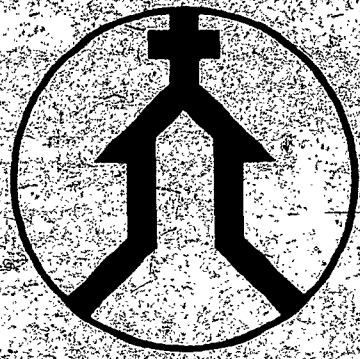


## The Call To Action Recommendations



### Church

The Second Vatican Council has built upon the scriptural and historical foundations for the call and responsibility of all the people of God to minister in the church. Ministry is exercised through various apostolates and services not only by the ordained clergy but also by lay persons as well. These ministries should be recognized and honored in all our action resolutions in the interest of justice in the Church.

The church, as a community organized under the gospel, must always be sharply aware of the rights of the poor and must strive to promote a simplicity of life as a visible sign of her evangelical attitude, thereby rendering its mission for justice more credible and authentic. To assist the church to become an authentic community and to assure that the church apply to its internal life its teachings on social justice and human rights and utilize its resources in light of gospel values and pastoral goals and priorities, we recommend:

1. That church authorities on all levels, including official agencies and church-related institutions, hold themselves accountable to the people of God for their financial policies and practices, including investments and the ownership and alienation of property. Parish and diocesan pastoral councils should be established and share

responsibilities with their pastors and bishops for the community's disposition of its human and material resources in light of gospel values, the needs of all people, especially the poor, and pastoral goals and priorities.

In turn, the people of God should respond with adequate stewardship. The church and church-related institutions should provide equitable pay for all their personnel (including appropriate salaries, retirement benefits, Social Security, medical insurance, normal increments and cost of living increases and clearly defined personnel policies). The church recognizes and supports the right of collective bargaining.

2. a) That a National Review Board, composed of members of the church (bishops, clergy, religious and laity) be established to address itself aggressively to the issue of due process by initiating procedures of appeal, redress and reconciliation for those who have complained about unjust treatment. While the model of this National Review Board is to be reflected on the diocesan level, procedures will be established for direct appeal from within the diocese to the National Review Board. The National Review Board's primary task is to promote the practice of mutual accountability at all levels for insuring justice and the building of community.

b) The church must address itself also to the so-called "geographic morality" which allows petitions for matrimonial nullity to be granted to one place and not in another. Particular attention needs to be paid to implement current jurisprudence in all diocesan marriage tribunals throughout the nation.

c) The local church must be involved in the selection of bishops and pastors.

3. This recommendation is made. (Continued on Page 4)

## All Diocesans Invited To Join Consultation

By MICHAEL GRODEN

Call to Action: Diocese of Rochester, N.Y., a systematic survey dealing with the Call to Action Conference, in Detroit, has begun. The program is designed to be open to any interested members of the diocese.

The Detroit Conference adopted many controversial recommendations including the ordination of women to the priesthood, allowing ordained priests to marry and the endorsement of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).

The Pastoral Office has reported that Bishop Hogan would like to know how his people feel about these recommendations before voting on them at the May meeting of the NCCB in Chicago.

Call to Action: Diocese of Rochester, N.Y. has been divided into three general tracks: Open Input, Study and Expertise, and Grass Roots. According to Father Douglas Hoffman, coordinator of the program, these tracks are devoted to providing Bishop Hogan with as complete a picture as possible of diocesan feelings about the Call To Action recommendations.

The Open Input Design begins with this issue of the Courier-Journal. There is a tearout sheet provided for voting on selected issues and a space for any comments people may have about the Detroit documents. The Open Input Design provides access, for anyone, to Bishop Hogan. This will be a random sampling of opinion and it is hoped, by the Pastoral Office, that a complete picture will be presented, Father Hoffman said.

The Study and Expertise Design will produce study papers from "special competency groups" and all other interested groups. The

study and expertise Design was developed to provide the bishop with more carefully thought out reflection and will provide him with a thorough report from knowledgeable people," Father Hoffman said.

The Grass Roots Design concentrates on the issues selected by Bishop Hogan and involves the parish councils, regional assemblies and the Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC). These groups will "amend, rank and vote" on each of these issues.

Father Hoffman expressed special interest in the Grass Roots Design.

"Among the measures of success will be the ability of parish councils to give consideration of the bishop's selected resolutions. It gives them a chance to involve all outlets of the parish council system."

"The program also will test the ability of each region to formulate a region-wide stance on positions taken by their parishes."

"And finally it will challenge the DPC to deal effectively with issues that are controversial among the regions," Father Hoffman said.

The results will be reported in the Courier-Journal.

## The Three Designs

1. Open Input Design: a random sampling . . . open to all members of the diocese . . . on any document or resolution.

Format: letter submitted to Bishop Hogan, care of the Courier-Journal . . . plus the vote on selected issues, in the Courier tearout sheet . . . Deadline Jan. 28.

2. Study and Expertise Design: special competency groups and others interested, submit reports on specific documents or themes the fruit of much study and reflection.

Format: Five page paper, submitted to Father Joseph Jankowiak, St. Bernard's Seminary . . . Deadline March 1.

3. Grass Roots Design: taking the pulse of the people . . . open to all parish councils, regional assemblies and the Diocesan Pastoral Council . . . deals with issues selected by the bishop

Format: Follow informational booklet, now being prepared, including the tearout sheet for voting, amending and ranking.

## Cardinal Dearden's Report

[Continued from Page 2]

The massive response to our invitation to speak out has given eloquent testimony to the church's vitality and diversity, and it has helped all of us who took part to learn a great deal about each other, about our church and about ourselves.

As a process of consultation and dialogue, the program has been successful. As a process of decision making, of deliberation based on mature reflection, it constituted a significant first step.



**Bishop Joseph L. Hogan**  
President

**Anthony J. Costello**  
General Manager

**Carmen J. Viglucci**  
Editor

**Rev. Louis J. Hohman**  
Episcopal Advisor

Vol. 91, No. 35 December 29, 1976  
Published weekly by the Rochester Catholic Press Association. Subscription rates: Single copy 20¢, 1-year subscription in U.S. \$7.50. Canada and Foreign, \$12.00. Offices: Richard Building, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. (716) 434-7000. Second class postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.

Courier-Journal, Inc.

Yet the process did have some flaws. Some were inevitable, an overly ambitious agenda resulting from the open-ended nature of the consultation; a timeframe too short to allow sufficient debate; perhaps an inadequate respect for the discipline of research and study on the part of the many participants at the Detroit meeting.

Yet, even these flaws can be exaggerated. Almost every proposal received lengthy and lively consideration by groups of 50 to 200 persons in the working committees of the Call to Action conference. The range of issues was quite appropriate to a program billed as a one-time bicentennial event. A good deal of discretion was exercised in dealing with the myriad proposals brought before the delegates in Detroit. Of the 146 amendments introduced for consideration at the plenary session, 57 were accepted, 93 were either denied consideration or rejected after consideration, and 29 were tabled for lack of time.

Since the basic analysis and debate on the recommendations took place in the working committees and sectional meetings, the plenary session was the final forum for amendments. In some cases these had already been debated and rejected in the sections; yet the supporters of a particular position had the opportunity to lay it before the entire body.

In the long run, the basic common sense of the delegates seemed to prevail. Several proposals calling for the creation of new NCCB or USCC structures, possibly both costly and unwieldy, were defeated. Exaggerated demands for immediate steps to

reform long standing abuses were commonly modified. In general, the actions recommended to us indicate a realism, an independence, and a critical and mature judgment remarkable in a first assembly conducted along democratic lines.

### PASTORAL RESPONSE TO CONFERENCE

Of course this first assembly needs to be evaluated in the light of its experimental nature, the teaching and practice of the church and the resources that are available to us. But our evaluation and response should make clear our continuing commitment to shared responsibility.

Moreover, our response to the bicentennial program should be strongly pastoral in character. In the papers composed by the preparatory committees you will find a strong pastoral, caring spirit which, I might note, was occasionally overlooked in the debates and voting during the assembly of two weeks ago. In framing our response we should affirm the freedom and diversity within the church which was revealed at Detroit. We should try to build structures of church life which serve and strengthen local parish communities and support Christian movements which enrich community life. And we should carefully redesign programs and retain personnel in order to better serve local communities with the fullest respect for the experience, needs, interests and aspirations of Catholic men and women. To the greatest possible extent we should order our own priorities as the National Conference of Bishops accordingly.

The results of the bicentennial process may at this point seem hasty, untidy, careless, even extreme. But on close examination, it seems to me that far more often the working papers and conference resolutions demonstrate a warmth and sympathy for the problems of church leadership on the part of our people, their enthusiastic affirmation of Christian faith and hope, their sincere willingness to share in building a stronger church and their firm resolve to fulfill a Christian ministry to the world.

No one expects us to endorse all that transpired at Detroit. People do expect us to continue the process by responding with decisive action where it is called for, and with honest disagreement where that seems necessary. The key to our actions in the future is to continue the process, to build on the hopes that have been awakened, to act upon our clear responsibility for the unity, fidelity and vision of the Catholic community.

At the conclusion of the Call to Action conference, I told the delegates that we would be considering the results of their deliberations, along with the other materials arising from the "Liberty and Justice for All" program. I urged them to return to their dioceses and share with their people the results of their work.

For our part, we can expect that the delegates, officially appointed to represent their dioceses and organizations, will exercise their accountability by discussing these resolutions with their fellow Catholics, and by reporting back to us on the response which they receive. In this way they will be helping the ad hoc committee and this assembly to act affirmatively and realistically on the many good

proposals generated by this program.

In beginning this process we took some risks that we would hear things we might not want to hear, be asked to do things we cannot do. While on some matters that may have happened, we can be grateful that on so many occasions during this program we have been encouraged and supported in our efforts to renew the ministry of the church. As the time comes for us to consider concrete proposals for action, let us keep faith with the thousands who have participated in this program, let us open our hearts and minds to their proposals and to the future. Let us respond with honesty, compassion and love.

Let me conclude with a brief outline of the process that lies immediately ahead. The Ad Hoc Committee for the Bicentennial will meet next month to prepare its final detailed report. It will reflect the considerations which I have mentioned to you.

At the meeting of the NCCB Administrative Committee on Saturday it was determined to have the president of the conference appoint a task force to review the report of the ad hoc committee in consultation with existing NCCB/USCC office staffs. From this task force will come recommendations to be reviewed by the Administrative Committee at its meeting in February. What is approved then, will be distributed to the bishops for consideration and action at the May meeting of our conference.

This plan of action should allow us in an orderly and responsible way to respond to the earnest faith-filled voices of our people as they have addressed us in this bicentennial year.