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Bishop Hogan Urges 'Open' Selection of Bishops

By John Dash

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan this week called on the nation's bishops to open up the process whereby they were named to head their dioceses.

He specifically asked the bishops' Committee on Canonical Affairs to deliberate on this matter and present a report to our May 1977 meeting, which will clarify the steps which would have to be taken.

Already underway in several parts of the country are broad consultations on individual dioceses' needs and the qualifications necessary in the man named to head the see.

It is forbidden, however, to use such consultations to draw up a list

of specific names. It is this which Bishop Hogan wants changed. It is technically called "discernment of candidates."

Last week, Bishop Hogan requested and was granted a "varium" in the agenda of the bishops' meeting now underway in Washington, D.C. He was allowed three minutes to present the following statement:

"One of the resolutions from the Detroit Call to Action Conference, which will be considered at our May meeting, calls for the involvement of the local Church in the selection of bishops.

"In Region II, our Diocesan Priests' Councils and the delegates to our Regional Priests' Council have studied and recommended

the implementation of many of the proposals published by the Canon Law Society of America in 1973. In Albany and in Syracuse, committees of priests, Religious and laity, working in concert with the Priests' Councils, have drawn up reports on the condition and needs of the dioceses and on the specific qualities to be desired in their bishop. In other dioceses of Region II, the implementation of similar processes is proceeding in varying degrees.

"On April 27, 1976, the delegates of Priests' Councils of New York unanimously passed a resolution requesting that the Diocesan Priests' Councils ask their Ordinaries to work through the NCCB for adaptation of the Papal Norms to permit collective discernment of candidates on the diocesan level. Speaking for the Church of

Rochester, I am happy to respond affirmatively to that request.

"The selection of bishops in the United States, in recent years, has often been preceded by studies and reports on the condition and needs of the diocese and the specific qualities desired in a bishop. The priests, Religious, and laity who have served on these committees have set high standards in their important work. They have functioned in an atmosphere of prayer and confidentiality. The reports which have been made available evidence a high quality of performance.

"With but one exception, that I am aware of, these committees — broadly representative of the local Church — have been forbidden to proceed to the third step in the suggested process: The collective

discernment of candidates. This procedure has regularly been reserved to the meetings of the bishops of the province.

"In light of the Papal Norms of 1973, the research of the Canon Law Society and of other scholars, and the expressions of various councils of priests, Religious, and laity, and most recently the Detroit Conference, a concern has arisen in the minds of many bishops about the appropriateness of this third step. Therefore, I respectfully ask that the Committee on Canonical Affairs deliberate on this matter and present a report to our May, 1977, meeting, which will clarify the steps which would have to be taken to allow the collective discernment of candidates by the local Church.

"I am convinced that such a
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Clean It Up!

Photo by Susan McKinney

Business and civic leaders make a clean sweep up Main Street during the Rochester Clean City campaign. The event last week was organized by the business and industry subcommittees of the Rochester Clean City Committee. Sweepers were led by Father Charles J. Lavery (sixth from left), chairman of the Rochester Clean City Committee and president of St. John Fisher College.

Rural Ministry Subject Of National Conference

By MARTIN TOOMBS
Southern Tier Editor

The problems of the country's rural regions won't be addressed until the "rural-urban relationship is understood," Sister Alice McLaughlin noted that that was the conclusion of both the Detroit "Justice for All" conference, and of the four-day conference of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference (NCRLC) in Kansas City, Kansas, Oct. 11-15.

The four persons working in rural ministry in the Rochester diocese through the Office of Human Development attended the NCRLC meeting, and met after their return to discuss the meeting and how it applies to their current efforts.

The four are Father George Wiant, based in Palmyra; Sister Alice, Clifton Springs; Sister Mary Kruckow, Corning, and Father Neil Miller, Elmira. Sister Alice was a member of the planning committee for the conference, a duty Father Miller will take for the 1977 con-

ference scheduled for Covington, Kentucky.

The keynote address was made by Bishop Carroll T. Dozier of Memphis.

He told the 60 participants, including 50 diocesan rural life directors, that the Catholic Church in the United States has spent too much time keeping the faith, and not enough time living the faith. Father Wiant said, Bishop Dozier emphasized that action for justice is an important part of living by the Gospel and shouldn't be ignored.

A program Sister Alice called "just fantastic" was an afternoon of prayer. The others agreed that the afternoon was one of the most meaningful of the conference.

Father Donald Bargaen told the participants that "creeping congregationalism" should be avoided; it was important for people to regard their church not as a parish, but as a diocese, with various kinds of ministries.

A program presented by three

persons from the Mexican American Cultural Center involved the group in a role play situation, forcing them to organize and reach a decision for action to avert a crisis. Father Miller said it was an excellent exercise in organization and group decision making.

Six justice issues were the center of discussion at the conference. Sister Alice noted housing, land use, food policy, migrancy, health care and transportation.

Sister Mary noted that the Watson Homestead workshop a year ago focused on the problems of the Appalachian region, with special attention to the letter issued by the Appalachian region bishops, including Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, "This Land is Home to Me." She also reported on a new effort in Steuben County to provide a bail fund as part of an increasing jail ministry.

The Rochester diocese has taken a leadership role in educational
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Task Force Issues Report on Missions

By JOHN DASH

Surfacing at many group meetings this month is a report which culminates the work of the Bishop's Mission Task Force.

The report is an attempt at a "partial response to the pleas of our missionaries abroad and a creative new response to missionary needs at home," in the words of its preface.

The paper was presented last week to the Priests Council by the chairman of the task force, Father Daniel Tormey, a former missionary to the diocesan parish of San Jose Obrero in La Paz, Bolivia. The presentation elicited a general note of approval from the councilmen. Father James Marvin, president, called it "excellent."

The heart of the paper, Father Tormey told the council, is the example of the Good Shepherd who leaves the 99 to search out the one sheep who is lost.

The Tormey Report contains suggestions and goals for specific action, flowing from new understandings of mission activity in the Church.

He told the council that basic to the new understanding is that there is the presence of Christ and the Holy spirit in mission fields "before the missionary arrives."

The report also states "Mission is not simply the teaching of a doctrine abstract and global, but rather the transmission of life and love."

The report notes a growing trend. "Some of the younger missionaries envision a time when they may transfer from missionary work abroad to missionary work in their own dioceses in the States. In recent years missionaries are frequently encouraged to see their home dioceses as the targets of evangelization and missionary effort, since the key to many changes in the Third World is the 'conversion' of the First and Second Worlds."

The Tormey Report states that future areas of mission will include alienated youth, the economically poor, the technological industrial and academic sectors of modern society, and the foreign missions; new forms of mission ministry are emerging.

The spiritual life of the missionary also is covered in the report; in a

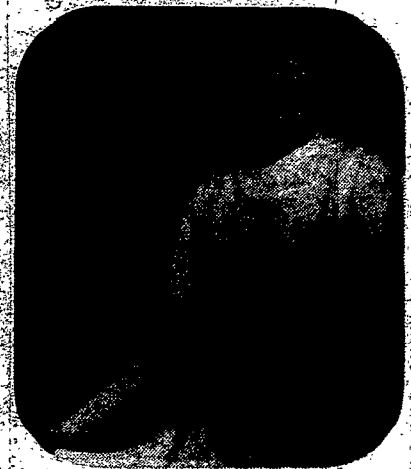
section Father Tormey calls "very important." The report states:

"The command to proclaim the Gospel is given to every Christian, making the entire Church a missionary Church. Those who are called to mission can never hope to share with others what they do not experience in their own hearts. Hence we are deeply conscious of the need for holiness in our lives, a holiness strong and rich enough to reach into the very roots of faith and hope, a holiness to sustain the very life of each branch that is grafted and incorporated into Christ, the true Vine, a holiness that consists of a balance between action and a prayerful spirit, a holiness centered in the Eucharist as the symbol and source of our unity and in the Scripture as the Word of God.

The report further states the need to expend "continual effort to improve the education for mission consciousness" of the Church at all levels.

Members of the task force included Sister Phyllis Bernardo, RSM; John Erb; Sister Norbert Gutacker, SSND; Sister Doris Hamilton, RSM; Timothy McCluskey; Father Robert Meng; Sister Barbara Orczyk, SSJ; Martin Palumbos; Father Joseph Reinhart; Sister Doretta Rhodes, SSJ; and Father Jerome Robinson, OP.

More than 30 specific recommendations for immediate action are made in the report.



Happy Man

Father John P. Norris, pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church in Rochester has reason to celebrate. Page 2.