



Bishop Hogan listens to discussions during the committee meeting on Church.

Rochester Well Represented At Detroit 'Call to Action'

BY MICHAEL GRODEN

The diocese of Rochester was well represented at the recent "Call to Action Conference" in Detroit. Each of the 26 people who attended played an integral part in the results of the conference.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, at a reception at the conference, said that every bishop he had talked to had mentioned "that group from Rochester" and the work they had done. "You are beautiful people and we are lucky to have you working in our diocese," he said.

Nine voting delegates, three alternates and fourteen observers attended dozens of committee and sub-committee meetings which resulted in the adoption of recommendations contained in eight working papers: Church, Family, Humankind, Work, Neighborhood, Nationhood, Ethnicity and Race and Personhood.

Father Charles Mulligan, director of the Office of Human Development and an alternate to the conference, coordinated the trip. He also assembled the delegates for a daily caucus. During each caucus, delegates reported what went on at the meetings they attended. Meetings which the voting delegates could not attend

were covered by the alternates and observers who also gave reports. This "team effort" kept everyone informed on what went on.

During the Plenary sessions, where all 1340 delegates and some 1,100 observers met, Rochester delegates were also active. Each of the nine voting delegates contributed to the final recommendations.

Bishop Hogan and Ada Marie Isasi-Diaz, who represented the Spanish Apostolate, worked on Church; Father George Wiant, OHD in Wayne County, on Work; Gayraud Wilmore, theology professor at Colgate-Rochester, on Humankind; John Erb, director of Urban Special Ministries, on Neighborhood; Sister Patricia Frisk, Nazareth Academy, on Family; Sister Molly Brown, Genesee Hospital, on Personhood; Father Jerome Robinson, director of Black Ministries, on Ethnicity and Race; and Barbara Lamphere, Cayuga County Action Program, on Nationhood.

Sister Molly Brown, together with two priests from other dioceses, introduced a procedural change to the delegation which was accepted. The change limited debate of each

recommendation to an exact number of minutes after which a vote had to be taken. The time limitation was a key. After the procedure change was adopted the debate and voting process quickened.

Many people at the conference, however, thought that this new procedure forced the delegates to vote too quickly on each subject. It was generally agreed, however, that if the change had not been adopted the conference might not have completed its task.

The last day was hectic. Delegates worked from 8 a.m. to almost 5 p.m. without lunch and finished each working paper. Waiting for the return flight to Rochester, 26 exhausted but happy people sat and tried to reflect on just what had occurred. Father Robinson summed it up by saying, "People, I think we have made history."

Crusade for Parents Slated This Sunday

By early last week more than 200 persons from all over the diocese had signed up for a diocesan first: a "Crusade for Parents," slated for Sunday, Nov. 7, at Monroe Community College.

The crusade is being sponsored by the three diocesan offices of Education, Family Life and Marriage Encounter.

The program, which runs from 1 to 6 p.m., will introduce the "Evenings for Parents Program," a four-part series dealing with "communication between parents about children."

Featured speakers at the crusade are Fathers Charles Gallagher, founder of World Wide Marriage Encounter, and Thomas Morrow, a counsellor at Canon Law for the Diocese of Brooklyn.



CONNIE BELL

organize the crusade, the event has been known to draw more than 1,000 persons elsewhere in the county.

Fees for the Crusade for Parents are \$25 per couple and \$20 per single. Mrs. Bell said the fee covers \$14 worth of literature related to the Evening for Parents program. Further information is available through Bill or Connie Bell, (716) 352-0416.

Both priests are authors of the program with Lynn Coleman, nationally known evangelist and founder of the Serendipity personal growth programs.

According to Connie Bell, who with her husband Bill is helping

CWC Members Number 793

The recent Catholic Women's Club membership drive has garnered for the group 66 new members, according to an announcement last week by Mrs. Richard Crayton, president. The drive, under the direction of Mrs. Louis J. Teall and Mrs. Ronald McDonald, brought the total membership of the CWC to 793.

According to Mrs. Rita M. Kramer, public relations chairman for the group, a Memorial Mass for all the deceased members of the

CWC will be celebrated at the Nazareth College Faculty House Chapel on Saturday, Nov. 14 at 11 a.m. Father John McDonald, SJ, rector of McQuaid Jesuit High School, will be the celebrant and homilist.

A social hour and brunch in Medaille Hall will follow the Mass. Members and friends have been invited to attend. Reservations may be made by calling the CWC office, 275-9173, prior to Thursday, Nov. 11. Miss Regina K. Kennedy is chairman for the event.

Bishops' Leader

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relief for divorced and remarried Catholics, public aid for church-related schools, an anti-abortion amendment to the Constitution, disarmament, a more equitable economic system and empowerment of the poor, among many other things.

Archbishop Bernardin, stating that he was responding to questions about the conference raised by news reports, said initially that "too much was attempted. Any one of the eight large topics considered would have provided more than enough work for the limited time available. All of them together overwhelmed the conference."

Second, he said, the special interest groups, who had a right to be present and make their views known, "dominated the conference as a whole. The result was a process and a number of recommendations which were not representative of the Church in this country and which paid too little attention to other legitimate interests and concerns."

"In view of these factors, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops must take a very careful approach to its evaluation of the recommendations," said Archbishop Bernardin. While noting that "many good recommendations emerged" which will underlie

future action, he said "to be realistic, others must be considered problematical at best."

He said that among the criteria which will govern the bishops' evaluation are: "the teaching of the Church, its laws and discipline; the resources available to the NCCB, the U.S. Catholic Conference and other church agencies and institutions; the feasibility and wisdom of various recommendations pertaining to social and political issues; the opinions of others with expertise in the many different fields involved; and sensitivity to other legitimate points of view."

Stating that the application of these criteria will not be simple, the NCCB president stressed that "it is essential in order to place those recommendations in a correct perspective." He added that the responsibility will not be taken lightly.

"Furthermore," Archbishop Bernardin said, "since the total process has not yet been completed (and a five-year plan formulated), I hope the event in Detroit itself will not become a cause of alienation or divisiveness in our Catholic community. Together we must work for unity within the Church, a unity which is assured by the one Spirit Who is present and at work in us all."

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