

'Action' Proposals Debated at Assembly

By MARTIN TOOMBS
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira Heights—Discussion of the "Call to Action" recommendations and a vote to elect a new Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) delegate brought 45 delegates and observers to the Chemung-Schuyler Assembly at St. Charles Borromeo March 20.

Elected to replace outgoing DPC member Thomas Costello was Edward Joseph Brusso, a member of St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Elmira Heights.

The assembly discussed the Call to Action issues concerning the development of alternatives to prisons, reconsideration of priestly celibacy, and the Church commitment to Catholic schools.

The efforts of Thomas Costello, who organized and conducted the meeting, were applauded by the delegates at the meeting's conclusion.

The recommendation calling for "citizen involvement to improve all aspects of the criminal justice system and the development of alternatives to prisons" was tied in the parish council vote in the region. The assembly approved the recommendation without amendment after discussion.

The assembly divided the recommendation concerning reconsideration of priestly celibacy into two parts, the first concerning a

study of celibacy and the second laicized priests. Further amendments were approved, adding the statement that the Church should always maintain "celibacy as a special grace and excellent commitment to ministry" and calling for pastoral preparation on laicization. Both amended statements were then approved.

The issue concerning Catholic schools had been amended to read "religious education" by one of the region's parish councils. The result of the discussion was the passage of two recommendations, the first affirming a commitment to Catholic schools, the second "That the diocesan Church extend support philosophically and financially to the CCD programs where needed and desired, especially where the local community is too poor to support such programs. Furthermore that the diocesan Church direct parishes to provide monies commensurate with the number of students involved for the teaching of religion."

Sister Mary Walter Hickey, Notre Dame High School principal, asked the assembly to endorse a statement made by the sisters at Notre Dame supporting the two recommendations concerning a commitment to Catholic schools and a campaign for public support of Catholic schools. The assembly approved the statement's inclusion in the region's report to the bishop.

Tompkins-Tioga Assembly Meets

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Ithaca—The Tompkins-Tioga Regional Assembly met March 20 at Immaculate Conception to discuss the region's response to the "Call to Action" proposals, and to elect two delegates to the Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC), and a new assembly president.

Elected to serve a two year term on the DPC was Beth Stefano, a member of the Cornell Catholic Community. Elected to serve out the term of Edna Michael, who resigned, was Valerie Rynne, a Cornell graduate student.

Outgoing DPC member Marion Geiser, from St. Margaret Mary, Apalachin, was elected to be the new assembly president.

The "Call to Action" issues selected for the assembly's discussion concerned priestly celibacy, the ordination of women and parental rights to discern sacramental readiness.

The assembly did not vote on the issues once amended, considering only the amendments offered by parish councils and assembly members.

The celibacy issue received the most amending and discussion. It was split into two separate recommendations, the first concerning a study of celibacy and the second the position of laicized priests in the Church. A further amendment called for the results of the study to be

published for public comment.

The assembly combined two parish amendments concerning the study of the ordination of women, and approved it as a substitute for the written recommendation. The new statement was more neutral, some delegates said, and also excluded a specific date for completion of the report.

One amendment was added to the parental right to determine sacramental readiness. The amended recommendation called for the child's readiness to be determined through a shared responsibility with the parish priest.

Ambassador Named

Elmira—Peggi Constantine has been chosen by the Chemung County Community Ambassador Council to be the Chemung County Ambassador abroad this summer.

Ms. Constantine is a second grade teacher at St. Mary's School, and is president of St. Mary's Parish Council.

The program, marking the 25th year Chemung County has sent an ambassador abroad, will involve Ms. Constantine spending six weeks in India. During that time she will tour India and will live with an Indian family.



Science Students Display Projects

Hornell—An awareness of environmental and social problems was shown by students of St. Ann's School in exhibits they prepared for the annual Science Fair March 10-11. Subjects ranged from soil conservation to solar energy, as well as exhibits on child abuse and drug addiction.

More than 40 displays were done by the sixth, seventh and eighth graders, whose teachers are Mrs. Maguerite Mauro and James Roby.

The students explained their exhibits to judges from the Hornell Middle and High schools, and Alfred State College. Top prizes were awarded to Francis Gallese for his entry on electronic

components and to Ronald Boyle for his display on static electricity.

Other winners and their subjects, eighth grade: Peter Wall, plants; Cheryl Zelfiff, the brain; Michael Mazzella and Patrick Walsh, the steam engine; Anthony Hayes and Timothy Brown, the telegraph; seventh grade: Joseph Aini the circulatory system; Barbara Hillman, child abuse; James Capluzzi, drugs; sixth grade: Frank Schneider and John McNelis, earthquakes; Michael Wulforst and Michael Colomaio, soil erosion; Thomas Wall and Thomas Lorow, the combustion engine; Lynn Watt, the eye; Donna Sciotti, horses; Jill Potter, solar energy and Andrew Murphy, volcanoes.

Elmira DCG Forming

Elmira—An informational night for the divorced and separated Catholics of the Elmira area has been scheduled for April 24 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Patrick's Hall, Clinton St.

ALUMNI BANQUET

Hornell—Plans are already underway for St. Ann's annual Alumni Banquet and Dance scheduled for Oct. 1. William Bishop, class of 1968 and Barbara Bishop, class of 1959 will be co-chairmen of the event. St. Ann's alumni are urged to join the association now to insure that they will be on the mailing list for the banquet.

HUG OF LIFE

Elmira—The public is invited to a respiratory home care conference Wednesday, March 30 at 7 p.m. in the Doctors Meeting Room at St. Joseph's Hospital. The program will be the "Hug of Life," and will be followed by refreshments.

ABSOLUTION

Seneca Falls—A penitential service with general absolution will be held at 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 4, at St. Patrick's Church.

SOUTHERN TIER NEWS

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INFIRMARY BENEFIT

Elmira—The sisters of Our Lady of Lourdes are sponsoring a pancake and sausage breakfast Sunday, April 24 from 8:30 a.m. to noon in the Church Hall. The breakfast will benefit the Sisters of Mercy Infirmary Appeal.



Art Class

Elmira Catholic Schools, in participation with a program of Elmira College, are bringing college students into the classroom. The Kindergarten class at Our Lady of Lourdes recently had fun with a St. Patrick's Day project under the direction of Steve Langweaver.

Group Wants Closer

Look At Divorce

Auburn—The Auburn Divorced and Separated Catholic group met March 14 to sign a letter which supports further clarification of the status of the divorced and separated Catholic.

The letter, addressed to Bishop Hogan, was in response to the Bishop's request for input on the issue resulting from the Detroit Call To Action Conference.

"Many divorced and separated Catholics do not know that the mere fact of civil divorce does not alter one's position in the church," said Father Robert Belligotti, associate pastor at Holy Family, here, and chaplain to the Auburn group.

"Misunderstandings have caused needless alienation and hurt and needs correction," he said.

Cash Awards Presented

Elmira—Four employees of St. Joseph's Hospital were presented cash awards from the James and Alberta Swartwood Fund recently. The fund was established to recognize the "service of the employees to the hospital and its patients through the suggestion program."

Recipients of the awards totaling \$85 were: Mary Johnson, administrative secretary, for a suggestion that a directory be installed at the entrance of the ad-

ministrative area of the hospital; Jean Strobridge, ICU-CCU Nurse, for an idea that added a direct line to the bloodbank for better order access; Martha Cranmer, environmental services, for recommending the marking of intravenous poles, facilitating their handling; and John Hughes, Radiology Department, for an idea that resulted in the implementation of a continuous tone alarm in the Radiology Department intercom system assuring certain response to calls.

Steuben Bail Fund Organizing

The Steuben Project for Bail has recently incorporated and is beginning a drive for funds so it can provide bail for local persons who otherwise would have to remain in prison awaiting trial.

Fifteen Steuben County residents have been working on the incorporation, researching other funds, interviewing local officials and studying the legal requirements for bail funds.

Executive director Mary K. Gonta of Painted Post explained that the fund's purpose is to help those who would not be in jail if they could afford bail. She emphasized that the persons involved are not convicted of any crime. She also noted that the program will save the county money as fewer prisoners will be in the county jail. The organization will provide a maximum of \$500 bail, she said, at no cost to the person receiving assistance. Soliciting help from Steuben County organizations, the fund will limit its assistance

to county residents, Mrs. Gonta noted.

With an eventual goal of \$15,000, the fund plans to begin working when it has \$5,000 available, Mrs. Gonta said.

A person seeking the fund's assistance will be interviewed by two volunteers, Mrs. Gonta explained, who will decide if the fund should provide bail. If they disagree, the question can be taken to the fund's executive committee.

Sister Mary Kruckow, who works in the Office of Human Development in the Southern Tier, has been one of those working on the fund. She first became interested in jail ministry, she said, a few years ago when she learned that one of her former students was in the Steuben County Jail in Bath. Father William Spilly, now assistant director of the Office of Human Development but then in Hornell, encouraged John Patrick Lynch, a local law student, and Sister Mary encouraged Sister Sheila Geraghty, a human development intern, to do the initial work on the fund. They interviewed the Steuben County Sheriff and persons involved in other bail funds, and laid much of the groundwork for the fund.

In addition to money, the bail fund needs volunteers to conduct interviews at the jail. They will receive training for the work, and no experience is required.

Other officers of the fund are Philip Palmesano, assistant executive director and Ann Marie Detrick, secretary. Palmesano is the Hornell contact person; Betty Langendorfer is the Bath contact person. Those seeking further information or who would like to help the fund can contact Mrs. Gonta, 119 Brook Rd., Painted Post, 962-4317.

SEMINAR OFFERED

Ithaca—Liberation Theology will be the topic at the St. Catherine of Siena monthly education program on Wednesday, April 20. Rev. Joel Gargarde and Rev. William Rogers will be the speakers. The public is invited to attend the program, which begins at 8 p.m. in the Parish Center.

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