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NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

20 Cents

Call to Action Summary

1. That the local Church should be involved in the selection of bishops and pastors.

FOR

652

AGAINST

426

2. That the National Conference of Catholic Bishops assign an appropriate committee to study the possibility of changing the present discipline of the Church to allow priests to exercise the right to marry and remain in or resume the active priesthood. That the Church and Church authorities recognize the right of those who have been laicized from the priesthood to be fully accepted as lay Catholics in good standing.

FOR

609

AGAINST

469

3. That the National Conference of Catholic Bishops offer leadership in justice to the universal Church by providing a process which facilitates the formation of a more fully developed position on the ordination of women to sacred orders. A planned process and time line sharing this interpretive study should be presented to the Catholic community by November, 1977.

FOR

596

AGAINST

596

4. That the right of parents to discern the readiness of their children for the first celebration of the sacraments be explicitly protected and promoted in the forthcoming National Catechetical Directory.

FOR

771

AGAINST

205

5. That the diocesan Church affirm the value and continue to support philosophically and financially Catholic schools where needed and desired, especially where the local community is too poor to support such schools.

FOR

888

AGAINST

383

6. That there be launched immediately a strong campaign to bring about federal and state government recognition of and respect for the parents' right of choice in the education of their children through a just distribution of taxes for the establishment and maintenance of non-public schools. This should be brought about even if it requires a constitutional amendment.

FOR

825

AGAINST

205

7. That the American bishops use their pastoral leadership to affirm more clearly the right and responsibility of married people to form their own consciences and to discern what is morally appropriate within the context of their marriage in view of historical Church teaching including Humanae Vitae, and contemporary theological reflection, biological and social scientific research; and those factors influencing the spiritual and emotional quality of their marital and family lives. Also, each diocese should have established effective means of making natural family planning training available to all couples, including non-Catholics.

FOR

785

AGAINST

190

8. That the National Conference of Catholic Bishops urge parishes to become more aware of neighborhood concerns and issues that affect the lives of parishioners and express these concerns and issues in weekly liturgies and prayer.

FOR

800

AGAINST

700

9. That the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the United States Catholic Conference continue to examine the moral dimensions of the policies of our government with particular attention to the effects of multinational corporations with large investments in Third World countries. The results of these examinations, and the statements and teaching of the bishops on these subjects should be better publicized than in the past.

FOR

825

AGAINST

592

10. That the Bishops' national commitment to economic and social justice and the elimination of poverty and racism as an effective means of reducing crime reemphasize the necessity of abolishing capital punishment.

FOR

830

AGAINST

601

11. That the Bishop's national commitment to economic and social justice and the elimination of poverty and racism as an effective means of reducing crime include citizen involvement to improve all aspects of the criminal justice system and the development of alternatives to prisons.

FOR

811

AGAINST

276

12. That each parish acknowledge the evil of racism in American life and form a discussion/action unit to make its parishioners more aware of their own roots and of traditions and the customs of other people.

FOR

825

AGAINST

377

2,572 Reply To 'Action' Questionnaires

BY MICHAEL GRODEN

There were 2,572 responses to the Open Input Design, the first "track" of Call to Action: Diocese of Rochester, N.Y. Of these 1,963 were responses to the special recommendations printed on the back of the Dec. 29 Courier-Journal and 609 separate letters to Bishop Hogan dealing with individual opinions on the Detroit recommendations by people in the Diocese.

Father Douglas Hoffman, coordinator for the Action committee, expressed his gratitude to all who took the time to respond. "I'm very happy about the number of responses," he said. "It seems to guarantee the success of the other two tracks (Study-Expertise and Grass Roots) in the program."

Eleven of the twelve recommendations, including priests' right to marry, the selection of Bishops by the "local Church", and the abolishment of capital punishment were approved. The only recommendation voted down was resolution 3 which dealt with the ordination of women.

The tally for recommendation 3 was 496 for and 596 against.

Father Hoffman found the Open Input results "an education in the diversity of opinions existing in the diocese." For example a recently published Gallup poll showed most Americans favoring capital punishment, he said, yet Catholics in this diocese approved its abolishment.

One other encouraging sign, according to Father Hoffman, was the fact that many of the responses came just before the Input deadline.

"The first week or ten days gets the greatest response in most polls," he said. "But the steady flow of responses right up to the end shows that people took their time and studied each recommendation carefully. I think it shows that the whole consultation process works."

Although the Open Input segment of Call to Action: Diocese of Rochester, N.Y. is over, Father Hoffman emphasized that it is only one step in the total process.

Bishop Hogan has not had time to read all of the letters sent to him and both the Study-Expertise and Grass Roots segments must be evaluated before any conclusions can be drawn, he said.

Racism also Topic

Bishop Tells DSC Of Ordination Position

By JOHN DASH

Twice in the course of last week's deliberations the assembly at the Diocesan Sisters Council fell into a virtual total silence.

The councillors' attention both times was fixed on the words of invited guests, Father Jerome Robinson and Bishop Joseph L. Hogan.

The Bishop addressed the sisters on a number of his concerns, including his response to the recent declaration from the Vatican on the ordination of women to the priesthood.

His response criticized the declaration which reaffirmed the Church discipline of ordaining only men to the priesthood, because, among other reasons, males bear a "natural resemblance" to Christ.

A "theologically horrible statement," the bishop told the sisters. He said he saw the Vatican's issuance of the declaration as "an opportunity for a teaching moment."

He cited past Vatican declarations without the stamp of infallibility and said "certain statements obviously are subject to correction."

"If the Magisterium (teaching authority) closes off investigation, it deserves the response I gave to it."

"The decree is reformatory," the bishop said.

"The decree is a statement of discipline I will follow. But I will not stop questioning it."

A motion by Sister Alice McLaughlin that the council support the bishop in his "prophetic leadership for justice and his leadership for the people of the diocese" was passed by the council.

Father Jerome Robinson, a Dominican who heads the diocesan Office of Black Ministries, addressed himself to racial justice and racial attitudes. The sisters had invited him to speak on the document from the Detroit Call to Action.

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