

What Do You Think of These Planks?

A delegation from this diocese, led by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, will be attending the U.S. Bishops Conference on Liberty and Justice for All in Detroit, Oct. 21 to 23. We are presenting a synopsis of the recommendations to be voted upon at the conference in order to provide our readers the chance to tell the delegation their own thoughts on the recommendations. Opinions, ideas and suggestions should be sent to John Erb, Office of Human Development, 750 W. Main St., Rochester, N.Y. 14611, telephone, 328-6400.

PERSONHOOD

Recommendation One — Christian Community

1. That the U.S. bishops encourage the development of Christian movements and pastoral policies which support the formation and growth of communities of the faithful united.

2. That all Catholics foster an environment in which all Christian vocations, single, married, and religious, are seen as equal in merit and making valuable contributions to the community.

3. That each Christian community attempt to identify and bring into full life the gifts of each member and that policies be developed to support this objective.

4. That in order to assist in bringing women to a fuller and more equal share in the life and ministry of the Church, the NCCB inaugurate an experimental program, for a period of two years, whereby the office of preaching would be open to women.

Recommendation Two — Personal Development

1. That Catholics in all sectors of the Church cooperate with other groups in their communities to oppose abortion, provide alternatives to abortion, and promote social, economic and political policies based upon respect for the dignity and sanctity of human life.

2. That Catholic social action agencies and offices give active support to efforts to achieve the legal rights and full economic justice for women in their local communities and in American society.

3. That Catholic parishes and dioceses develop programs which allow young persons to share an experience of faith and community while encouraging their participation in all phases of the life of the Church.

4. That the Church seek to disengage personal dignity from economic productivity by advocating the rights of the elderly in housing, health and employment and other areas of public policy. Parishes should join together to assist in meeting the needs of the elderly.

5. That the Church support the physically and mentally handicapped by providing appropriate educational and rehabilitation programs; providing and advocating necessary architectural modifications; advocating adequate governmental funding to the handicapped person and family so that, whenever possible, the handicapped may remain in the family; advocating the rights of the handicapped in housing, health, and employment.

6. That professional counseling services should be easily available for all persons experiencing stress or otherwise in need of assistance.

Recommendation Three — Sexuality

1. That Church leaders and theologians engage in dialogue and with lay persons, single and married, on matters related to the human and spiritual significance of sexual experience. Such dialogue should provide a means of developing more adequate pastoral care and should assist pastors and people alike to inform their consciences more fully on the moral dimensions of human sexuality.

2a. That the American hierarchy take public notice of the pastoral and human problems arising from Church teaching and current practice on birth control and seek to clarify in their pastoral leadership the relation between that teaching, the concept of responsible parenthood and the formation of personal conscience.

2b. That within this framework of dialogue and experience, the American Church should modify its present pastoral leadership on birth control to affirm more clearly the right and responsibility of married people to form their conscience and to discern whether and what methods of birth control are morally appropriate within the context of their married life. *[(Committee unable to agree upon this question so presented 2a and 2b for consideration)]*

3. That education toward mature sexual experience, based upon dialogue and educational programs for the young, be developed through the cooperation of pastors, parents and teachers with input from the young when appropriate.

4. That persons with a homosexual orientation should

be afforded adequate pastoral care when they seek it. While being sensitive to the concerns of the general community, Church members should be ready to help homosexuals explore ways to secure their legitimate rights as citizens.

5. That the Church establish ministries to persons experiencing serious sexual problems and alienation from the Church and community.

Recommendation Four — A Catholic Bill of Rights

1. That the Bishops, in consultation with canon lawyers, theologians, and other scholars, and in cooperation with representative of the entire Church, prepare a bill of rights for American Catholics, including:

a. an explicit statement of the Church's commitment to defend and promote human rights and human dignity in the secular order.

b. a clear affirmation of substantive rights, and consequent responsibilities of Church members, including the right of freedom of conscience, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and freedom to participate in the life and ministry of the Christian community.

c. a statement of procedural rights, including provision of due process procedures.

WORK

Recommendation One — Equal Opportunity

1. That the USCC work to promote legislation and reform in both the public and private sector to bring about equal employment opportunities and opportunities for economic development and to insure justice to minorities, women, the handicapped and the aged in employment.

2. That a committee on equal employment opportunity be established within the USCC to set and implement goals and timetables for equal employment opportunity within Church institutions.

3. That a pastoral letter be sent to Catholic institutions, groups and individuals affirming the responsibility of Catholics to promote equal opportunity and affirmative action.

Recommendation Two — Economic Justice

1. To make the goals of full employment and decent income set forth by our bishops a reality in our national life and to promote a fuller awareness in the Catholic com-

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DSC

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committee on the selection of bishops be composed of a "balanced representation of priests, religious and laity together with a representative of the Bishop." The committee would have two distinct tasks. It shall determine the current condition and developing needs of the diocese. It shall ascertain the specific, in contrast to the general guidelines expected of a Bishop.

The DSC unanimously endorsed the proposal.

Lengthy discussion was given to a transportation paper which deals with the use of cars by Sisters. In describing the present situation the report said, "Distribution of cars to individual Sisters for use in some ministries has become one means of settling some transportation needs."

"Sisters in other ministries, particular those in education continue to share a common car. In our (transportation committee) study we have learned of some disparities in the use, maintenance and distribution of cars and we realize the need for more equitable car policies where they do not exist."

It was decided to send the report to diocesan sisters for "further input."

In other DSC action, Sister Mary Jean Smith submitted a summary of Sisters Council goals. The goals will be prioritized at the Nov. 13 meeting. There was also a letter of support sent to the two women, Betty Williams and Mairead Corrigan, are leading demonstrations to end the war in Northern Ireland.

Rhodesian Prelate

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reacted to the sentencing of Bishop Lamont was the Irish Foreign Minister, Garrett Fitzgerald. Noting his distress at the "heavy sentence," he described the bishop as "an Irishman who has given his life to the service of people of all races in his community and has won respect throughout the world for his devoted on their behalf."

He said the Irish government is hopeful that Bishop Lamont's case will be discussed at an early stage of negotiations in Rhodesia for a change of government, and added that he will make representations to governments involved to insure his early release.

Bishop Lamont, whose diocese encompasses a border region with Mozambique where guerrilla activity has been pronounced, was surrounded by more than 100 supporters — mostly black women — when Judge William Hennings handed down sentence.

The judge said the bishop has shown "no contrition" when he pleaded guilty to the charges. "You have condemned the government but you have not condemned the

terrorists," he added, claiming that a "deterrent" sentence was called for and it would be "wrong to postpone sentence or suspend."

The bishop said he expected the sentence and expects to go to prison. "It is a great benefit to the Church," he stated as he left the courtroom, free pending appeal. "Not to be a martyr in the technical sense but as one who bears witness."

In an interview with Australian newsmen, Bishop Lamont said it would have been "odious" to him if the judge had given him preferential treatment in the sentencing. He stressed that "expiration of the sentence" would be a "service rendered to his people."

The sentencing came one day after the Rhodesian Bishops' Justice and Peace Commission, which Bishop Lamont heads, issued a 104-page report charging that the government had systematically kidnapped and tortured civilians. It said that "government security forces made little distinction between guerrillas and civilians."

OPEN HOUSE

St. Agnes High School
Sunday, October 24th
2:30 - 5:00 PM

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• Improve reading skills with full time instructor for remedial and advanced speed reading.

Where leaders blossom

At St. Agnes, girls and only girls lead all student activities. Come visit us on October 24th and learn more about how you can grow in a Christian environment.

St. Agnes High School
300 East River Road
Rochester, New York 14623
Phone: 716-476-2728

Girls of any race, creed or color welcome.