

How DPC Voted on 'Action' Proposals

1. That the local Church should be involved in the selection of bishops and pastors provided that the process used should be open, with information published for and available to the public and that a method for the removal of a bishop or pastor (who is not adequately serving the Christian community) be developed.

Approved, 23-6-2

2A. 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.

Approved, 30-1-0

B. 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.

Approved, 31-0-0

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.

Approved, 25-4-2

4. That in those programs dealing with the young, parents should share responsibility for program planning, implementation and evaluation. Pastors and bishops should facilitate dialogue and cooperation

between teachers and parents and that in the forthcoming National Catechetical Directory, the rights of parents to discern the readiness of the children for the first celebrations of sacraments, provided adult education regarding sacramental practices is presented to them, be explicitly protected and promoted.

Approved, 31-0-0

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. The feasibility of consolidation or the transfer of students to nearby Catholic schools should be considered first before monies are spent to keep a particular school open. That the diocesan Church extend support

philosophically and financially to the CCD, adult education and other desirable religious education 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 numbers of individuals involved.

Approved, 29-2-0

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, and even if it requires a long-term concerted effort.

Approved, 20-8-3

7. That the Church in the United States acknowledge that it is living in a state of conflict and anguish arising from tensions between the common understanding of Church teaching on contraception and the current practices of many Catholics, and that this state of conflict produces intense pastoral and human problems which, in justice, the Church is obliged to face.

The American bishops should use their present pastoral leadership to affirm more clearly the

responsibility and right 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 the contemporary theological reflection, biological and social scientific research, and those factors influencing the spiritual and emotional quality of their marital and family lives and that American bishops issue more precise directions to help form conscience according to Church teachings. Also, each diocese should have established effective means of making natural family planning training available to all couples.

Approved, 29-0-2

8. That the National Conference of Catholic Bishops urge parishes and/or parish clusters, through the actions of parish councils together with staff 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, and to work toward solutions in cooperative planning and action with existing neighborhood organizations.

Approved, 31-0

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 but not exclusive 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 at the diocesan and parish level than in the past.

Approved, 24-5-1

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 re-emphasize the necessity of abolishing capital punishment.

Approved, 18-8-4

11. That the Bishops' national commitment to economic and social justice and the elimination of poverty and racism and discrimination against minority groups 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.

Approved, 26-2-2

12. That each parish acknowledge the evil of racism in American life and make its parishioners more aware of their own roots and of the traditions and customs of other people through such means as discussion/action units, Sunday liturgies, review by the parish council of parish structures, policies and programs.

Approved, 29-0-2

Visit to Selma

Continued from Page 1

as personal as the crowded cities in which they also work.

In the run-down "farm" places the group visited, the talk was always basic. No discussion about stock markets, the price of cars, grub-killers, not even about wars or possibilities of wars.

Conversation is about food, death, sickness.

A neighbor down the road died last Sunday after eating the meat of a pig the family slaughtered itself.

A family dependent on its cow for milk learned that it suddenly dropped dead in the field, attracting a grim band of vultures.

Walking from one ramshackle house to the next, a sister jokes, "Don't kill any goats." It was hot and there is always the cry of roosters.

At the home of Cealy Wilcox, 92 herself and caring for her 72-year-old mentally retarded son, the talk is again about food. Sister Josette inquires if there is any chicken left from the supply she had brought last week.

"A man in Selma has a chicken place," the sister explained. "They used to throw the necks away but now they save them for me and I bring them out to all these people. They boil them up and put butter on them. It's sweet meat."

Chicken is all the 92-year-old Miss Cealy can eat —

"no peas, no beans, no greens," she said.

Sister Josette is trying to unearth the woman's birth certificate, a difficult chore for she had several husbands, at least two of them dead "I sure miss them. Now I have to get up and do their work," she said.

A nearby house holds three women and 13 grandchildren. The children impressed the group with their remarkable polite behavior and the sisters said they are always that way.

"It looks like you're welcome anyplace," Bishop Hogan said to the sisters. "That's true," came the reply.

Later the group visited the family of a Mrs. Young who has four children, three of them paraplegics and the fourth, a seven-month-old son, also may have the disease. The mother must feed and bathe them daily and also cares for her 10-month-old granddaughter while the mother works in Mobile. Still spirits were high in the little house and the sisters seem to have an easy rapport.

Bishop Hogan and his group also visited the hospital, the sewing cooperative, and the other landmarks which have been the serving grounds of many dioceses over the past 36 years. From the dirt farms with their aura of deprivation and loneliness to the city streets where the group saw a chain-gang of prisoners in action, the group received a quick smattering of the need and the work.

While the plight of the blacks probably has been improved over the years through such work, it still exists. Schools, restaurants, toilets, swimming pools are black and white — perhaps not always officially but certainly always de facto.

The group left Wednesday to begin a tour of Latin American missions, where it will be joined by Father Edward Golden, pastor of St. Francis Xavier in Rochester who helped establish the parish of San Jose Obrero in LaPaz, Bolivia.

DPC

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schools being supported to the detriment of other Church programs. Two amendments proposed by the Chemung-Schuyler Region were approved, one noting the possibility of school consolidations, the other calling for diocesan support of other parish religious education programs as well.

The resolution concerning priestly celibacy and laicized priests was divided

into two statements. The DPC then approved both statements by wide margins.

The resolution calling for a study of the ordination of women was approved without amendment by a vote of 25 to 4, with two abstentions.

The DPC also approved an amendment to a non-voting issue concerning rural ministry, offered by the Livingston-Stauben Region, and completed a rank order of the voting issues.

COURIER JOURNAL

PILGRIMAGE TO ROME

WITH

BISHOP HOGAN



BISHOP JOSEPH L. HOGAN

Plan now to join Bishop Hogan, Msgr. Richard K. Burns, Father Bernard Power and Father Michael Conboy and a congenial group of Courier readers visiting Rome FOR THE CANONIZATION OF BLESSED JOHN NEUMANN on JUNE 19th. Four days in Rome, visiting the Four Major Basilicas, the Catacombs, the Colosseum, etc., then a coach tour to . . .

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JOINING BISHOP HOGAN TO LEAD THIS MEMORABLE TOUR WILL BE:

Monsignor Richard K. Burns
Pastor St. Thomas the Apostle Church
Former Vice Rector North American
College in Rome.

Father Bernard J. Power C.S.S.R.
Pastor Our Lady of Victory Church

Father Michael Conboy
Secretary to Bishop Hogan

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