

# What Do You Think of These Planks?

In order to give the delegates from the diocese of Rochester as wide and representative background as possible on topics to be discussed at the Detroit conference, we are presenting a synopsis of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops recommendations to be discussed and voted upon with the aim to present the U.S. Bishops with a plan for action.

Three of the eight topics will be presented this week — Church, Family and Neighborhood. Anyone with recommendations, ideas or suggestions on these topics should send them to John Erb, Office of Human Development, W. Main St., Rochester, N.Y. Telephone 328-6400.

## CHURCH

### Recommendation One — Justice in the Church

1. That Church authorities on all levels hold themselves accountable to relevant groups of the faithful for their financial policies and practices including investments and the ownership and alienation of property.
2. That the Church address itself aggressively to the issue of due process by instituting procedures of appeal and redress for those who have justifiably complained about unjust treatment and attacks on their good reputation or professional standing.
3. That authorities, in accord with the spirit of collegiality, provide reasons for administrative and policy decisions and conduct their affairs in the open, utilizing procedures of consultation, dialogue and participation. Open meetings of pastors and bishops with their people will contribute to this end.
4. That the Church eliminate every form of discrimination on the basis of race, language, sex, culture, nationality and physical endowment.
5. That the Church honor the right of the faithful to competent pastoral care by providing professional seminary training in light of current pastoral priorities and needs.
6. That bishops insure that the faithful receive competent theological guidance by endeavoring to provide greater clarity in theological teaching, upholding the unity of faith while accepting differences of opinion on theological matters, insofar as they represent a legitimate theological pluralism.
7. That the Church and church authorities recognize the right of those who have resigned from the priesthood to be fully accepted as lay Catholics in good standing.

### Recommendation Two — Women in the Church

1. That the NCCB reconsider its decision to reject the proposed establishment of an office for women.
2. That the NCCB, working with the appropriate organizations of scholars, lay women and Religious women, and in consultation with women who feel called to the priesthood, sponsor an interpretive study of recent papal and episcopal statements on the subject of ordination of women and offer clear leadership to the Catholic community by specifying their policies and plans on the subject of the ordination of women.
3. That affirmative action be taken by the NCCB and by local ordinaries to bring about participation by women in leadership and decision-making at all levels, assure an equal status of women in church agencies and provide professional theological and pastoral training for women in seminaries and other educational programs.
4. That official Church documents, catechisms and liturgical books and rites be reviewed with sensitivity to language that could be offensive.
5. That ministries presently being performed by women in the Church be identified and, where appropriate, formally authenticated, and that these ministries be reviewed to insure that the women involved have the opportunity for training and the authority they need to perform effectively.
6. That special efforts be made to insure that women have a full role of leadership and authority in Church life in such areas as education, family life, vocations, marriage preparation, marriage counseling and adult education.

### Recommendation Three — Education

1. That structures of cooperation among Church members, educators and Church leaders be established or strengthened in parishes and dioceses.

## 2 Candidates Disagree on Abortion Fund

New York [RNS] — Sen. James Buckley (R-N.Y.) and his Democratic challenger Daniel Moynihan took opposing stands on the use of Medicaid funds for abortion — with Moynihan supporting and Buckley opposing such use.

Their views were expressed during a convocation sponsored here by the Synagogue Council of America. The two senatorial candidates participating in a panel were asked to respond to the recent U.S. House-Senate conference

committee vote to bar Medicaid funds for abortion.

"I would vote to support that," Sen. Buckley said. "Yes, the poor cannot afford discretionary abortions that Medicaid funds would provide. But there are lots of things that the rich can afford that the poor cannot. I don't think that we can redress all those differences."

Buckley held that "there is a substantial number of the public that does not agree with the use of

Medicaid funds for such abortions."

Moynihan said he was "very troubled by the ideas of federal action which would remove actual access to abortions from people whose prime circumstance was poverty."

He said he would not vote for the bill if it meant that there would be "wholesale denials of abortion funds" for the poor. Moynihan said he was against abortion, but did not favor an amendment.

2. That, within the context of building and developing the community of faith in the parish and its smaller communities, priority attention be given to providing programs of adult education appropriate to the needs and concerns of the people involved.
3. That the diocesan Church continue to support parochial schools where they are needed and desired, even if the local community is too poor to support such schools on its own.
5. That, to allow the entire community, which bears responsibility for the Church's educational apostolate, to be better informed regarding the effectiveness of Catholic schools and of religious education programs, leadership should provide support for independent, competent research and regular programs of evaluation of effectiveness, cost and possible alternatives to present educational programs.

## FAMILY

### Recommendation One — Support for Family Values

1. To affirm that committed, lifelong marriage is part of God's plan; that children express the creative fruitfulness of human life; that when husbands, wives and children love each other, they serve God; that each family, as one among the many families of the world, finds fulfillment in service to others; to live in peace and security is the right and duty of every family; that within the common bonds of faith, each family has the right to express its religious values within the context of its cultural heritage; Christian marriage and family life should enhance the freedom of men and women to fulfill their personal potential and participate fully in the life of their world.
2. That the whole Church pledge itself to combat those contemporary social, economic and cultural forces which threaten all families.
3. That the Church develop a comprehensive pastoral plan for family ministry based upon a continuing process of dialogue between families and church leadership.
4. That the bishops provide a national structure to formulate and implement a pastoral plan for integrated family ministry.

### Recommendation Two — Family and Society

1. That family life programs address in a special way helping families become aware of the needs of others in their neighborhood, their local communities or in the world community.
2. That family life programs be developed dealing with the social justice dimension of family life.
3. That the entire Catholic community be regularly and systematically consulted in order to develop a clear position on legislation.
4. That families unite in building coalitions to evaluate the impact of media on family life and to construct useful channels counteracting the influence of and demanding accountability from radio and television stations and advertisers whose influence is communicated through such media.

### Recommendation Three — The Church and Divorced Catholics

1. That pastoral care be extended to separated, divorced and remarried Catholics by the development of effective programs of ministry, education and group support.
2. That the Church put an immediate end to punitive action against separated, divorced and remarried Catholics by purging local communities of attitudes and practices which brand such people as failures or discriminate against them or their children in diocesan or parish activities.
3. That church leaders clarify the status of the divorced and remarried within the Catholic community, including guidelines for reception of the Eucharist, and assure that all Catholics with just cause for annulment have access to annulment procedures.
4. That the Church invest in serious study of the causes of marital breakdown with particular attention to the impact of poverty on marriage and family life.
5. That the bishops make a public statement that the American law of excommunication (Third Council of Baltimore 1884) not found in the 1917 code of Canon Law for the Universal Church, is not applicable to Catholics in irregular second marriages.

## NEIGHBORHOOD

### Recommendation One: Parish and Neighborhood

1. That parish liturgies and ecumenical prayer ser-

VICES, as celebrations of community life and neighborliness, should on a regular basis focus on neighborhood concerns and issues.

2. That the sacramental life of the neighborhood church should reflect the relationship between Christian commitment to and community realities.
3. That the ordinary life of the parish church should encourage neighborliness by welcoming newcomers, engaging in outreach to the lonely and alienated and bringing neighbors together in social activities.
4. That parishes cooperate with and supplement with neighborly action the existing social service programs for the poor.

### Recommendation Two: Church and Neighborhood Action

1. That parish facilities and resources, meeting places, program space, personnel, office equipment, be made available to action groups dealing with neighborhood issues.
2. That a budgetary item of every parish to financially support competent neighborhood action groups, be considered a legitimate and realistic investment.
3. That in promoting and supporting neighborhood action the church should develop cooperative relations among parishes and with other religious social and civic organizations.
4. That each diocese establish an office for community affairs, or some other appropriate agency, to coordinate and support neighborhood action programs.
5. That parish and diocesan educational agencies and state Catholic Conferences allocate a fixed portion of their personnel and resources for education and action programs on Christian civic responsibility.
6. That Church leadership, bishops, priests and pastoral councils provide channels of communications between neighborhood people and those Catholics who have positions of responsibility within the political and economic institutions of the community.

### Recommendation Three: Church and Community Development

1. Initiation of a thorough study of the use of Church resources.
2. Popular education for political action on such issues as housing, services, ownership and use of natural resources, quality education, race relations, transportation, industrial and economic development.
3. Allocation of Church resources to meet human needs.
4. Initiation and continued development of effective advocacy with the poor through support and expansion of the Campaign for Human Development or through such agencies as Catholic Charities.

### Recommendation Four: Church and Rural Community

1. That the NCCB continue and extend its support of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference (NCRLC).
2. That through these offices, the Church assure support in terms of personnel and other resources for the development of the rural community.
3. That these same offices and other appropriate Church agencies support those movements and organizations designed to preserve the land as a precious natural resource which belongs to all the people.
4. That seminaries and other training centers for ministry re-examine their programs and develop new structures of ministry appropriate to the needs of rural communities.
5. That national Church organizations consider the needs of more rural dioceses in the location of meetings and allotment of funds.
6. That a special task force be set up, through the NCRLC to address the problem of land reform, tax reform rural poverty housing and a theology of stewardship.
7. That the national Church support the people of Appalachia and the program and values outlined in the pastoral *This Land Is Home to Me*.

## Three Sales To Benefit School

The Home-School Association at St. Thomas the Apostle is having such a classy rummage sale that it's called Lady Bug Mart instead of flea market. In addition to toys, furniture, etc., there will be ceramics given by the Betty Kassman studio at 1008 Thomas Ave. The sale will be held from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 2, and 9-2 on Sunday, in the convent garage and parking lot, 217 Washington Ave. Mrs. Rosemary Deutch and Mr. and Mrs. James

Kloster have charge.

Meanwhile, at the other end of the lot, school children will be handling a paper collection — newspapers only — from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Saturday. Anyone who needs pick-up service should notify the Thomas Sinnotts at 544-7011. On Sunday, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m., there will be a sale in the school hall of food from the kitchens of the Intermediate Mothers, under the direction of Mrs. Daniel Cooke and Mrs. John Huber.