for input for the local representatives to the conference, and said that the papers would be available for study soon.

During committee reports, Sister Ann Habershaw reported that the Ministerial-Review Committee has discussed a question raised by the Staff Planning Committee concerning a coordination of a congregation's personnel placement in the future, and possibly also working with the Priests Personnel Board.

The council also discussed the proposal for a transportation policy and returned it to committee for further work; heard the report of the council's delegates to the National Association of Women Religious meeting in Kentucky; and conducted a goal setting session designed to focus the activities of the council for the year.

Parish Councils

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together cannot fight each other later on," he said.

Councils should also strive toward dependence on one another. The liturgy committee must cooperate with finance or education, etc., in order to form an effective council.

Following Father Larsen's speech a series of workshops began dealing with the different aspects of pastoral ministry. They included Human Development, Liturgy, Family Life, Education, Youth, Supportive Ministry, Parish Planning, Consensus Building, Leadership Styles, Problem Solving,

Running an Effective Meeting, Parish Council Constitution, Spirituality in the Parish, Parish Council Relationships and Urban Parish Councils.

A delegate from Elmira said that the only problem with the Congress was that "we aren't able to attend each workshop."

Father Hoffman stressed that the Diocesan Parish Council Congress was a "diocesan event." The success was not just a result of the efforts of Pastoral Ministry but that virtually every department in the diocese contributed tremendous effort during the nine months of planning.

Toombs

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will be centrally located in Elmira and hopefully will do the kind of job our Southern Tier readers deserve."

Toombs joined the Courier-Journal in October 1975. He was assigned to covering the Diocesan Pastoral Council, the Sisters Council and the Office of Human Development. He also covered a wide range of general assignments, perhaps most notable being a series on "Moonies" in the diocese.

Toombs grew up in Waterloo where he was a parishioner of St. Mary's Church. He is a graduate of St. Mary's, Waterloo High School and of Ithaca College, with a degree in English in 1974. While in college he spent the 1972-73 year studying in London, England. He returned to that country for graduate study.

"Because of his local background and previous work in covering diocesan events, Toombs has a keen understanding of diocesan operations which should help him with his new responsibilities," Vigliucci said.

In conjunction with the establishment of the new office, the

Courier-Journal will also provide space devoted to coverage of Southern Tier and Auburn-Geneva activities, in addition to normal news coverage of those areas which will run throughout the newspaper.

A new Courier-Journal telephone line has been set up in Elmira. Those with news for the Courier should contact Toombs at 607-732-3371. In Auburn, Mrs. Cinnerty can be reached at 315-253-2176.

North Region Sets Unity Celebration

Bishop Joseph Leo Hogan will concelebrate Mass Sunday afternoon, Oct. 3, with the 12 North Region pastors on the grounds of St. Margaret Mary Church.

The regional liturgy committee has chosen "unity" as the theme, and there will be special emphasis on devotion to Our Lady as Patroness of the United States. Refreshments will be served after the 3 p.m. Mass.

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