

Black Ministries . . . Past, Present, Future

Bishop's letter, editorial, Page 4
BY FATHER JEROME ROBINSON

Last month, the Office of Black Ministries hosted a series of Open House events. These activities afforded an opportunity to thank the supporters of this new department. It was a wonderful time for those able to share in some of the week-long celebrations, though weather conditions limited greater numbers being in attendance. Nonetheless, the caliber of response generated by the good wishes offered from many who came, wrote or

Father Jerome Robinson is director of the diocesan Office of Black Ministries. Here he sums up the first year of the office's work — the accomplishments, the difficulties, and the lessons learned. A brief look at future endeavors is also provided.

called were pleasing and quite encouraging.

This sort of spirit has generally characterized the organization's reception by persons and agencies during its first year. Whenever the Office of Black Ministries has ventured forth to obtain pertinent information, cooperate in particular concerns, or introduce new programs, the openness of others has usually been

favorable. A few unfortunate instances have not destroyed the momentum and hopefulness earnestly felt by both staff and Board of Directors. Rather, the determination to overcome obstacles has been strengthened while the insights gained from jolting confrontations has been broadening. Through all the experiences of the past year for whatever has occurred the future becomes even more important. This is because the opportunities for growth and improvements depend upon how well previous learnings can be incorporated into potential developments. Thus, tremendous hope surrounds every avenue to be pursued during the coming year.

Many people have remarked that the first year is usually the most difficult period in the life of a new organization. This is undoubtedly true. Some of the instances of real dilemmas and frustrations were part of establishing a solid foundation to build upon for the sake of guaranteeing

potential successes. The road will still be rough and rocky for a while yet, and journeying will be slower than frequently desirable. Most important for the present is to be patient and to keep moving with the tremendous trust in God and confidence in the goodness of those who assist or are served throughout the travel. Surely the deepest conviction held is captured in the words of the old Black American spiritual now popularized by many Gospel choirs. "We've come this far by faith . . . leaning on the Lord . . . and we're trusting in his Holy Word . . . He's never failed us before."

It has taken a year clearly to understand something of the multifaceted circumstances encompassing the diocese, the Black community within its regions, and also the personnel or agencies who are in any way involved in addressing the needs of these two. This task was time consuming, informative and overwhelming. The questions and concerns resulting from these exposures introduced the priorities and goals for the Office of Black Ministries. In fact, there was more to be done than was

actually attainable by a single agency. Part of the continuing challenge suggests inter-fac-ing, exchanging, and cooperating with other diocesan, parochial and secular institutions or organizations in planning, executing and evaluating possible approaches to different ministries and interests.

While the accomplishments of the past year in the Office of Black Ministries through the Board of Directors, the traveling choir, and standing committees has been satisfying, the importance of further penetrating and extending these endeavors is a critical growing edge. The departmental staff is also quite conscious of developing more efficiency and effectiveness in administering its responsibilities on location in given fields as well as in the Pastoral Center Office. Programs such as the traveling Eucharistic liturgies, the Fall weekend Revival worship service, the

Church music workshop and the cultural arts exhibit during the recent Open House have been excellent outreaches to a very heterogeneous constituency. In coming months the workshop formats in religious education, youth leadership ministries, pastoral renewal, and elementary school resource development, offer promising enrichment to many persons and more credibility for the Office of Black Ministries in relation to the Black community.

The vision of Bishop Joseph L. Hogan and the genuine endorsement to all of our major thrusts has been and continues to be an invaluable leaven for the doing of God's will among his people. The gratitude felt consequently to him and so many others has no humanly expressible words, simply the good feeling that we surge forward together for the sake of the Kingdom that continues to come for those who say no to the thought of ever turning back.

Diocesan Unit Assails 'Violations' in Uganda

The diocesan Justice and Peace Commission last week issued a statement condemning "acts of aggression against the sacredness of human life and the continuing violation of the human rights to which the people of Uganda are being subjected by the government of President Idi Amin."

The statement was issued in connection with the death of an Anglican archbishop and two government ministers in Uganda. The government said the trio were accidentally killed while trying to escape after they were arrested for questioning on a charge of plotting to overthrow Amin.

Church officials said the Rochesterian

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lived in New York City. Their Rochester home was on Genesee Park Boulevard, in Good Counsel parish.

The year in Ithaca made Immaculate Conception his home parish. It was there that his vocation "solidified," he said in a telephone interview last week, and it was there that he celebrated his first Mass, on June 8, 1958. His mother, now Mrs. Walter Conley, lives at 429 North Tioga St. in Ithaca, and she is the parish's emissary to its shut-ins, the sick, the old, the lonely.

"It's a regular parish ministry," her son said, "and she's expert at it."

Father Kelly is a canon lawyer, with a doctorate from the University of St. Thomas in Rome. He worked with the tribunal of the New York Archdiocese from 1962 until 1965, while he was secretary in the office of the Dominicans' New York provincial. He was secretary and archivist to the Apostolic Delegation from 1965 until he joined the NCCB staff in 1971. He has studied at Cambridge and the University of Vienna.

It was the year in Ithaca that launched his career. He went to high school, worked in a bank — and attended Mass every day. He speaks warmly of Immaculate Conception and of the Church of Rochester.

"I feel," he said, "that I received a great deal from that Church without giving much back."

government claim was "preposterous" and said the men were murdered in cold blood.

The Justice and Peace statement:

"The International Justice and Peace Commission of the diocese recently expressed its condemnation of the violation of human rights and oppression of the nonwhite population in Rhodesia, Namibia and southern Africa (Courier-Journal, Jan. 26, 1977).

"Last week, developments in Uganda have highlighted the systematic violation of human rights which has been taking place in that African country for the last few years. In particular, the violent deaths of Archbishop Janani Luwum, Lt. Col. Erinayo Oryema and Mr. Charles Oboto-Ofumbi while under arrest calls for a reaction of the world's public opinion.

"The commission unreservedly condemns these acts of aggression against the sacredness of human life, and denounces the continuing violation of the human rights to which the people of Uganda are being subjected by the government of President Idi Amin.

"Effective, positive steps to attempt to remedy this situation are based on the moral weight carried by a worldwide reaction. To this effect, the commission after consultation with USCC officials urges the Christian community of the diocese of Rochester to express their solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Uganda by writing letters to President Idi Amin, Kampala, Uganda, and to the Ugandan ambassador to the United Nations, United Nations Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10017.

Bishops

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mittee members studied and discussed the document and called for the inclusion of a separate section "treating ecclesiological considerations, including teaching ministry in the Church in light of Vatican II."

After revision, the final draft will be submitted to the May meeting of bishops, and also will be made available to the news media and the public, Shaw said. The draft will be subject to amendment by the bishops before a vote is taken.

Diocesan Appointments



MARCH, 1977

- 1 Priests' Council Meeting, Becket Hall — 10:30 a.m.
- 3 Confirmation, St. Patrick Church, Moravia — 7:45 p.m.
- 4 Black Ministries Board Meeting — 7:00 p.m.
- 6 Celebration of Eucharist and Homily, St. John the Evangelist Church, Spencerport — 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon
- 7 Confirmation, St. Patrick's Church, Owego — 7:45 p.m.
- 8 Clergy Conference, St. Charles Borromeo Church, Elmira Heights 10:00 a.m.
- 8 Confirmation, St. Margaret Mary Church, Apalachin — 7:00 p.m.
- 10 Finance Committee Meeting — 3:30 p.m.
- 12 Radio Message, Family Rosary Network — 7:00 p.m.
- 13 Confirmation, School of the Holy Childhood — 10:30 a.m.
- 14 Visitation of Aquinas Institute
- 15 Clergy Conference, Becket Hall. — 10:00 a.m.
- 15 Confirmation, St. Augustine Church — 7:45 p.m.
- 17 Pastoral Office Staff Meeting — 10:00 a.m.
- 18 Priesthood Ordination, St. Andrew's Church, Rochester — 7:30 p.m.
- 19 Celebration of Eucharist and Homily, Patronal Feast of Sisters of St. Joseph, Nazareth Motherhouse — 2:00 p.m.
- 20 Confirmation, St. Rita Church, Webster — 2:30 p.m. & 4:30 p.m.
- 21 Priesthood Ordination, Mt. Saviour Monastery, Pine City
- 22 Regional Coordinators' Meeting, St. Mary's Rectory, Canandaigua 10:00 a.m.
- 22 Celebration of Eucharist and Homily, St. Francis de Sales Convent, Geneva — 5:00 p.m.
- 24 Priestly Spirituality Meeting — Becket Hall — 12:30 p.m.
- 24 Confirmation, Church of the Most Precious Blood — 7:45 p.m.
- 25 Priesthood Ordination, St. Mary's of the Lake Church, Ontario — 7:30 p.m.
- 26 Ceremony of Elections, Carmelite Monastery — 10:00 am
- 26 Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting, Sheraton Motor Inn, Canandaigua 10:00 — 5:00 p.m.
- 27 Ordination and Installation of Most Reverend Howard Hubbard, Ninth Bishop of Albany, Alumni Recreation Center, Siena College, Albany — 3:30 p.m.
- 28 Catholic Schools Principals' Day of Recollection — Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse — 1:30 p.m.
- 29 Confirmation, St. Anne's Church, Rochester — 7:45 p.m.
- 30 Clergy Conference, Becket Hall — 10:00 a.m.

FIRST FUN-FILLED "FEBRUARY FROST FEST"!

It's Rochester's first mid-Winter festival for people too warm-blooded to hibernate. So don't let the weather keep you indoors . . . just sled, plow, or tunnel your way to Manhattan Square Park for a weekend of your favorite frozen activities. **Saturday & Sunday, February 26-27.**

As a special added feature, area high schools will compete in cross country skiing relay races on the prior **Thursday & Friday, February 24 & 25, from noon to 1 p.m.** at the Festival Site adjacent to the park. For details about contests, races, and other events, call 428-7541, or contact your nearest City ice rink or recreation center.

Pack your own picnic or buy lunch at the park. But be sure to save the schedule below so you won't miss an event. Fun is always in season . . . and you'll get the best of Winter at the Frost Fest.

First February Frost Fest Manhattan Square Park Thursday-Sunday, Feb. 24-27

Thursday & Friday, Feb. 24-25
12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.—High School Cross Country Relay Races at Festival Site

Saturday & Sunday, Feb. 26-27
Snow Sculpture Contest at Festival Site (Call 428-7541 for advance sign-up. Sculptors can begin working on Feb. 25.)

Prizes: 1st place—\$50 & trophy
2nd place—\$25
3rd place—\$15

Open Cross Country Skiing at Festival Site

Saturday, Feb. 26
9:30 a.m.—Recreation Hockey Matches at Ice Skating Rink

9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.—A.S.A. Snow Softball Tournament at Festival Site

2:00 p.m.—Genesee Figure Skaters Exhibition at Rink

3:00 p.m.—Cross Country Skiing Demonstration by the Nordic Ski Club & Nordic Ski Patrol on Meadow above Rink

3:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.—Open Skating at Rink

Sunday, Feb 27

11:00 a.m.—Amateur Ice Skating Races at Rink (Call 428-7541 for advance sign-up)

12:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.—A.S.A. Snow Softball Tournament at Festival Site

2:00 p.m.—"Blizzard Bonnet" Contest at Rink (From shoulders up, any headdress goes, Ribbons awarded.)

3:00 p.m.—"Fool on Ice" (Bob/Berkey of Mime Workshop) at Rink

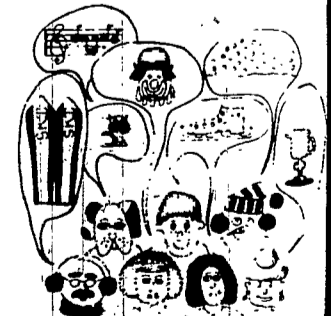
3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.—Music by Aries Quintet for Skating at Rink

3:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.—Open Skating at Rink

4:30 p.m.—Award Ceremonies at Rink

(Note: Free Frost Fest Parking will be available at the outdoor Municipal Parking Lot on Chestnut Street directly across from Festival Site.)

Underwritten by a grant from Sybron Corporation.



 City of Rochester