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Sisters Push for a Presence On NY Catholic Committee

By JOHN DASH

Although financial concerns occupied the attention of the Diocesan Sisters Council for the greater part of its meeting last week, two reports on other matters elicited the sisters' closest listening.

Pressing for greater influence in the New York State Catholic Committee by women religious was the major thrust of a report prepared by Sister Marlene Vigna and delivered by Sister Mary John.

In the report, the Catholic Committee is described as a unit "founded years ago for meeting, resource, information and referral throughout the state. It has focused primarily on institutional concerns, formed a lobbying function and begun to demonstrate an increasing openness to the poor and to issues related to social justice." The membership of the committee, however, "is predominately white, male and clerical and over 50. This is in radical need of change," the report states.

Laying pressure on the state unit of the National Association of Women Religious to change the situation is the major recommendation of the report. Sister Marlene is expected to bring the matter to NAWR next month.

On the other hand, the sisters also hope to work through an organization known as the Social Action Communications Committee to accomplish the same goal, the report states. "We feel that using

the SACC to influence the New York State Catholic Committee is tremendously important since the most effective action for social justice occurs legislatively. To influence legislation on the State level is much more effective than small local attempts," the report says.

Viewed as major concerns to be dealt with in Albany are Medicaid, the aging, capital punishment, food stamps and farmworkers. The report also brought to the sisters' attention another matter.

Each product manufactured by the J. P. Stevens Co. is under scrutiny for boycott by the Sisters Council. It is expected that materials on such a boycott and a resolution calling for it will be acted upon at the next meeting.

A "Vicar for Religious" may become an institution in the diocese in the next few years. The function of such a vicar and the question of whether such a post should be held by a woman is under study by a committee of the Sisters Council.

Reviewing the role of such vicars across the country is Sister Patrice Messner and a committee of five sisters. It is expected that the council will present recommendations of creating a vicariate within the next few months.

Next year's Sisters Council budget has been trimmed by two per cent.

Sister Barbara Moore, council president, read the assembly a letter to that effect last week. The cut is in line with current diocesan practice.

Elected to the Diocesan Pastoral Council for next year are Sisters Josepha and Barbara Ann.

Financial matters brought to the council were included in reports from Sisters Jackie DeMars and Louise Weber, insurance, Sister Shirley Pilot, sisters' transportation, Sister Marie Brown, Bill Brown and Tim Leahy, Urban Ministry Task Force; Sister Josepha

Kennedy, responsible investment; and Sister Barbara Moore, fund development.

MUSICAL TRIBUTE

As a tribute to the Sisters of Mercy and money-raiser for their infirmiry fund, the children of St. James parish school have prepared a "life" of the Mercy founder, Catherine McAuley. The show will be presented at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 1, and again at 7:30 Tuesday evening, May 3, in the Mercy High School auditorium. The admission charge is \$1 for adults; for children, 50 cents.

Busing

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to the City Council for approval.

What the diocese can do to reverse the situation is not certain. In talking with Timothy Leahy, assistant superintendent of diocesan schools, before Saturday's

meeting about any possible moves if the cut became a reality he stated, "If they vote to keep the elimination of busing in, we'll have to gather our forces and go to plan B."

At present, however, there is no indication of what plan B will involve.

Pastors

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Father O'Malley, ordained June 6, 1936, served at St. Ann's, Hornell, and St. Francis of Assisi, Auburn, before going to Europe with the Army in April 1944. Preceding his first tour of duty at Holy Cross, he was assistant pastor of Holy Apostles for a short time. At St. Mary's, he built a new school and convent.

Father Callan has assisted at St. Ambrose and St. Patrick's, Seneca Falls. Father Collins was at St. Monica's until his diocesan appointment in 1970. Father Murphy, as assistant at St. Mary's, Canandaigua, served also as part-time chaplain at Finger Lakes Community College before going to Cornell.

Father Connor was ordained June 6, 1954, and served as assistant pastor of St. Monica's, St. Aloysius, Auburn; St. Ann's, Hornell, and St. Joseph's, Penfield, before his appointment to Becket Hall in 1971.

Father Delmonte, ordained June 6, 1964, was assigned to Corpus Christi and later to the faculty of Kings Preparatory School. He has served also at St. Ann's, Hornell, and Christ the King.

Fathers Callan and Collins are of the St. Bernard's class ordained June 4, 1966, and Father Murphy, of the class of 1968.

HOMECOMING

Saturday, April 30, is Homecoming Day at Nazareth College. A day-long discussion program entitled Issues and Options will begin at 9 a.m. in Shults Community Center. President Robert A. Kidera will address the alumni at lunch, at 12:30 p.m., and the Claude Kipnis Mime Theatre will perform after dinner. Reservations may be made through the alumni office at the college.

CABRINI CIRCLE

The annual smorgasbord dinner that raises money to help black students attend Catholic high schools is scheduled for May 15 at Memorial AME Zion Church, 540 Clarissa. Dinner will be served from 12:30 until 5:30 p.m. by Mother Cabrini Circle. Tickets, at \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children, may be obtained from Mrs. Carroll, 328-6639, or Mrs. Ingram, 334-4148.

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