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Bishop Asks . . . Pray for Vocations

My dear People:

On Sunday, Nov. 7, 1976, we will have our fourth annual Campaign for Church Vocations.

God creates each human being for a particular purpose in life. That purpose needs to be discovered through careful thought and prayer. The Lord calls some of us to the vocation of serving the Church in ministry as priests, Sisters, and Brothers. Our Blessed Lord gave the mandate to the Christian community to pray for vocations; when He said: "The harvest is rich, but the laborers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send laborers to His harvest."

Each year I appeal to you for your continued prayers and support for those who have dedicated themselves to the service of the People of God in the Church of Rochester. Once again this year may I ask you to continue to pray daily that the Lord will grant more Church vocations to assist us in spreading the message of the Kingdom of God.

I am happy to inform you that since we began this Prayer Campaign four years ago, we have seen a steady increase in the numbers of young people who are entering our seminaries and novitiates. I would indeed be in your debt if you would continue to offer a pledge of prayer at the celebration of the Eucharist this Sunday.

With a blessing, I remain

Devotedly yours in Christ,



+ Most Reverend Joseph L. Hogan, D.D.
Bishop of Rochester

Diocesan Appointments



Father Matthew Vanissery, to associate pastor, Holy Spirit, from associate pastor, St. Ambrose.

Father William V. Spilly, to assistant director, diocesan Office of Human Development, from assistant pastor, St. Ann's, Hornell.

Vocation Sunday

Father Gerald Connor offers suggestions on how to give a homily to Becket Hall seminarians Mark Doninger (home parish, St. John of Rochester, Perinton), Scott Kubinski (St. Casimir's, Elmira) and Stan Kacprak (St. Cecilia's, Rochester). They will be among seminarians who will talk about vocations from various parish pulpits next weekend. See editorial, Page 4.



Part of the census crowd.

Parish Cooperation Hailed As Elmira Census Opens

BY MARTIN TOOMBS
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira — Bishop Joseph L. Hogan greeted 1,000 census workers for the Greater Elmira Census Thursday evening at Notre Dame High School, telling them "I like what is happening" at the meeting, and that he likes especially the cooperation of the four parishes jointly conducting the work.

The event was the kickoff and instruction meeting for the program which will include St. Casimir's, St. Patrick's, St. Mary's Southside, and Our Lady of Lourdes Parishes.

Bishop Hogan told the census workers that the information they collect may not all be good, but at least four parishes will be working "in reality" when they have the statistics. He noted that it's been 11 years since you've faced reality, through a census.

He pointed out that the cooperation of the parishes would help break down "a disease, I call so many times, parochialism." He said that everyone should ask himself "How big is my God; how wide is my world?" and hopefully respond that it is larger than the parish.

After Bishop Hogan's talk, the enumerators got instructions for the census, scheduled Oct. 29 through Nov. 11. The area covered will extend from the northern border of Elmira to the Pennsylvania state line and the width of Chemung County.

Primary objectives are to identify all baptized Catholics, noting affiliation or lack of it, the ages and school enrollment of students, and school intent for pre-school children. Questions will include religious background and practices as well.

U.S. Bishops Leader Says 'Call to Action' 'Not Representative'

Washington, D.C. [RNS] — The president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, in stating that many recommendations adopted at the recent "Call to Action" conference on social justice were "not representative" of the Church and "problematical at best," said the bishops will take a "very careful" approach to their evaluations.

Archbishop Joseph L. Bernardin of Cincinnati, stressing that the three-day Detroit gathering of bishops, priests, religious and laity was an "exercise" in consultation, acknowledged that the conference had some "very positive" results. But he contended that the 1,340 participants tried to accomplish too much and that the conference was "overwhelmed."

"The result was haste and a determination to formulate recommendations on complex matters without adequate reflection, discussion and consideration of different points of view," he stated.

Without citing any specific

groups or proposals, the archbishop noted that "special interest groups advocating particular causes seemed to play a disproportionate role . . . and, in my judgment and that of others, dominated the conference as a whole."

The Call to Action conference, a result of two years of parish-level consultations and regional hearings around the U.S., adopted some 150 specific proposals contained in 30 general recommendations. These recommendations were encompassed in eight major working papers on "Humankind," "Nationhood," "Personhood," "Family," "Church," "Ethnicity and Race," "Work" and "Neighborhood."

Sponsored by the U.S. bishops' Bicentennial committee, its overall aim is to formulate a five-year plan of action on social justice for the U.S. Catholic Church.

In its recommendations, the conference called for the ordination of women, married priests,

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'Call to Action' Reports

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan provides a Pastoral Perspective on the Detroit conference. Page 3.

Courier-Journal staff writer discusses the role of diocesan delegates. Page 2.

Father Spilly Named To OHD

Father William V. Spilly, assistant pastor of St. Ann's in Hornell, was appointed this week to the diocesan Office of Human Development in Rochester. He will be assistant director, succeeding Father Daniel Torney, who has become chaplain at the Elmira Reception Center.

Father Spilly was graduated from St. Bernard's and ordained in May 1974. He worked at OHD during the field experience phase of his seminary education. He will not be replaced in Hornell, the Pastoral Office said.

He will move in Mid-November to Immaculate Conception parish.