

# COURIER-JOURNAL

36 Pages

Wednesday, October 27, 1976

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

20 Cents



Photo by Michael Groden

Members of the Rochester delegation, led by Bishop Hogan.

## 'Call to Action' Asks Bishops to Take Controversial Steps

BY MICHAEL GRODEN

**Detroit** — Many controversial recommendations, including one which would allow women to be ordained to the diaconate and priesthood and another which would allow priests to marry, were discussed, voted upon and adopted at the first "Call to Action" conference held at Cobo Hall here last week. These recommendations will be considered at the May meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB) in Chicago and are in no way binding on the bishops.

Some 1,340 delegates, including 110 bishops, met in what has been termed the most significant meeting in the history of the American Catholic Church. The delegates and another 1,100 observers, represented 152 dioceses from every part of the United States at the conference, unofficially called the first national assembly of the American Catholic Church.

In his opening address, Cardinal John Dearden, archbishop of Detroit and chairman of the conference, said, "Never before has there been an attempt to bring together in this way representatives of the whole ecclesial community of the United States — bishops, priests, religious and laity."

Preceding Cardinal Dearden's address, a taped message to the conference delegates, by Pope Paul VI, was shown. "Before the world, you are humbly asserting your conviction that freedom and justice are truly an essential element of Christ's teaching, that they are primary needs of the human person, that they engender rights and duties of supreme importance," he said.

The Rochester Diocese sent 26 representatives, including nine voting delegates. The number of delegates was decided by the population of each diocese.

From Rochester were: Delegates Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, Sisters Molly Brown, RSM, and Patricia Frisk, SSJ, Fathers George Wiant and Jerome Robinson, Rev. Cayraud Wilmore, Ada Marie Isasi-Diaz, Barbara Lamphere and John Erb.

Alternates were Father Joseph Jankowiak, Father Charles Mulligan and Timothy McGowan.

Observers were James Sutton, Timothy McCluskey, Sheila and Terrance Holley, Casey Lapata, Sisters Barbara Moore, Mary Wintish, Mary Walter Hickey, RSM, Barbara Ann Foss, Maureen Finn, Judith McKay, Ann Michell McGill, SSJ, and Fathers Douglas Hoffman and Daniel Torney.

Eight major topics were voted upon. Each contained controversial recommendations which the delegation passed overwhelmingly. These topics in the order of ratification and with the more controversial recommendations follow:

**Family** — The establishment of a "family ministry," the provision of counseling families that have members who are part of a sexual minority, and the repeal of excommunication of people who "date to remarry after divorce." "Sexual minority" refers to those who are other than heterosexual.

**Humankind** — Recommendations dealing with the establishment of professional staff, in liaison with the United Nations, to have contact with international organizations on justice and peace; the protection of "undocumented immigrants' rights; and the condemnation of the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

**Work** — The urging, by the bishops, for a "speedy ratification" of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), the active support of the "repeal of Right to Work laws" which now exist in 20 states and reform of working conditions for migrant workers.

**Neighborhood** — The involvement of the church with community organizing projects, a pledge by the Church to "remain an active force in the inner-city, and more concern for people living in rural parishes.

**Nationhood** — A commitment to a policy of disarmament; bishops should encourage all people to help cure the "plight of the poor and weak" who are equal before God.

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### Happy Birthday, Bishop Kearney!

A double anniversary comes 48th birthday, he was consecrated around again tomorrow for Bishop in St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York. He will be 92, as bishop of Salt Lake City. He is 44 years old, on the 44th anniversary came here in 1937 of his consecration as a bishop.

The retired bishop was born Oct. 28, 1884, at Red Oak, Iowa. For the past year Bishop Kearney has been living at St. Ann's Home.

## Special Election Report

# U.S. Candidates Feel Economy Top Issue

Platforms compared, Pages 30-31.

Judging from responses to the Courier-Journal election survey, congressional candidates in the area of the diocese feel that the economy is far and away the most important issue in their campaigns.

Not one of the 13 respondents to a question asking them to rank 10 issues placed the economy lower than third in the ranking. Ten responses placed it first.

Candidates for the Senate and for the Congress whose constituents would include members of the diocese were questioned. Three candidates out of 17 answered by declining to rank the issues but by commenting. No response was received from one candidate.

(For the responses of Sen. James Buckley and his challenger, Daniel Moynihan, see other story.)

Barber Conable, incumbent in the 35th Congressional District, said, "The economy is the most important issue at this point. Foreign Policy and Human Rights also rank near the top." He noted that "complex factors" make a simple rating difficult.

His opponent, Michael Macaluso, thinks, "Employment has now become the No. 1 problem in America. The success of solving the

The Courier-Journal, to help its readers study the issues in the upcoming election, sent a two-question survey to each of the candidates for federal legislative office in the diocese.

It listed 10 of the concerns of the U.S. Catholic Conference and asked each candidate to rank the issues in what they think is their order of importance.

Major party candidates also were asked if they agreed with their own party's platform plank on abortion.

Of the 17 candidates, two for the Senate the rest for the House of Representatives, only one did not respond.

William Larsen, in the 36th District, "believes these subjects are too complex and interrelated to permit a simplified statement of separate priorities."

William Elkins, candidate from the 33rd District, while ranking the issues, also noted that "all of these are important. I do not consider the order we place them in to be as important as how we understand the problems and what we want to do about them."

Also ranking the issues and commenting, Lillian Reiner, another candidate from the 33rd district, noted, "Your categories were a bit obscure, I think, and it was hard to choose."

Overall, the candidates ranked the issues in this order: Economy, Health Care, Elderly, Defense Spending, (which tied with) Human Rights and U.S. Foreign Policy, Domestic Hunger, Abortion, Housing, Equal Education, World Hunger.

Placing the economy first were: Matthew McHugh, 27th district; William Harter, 27th district; William Walsh, 33rd district; Reiner; Frank Horton, 34th district; Conable; Ralph Argez, 36th district; Richard Snowden, 39th district; Stanley Lundine, 39th district.

Elkins ranked Human Rights and U.S. Foreign Policy first; Thomas Cooke, 34th district, ranked Defense Spending first; John LaFalce, 36th district, ranked Abortion first.

No response was received from Charles Welch of the 33rd district.

## Views on Amendment Vary

A Courier-Journal poll asking congressional candidates where they stood in regard to their own party's platform position on a human life amendment indicates that the range of opinion among politicians is as wide as among the general populace.

The divergence in opinion crosses party lines. For instance, two out of the five Democrats who answered opposed their party's anti-amendment plank. On the other side of the aisle, two of the six Republican candidates disagreed with their party's support of a human life amendment.

The Democratic plank states:

"We fully recognize the religious and ethical nature of the concerns which many Americans have on the

subject of abortion. We feel, however, that it is undesirable to attempt to amend the U.S. Constitution to overturn the Supreme Court decision in this area."

The Republican plank states:

"The question of abortion is one of the most difficult and controversial of our time. It is undoubtedly a moral and personal issue, but it also involves complex questions relating to medical science and criminal justice. There are those in our party who favor complete support for the Supreme Court's decision which permits abortion on demand. There are others who share sincere convictions that the Supreme Court's decision must be changed by a Constitutional amendment prohibiting all abortions. Others

have yet to take a position or they have assumed a stance somewhere between the popular positions. We protest the Supreme Court intrusion into the family structure through its denial of the parents' obligation and right to guide their minor children. The Republican Party favors a continuance of the public dialogue on abortion and supports the efforts of those who seek enactment of a Constitutional amendment to restore protection of the right to life for unborn children."

Each candidate was asked if he supported his own party's position.

Among those disagreeing was William Harter, the Republican candidate in the 27th District. Harter explained, "My wife and I

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## Senate Foes Agree: Issues Hard to Rank

Incumbent Sen. James Buckley and his Democratic challenger, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, candidates often with widely divergent views agree on at least one thing — they do not think the issues they were asked to compare can be ranked.

The issues presented in the survey are the economy, equal education, world hunger, housing,

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Moynihan and Buckley