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NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

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Parish Councils and the 'Call to Action'

Results of the third segment of Call to Action: Diocese of Rochester, N.Y. are now being submitted to the Pastoral Office.

The "Grass-Roots Design" which concentrates on the 12 recommendations, selected by Bishop Hogan, is open to all parish councils, regional assemblies and the Diocesan Pastoral Council. All participants were asked to "amend, rank and vote" on each of the recommendations.

The Courier-Journal checked with 12 parishes, chosen at random, on the success of the process.

OUR LADY OF MERCY, GREECE

"I thought it was great," said Father William Amann, pastor, in describing the Call to Action process in his parish council. He regrets

that the council "didn't have more time to study and respond." He nevertheless is very happy at "the way they dug into it, studied, responded and prayed."

The responses to some issues, he said, "indicated the need for more catechesis on renewal in the Church." He is especially grateful to Bishop Hogan for opening up the consultation in the diocese.

CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION, FAIRPORT

Sister Marcia Kusse, religious education coordinator at the Church of the Resurrection, spoke of the enthusiasm that the Call to Action process generated at the parish. She described the process as a "prayerful, learning experience" for the parishioners.

HOLY SPIRIT, WEBSTER

At Holy Spirit two special meetings were called by the parish council. Father Frederick W. Bush, pastor, said that people had saved the Courier-Journal special edition, and had picked up the guideline booklets, but had not, he thought, studied the issues much. The meetings yielded "fair discussion," but "I thought not very much research had been done."

ST. ANN'S, HORNELL

Discussion of the Call to Action resolution "raised sensitivities" among the parish council of St. Ann's, reported Father Robert C. MacNamara, pastor. The council followed the directions for discussion, which were good, he said.

Objections were raised concerning the wording of questions themselves. Father MacNamara questioned whether it was possible to respond yes or no to a list of questions presented on a single item.

He noted that a feeling of "dissatisfaction," resulting from "lumping things together" was held by many.

ST. CASIMIR, ELMIRA

St. Casimir's Parish Council handled the Call to Action resolutions "very quickly and effectively," according to Robert Rohde, a council member, with "a minimum amount of conflict."

The council discussed the resolutions at a special meeting, members came

well prepared, Rohde said, and discussion went smoothly. One difference from the diocesan "Open Input" stage of the consultation, he noted, was the council's rejection of the parental right to determine the age of the first celebration of the sacraments. Concern about minimum ages was the cause, he reported.

ST. LOUIS, PITTSFORD

Thomas Garlick, president of the St. Louis Parish Council, said his council appreciated the opportunity to give input into the Call to Action, but he cited a number of negative reactions both personal and from the council to the process.

The "vast material and

information" presented to the council, coupled with the "limited time span made study virtually impossible," he said. His council, during February, formed committees "to go beyond the booklet," in additional research and study. Garlick noted that the sources were the documents of Vatican II, the statements of the pontiffs and statements issued locally. "Even so it (making ready for voting on the resolutions) was difficult to handle," he noted.

He charged that the wording of the booklet "was unclear, vague and ambiguous." He said it emphasized the small aspects of big problems.

He further charged that "the Call to Action Booklet

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What is Chrism Mass? A Re-Dedication Rite

By MARY ANN GINNERTY

The Chrism Mass is an event that should bring Catholics throughout the diocese a sense of joy.

The time approaches, once again, for all to share in their commitment as a priestly people and to witness the bishop as he consecrates the Chrism, and blesses the holy oils used in the sacraments during the year.

This year's celebration is slated for St. Mary's Church in Auburn, Tuesday evening of Holy Week, April 5, at 8 p.m.

"This annual diocesan Mass also has as a derivative theme of the blessing of the holy oils, the priesthood of all the people," Father Robert Kennedy stated recently. Father Kennedy is the director of the Office of Liturgy at the Pastoral Center.

"All the various ministries of the Church are gathered together to celebrate the blessing of the Chrism, and to rededicate their consecration and their own dedication to the mission that one has as a Christian," he said of the rites.

Father Kennedy explained that the Chrism Mass, celebrated by the bishop

and the people together, comes from the idea that the bishop is the successor of the apostles. This is to see him as the apostles were, primarily responsible for proclaiming the Good News. He is seen as caretaker of the community and the one from whom all other ministries of the Church flow.

The deacons and all other ministers of the Church in early days received their delegation to carry out their mission from the apostles and the apostles' intimate connection with Jesus Himself, he said.

Because of the diversity of roles in the ministry of the Church, the Church has always seen the role of the bishop as one of fullness of priesthood.

The Chrism Mass is one of the principal expressions of that fullness, and signifies the close unity of the priests, deacons and people with the bishop.

The blessing of the oils used in Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders, and Anointing of the sick, has

always been reserved to the bishop.

"Everyone should be concerned" with the Chrism Mass," Father says, "as our baptismal consecration is the primary consecration of us all. This brings us into the life-giving mysteries of Christ and gives us the privilege and responsibilities of continuing the mission of Christ."

"Whenever the bishop gathers with his people and all the ministries of the Church gather with him, there is the Church. Part of this effort to symbolize that all of us are in this together is Bishop Hogan's decision to move the celebration of the Chrism Mass throughout the diocese to make it more accessible to more people. This enhances the idea that all of us share the consecrated mission of Christ to bring the Good News," he says.

Until 1973, the Chrism Mass traditionally was held in the Cathedral on Holy Thursday morning. Since it has been celebrated in Canandaigua, Geneva, Lima, Elmira, and now Auburn.

Father McKenna Ordination Set

Deacon Kevin Ernest McKenna will be ordained to the priesthood, for service to the Diocese of Rochester, by Auxiliary Bishop John E. McCafferty, in rites at St. Margaret Mary Church, on Friday, March 4, at 7:30 p.m.

Deacon McKenna presently serves the parish as a deacon-intern.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. John McKenna has chosen the theme of his ordination rites from the second Epistle to the Corinthians, "It is not ourselves we preach, but Jesus Christ as Lord." He notes, "I think it is im-

After less than a year as senior chaplain at the Sampson Naval Training Station, he returned to

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A DPC member during the prayer service Friday evening.

DPC Asks Itself

Are We 'Giving' People?

By MARTIN TOOMBS

The Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) set aside business last weekend and spent Friday evening and Saturday in retreat at Becket Hall.

Sister Judy McKay, SSJ,

led the retreat. She designed the weekend with the theme of the New Testament story of Christ meeting the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. They were discouraged; they had expected Christ to lead Israel to victory over the

Romans. Christ reminded them of Old Testament Scriptures, and they went to tell the apostles that Christ had risen.

Sister Judy explained that during the weekend, the

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Father Wheaton Dies, Ex-Navy Chaplain

Father John K. Wheaton, a former Navy chaplain who survived three days on a raft in the open sea 33 years ago, died in his bed last Friday, Feb. 25, 1977.

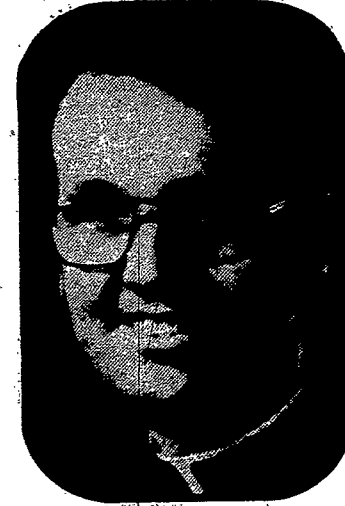
Father Wheaton, who passed his 69th birthday Feb. 7, had been afflicted with a lung ailment for some time, but he had worked until May, 1975. He died at The Heritage, at Ann's Home.

The Mass of Christ the High Priest was celebrated Sunday night at St. Ann's, and the funeral was held there Monday. Homilists were Fathers Vincent Collins and Bernard Newcomb.

Father Wheaton, the first priest from this diocese to enter the Navy during World War II, was commissioned in October, 1941, and stayed in for 21 years. He was



FATHER WHEATON



FATHER MCKENNA
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