

# COURIER-JOURNAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

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20 Cents



Photos by Catherine L. Brennan

## Red Mass

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan greets some of the persons who attended the Red Mass last week at St. Mary's Church, above. Judge Domenick L. Gabrielli of the State Court of Appeals delivered the homily at the Mass, right. See story on Page 15.



## Stewardship Project Readied by Diocese

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan has notified all diocesan pastors that "after months of study and prayer" the diocesan Christian Stewardship program for parishes is ready to get off the ground.

Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey has been named episcopal moderator for the stewardship program.

Bishop Hogan, in his letter to pastors, stated that stewardship "simply put, is a means of motivating greater participation in all phases of parish life... Christian Stewardship seeks to promote a return to God of some portion of the abilities He has given us. Each of us is a steward of three "t's" - time, talent and treasure. Some persons have more of one, less of another; not everyone, for instance, has treasure, but may be able to share time or talent. To the extent that this sharing can be channeled to and through the parish, experience has shown that both parish and diocese will benefit."

To implement the

program, the Pastoral Center has scheduled a series of informational meetings in October and the bishop has urged every parish be represented at one of the sessions so that stewardship subsequently may be considered by parishioners for possible participation in a program to be offered next year.

The meetings:

Oct. 18 (Tuesday) -- Elmira, Notre Dame High School.

Oct. 19 (Wednesday) -- Auburn, Sacred Heart Church Hall.

Oct. 24 (Monday) -- Rochester, Becket Hall.

Oct. 25 (Tuesday) -- Rochester, Pastoral Center.

Oct. 26 (Wednesday) -- Rochester, Becket Hall.

All Religious, parish staff personnel and chairpersons of parish council committees are invited to the sessions which will take place from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

A 15-minute slide presentation will detail the

stewardship story and diocesan officials will answer questions about the diocesan-wide program.

Plans include a followup during the six months following the October meetings. Copies of the slide presentation will be made available for showings to parishioners around the diocese at specified times and places.

The Stewardship Program itself is scheduled to begin in the Fall of 1978. It will be offered on a cooperative basis, enabling the parish, while retaining its own individuality, to benefit from the sharing of common costs such as printing, etc.

The diocesan program will be similar to those being conducted in several other dioceses such as New Orleans, Greensburg, Pa., Baton Rouge, Baltimore, Kansas City and San Diego.

Pastors have been asked to make reservations for parish leaders who will be attending one or another of the regional meetings by Oct. 1.

## Stewardship Program Explained to DPC

By MARTIN TOOMBS

Waterloo—The Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) heard a description of the upcoming diocesan stewardship program, discussed a report concerning the Ministerial Review Committee, and debated other topics at its first business meeting of the year last Saturday.

James Noonan, administrative assistant to the bishop, explained the stewardship program to the council.

He noted that the diocese has been in a "financial crunch," and has been spending in excess of its income, even after budget cuts were made. A previous attempt to increase the diocese's endowment income failed, he said, and the diocese was forced to look to other sources of income.

Most important to the financial status of the diocese, Noonan noted, are parish assessments, which account for 70 to 75 per cent of the diocese's funds.

Increasing assessment charges would cause many parishes hardship, Noonan explained, unless parish incomes increased. The result of a study, he noted, was that the diocese should "develop a program that is a direct assist to the parishes in meeting their needs," which would in turn increase diocesan income.

The stewardship program, previously used by St. Salome's parish in

Rochester, was selected, the program, Noonan explained, asks parishioners to share their "time, their talent, and their treasure." The program emphasizes parishioners' responsibilities to the parish, in volunteer efforts and the operation of parish programs, as well as financial support, he explained.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan noted that stewardship is "a very spiritual program," and that he is "hard-pressed to tell which is most important," the financial or spiritual benefits of the program. It gives people an "awareness of their gifts," he said, and by encouraging people to share them, "builds community."

Noonan also noted that the parishes would be asked to make a commitment to the program during Spring, 1978, with the program beginning in Fall, 1978. He added that diocesan-wide

participation will yield benefits in public relations and other parts of the program.

The importance of the Ministerial Review Committee, which has now become a DPC standing committee, was emphasized by Andrew Molloy, DPC president. The committee, charged with reviewing all diocesan programs, and establishing budgeting priorities, will make its recommendations to the DPC for further analysis and action before they are referred to the bishop. Formerly the committee reported directly to the bishop.

Joseph Mercier announced the committee membership, which was determined during the Summer Three members of the former committee are continuing to serve: Msgr.

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## Bishop Approves Hand Communion

September, 1977

My dear People:

There is no greater honor for the Christian believer than to accept the invitation of Christ to "take and eat, take and drink" the bread and cup which is His Body and Blood. For almost twenty centuries, men and women of faith have approached the table of the Lord to share the one loaf and one cup so as to be "one body, one spirit in Christ."

Aware of the strength of faith of the Christian people in these many centuries, I welcome the permission of Pope Paul which allows the American Church the option of receiving Holy Communion in the hand. This occasion presents us with an opportunity of deepening our understanding of the Eucharist and the liturgy as a whole, and of enhancing our Eucharistic devotion.

In approving this practice for Catholics in the Diocese of Rochester, I ask your careful attention to the instruction that your parish priests will provide for you. Parishes that have already begun the practice and those who have not are asked to present this program of instruction so that all may have an adequate understanding of the practice.

It should be clearly understood that the option of this practice belongs to the individual communicant, and not to the minister. The minister of the Eucharist must at all times respect the faithful's freedom and choice in this matter.

I am setting the weekends of October 23, 30 and November 6, 1977 as the dates for the instruction and implementation of Communion in the hand in our diocese. I am aware that this program is being presented along with other concerns like Respect Life World Mission and Human Development Sunday, but I am confident of your understanding and cooperation.

With my prayers that this instruction will deepen the love of all for the Eucharist, I remain

Devotedly yours in Christ,

+ Most Reverend Joseph L. Hogan, D.D.  
Bishop of Rochester

## St. Ambrose May Get \$855,100 HUD Aid

Depending on the wishes of the people of St. Ambrose Parish, there is a chance that the convent on church property, with the help of the federal government could become housing for senior citizens.

The government loan, through the Title 202 program of Housing and Urban Development, amounts to \$855,100.

Using the money would, in the words of Father James Marvin, pastor of the parish, "be a concrete way of responding to obvious needs and to our parish's number

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## GEM Report

The board of Genesee Ecumenical Ministries (GEM) met last Saturday at Asbury First Methodist Church. On the group's agenda was discussion of the evaluations done by GEM churches on the workings of the covenant signed last year. A report on that meeting will appear in next week's Courier-Journal.