

PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

By Bishop Joseph L. Hogan

Focus For The Year 1977-1978

Following is Part I of the text of Bishop Hogan's address to the Joint Executive Committee, delivered Sept. 11 at Nazareth College. Part II will be published next week.

INTRODUCTION - I thank God each year for the blessings of Summer - its opportunity to live at a slackened pace - to have quiet moments for reflection - to have one's body and spirit recreated and renewed. Pope Paul in a talk to visitors at his summer residence in Castel Gandolfo on a Sunday in late August of this year expressed his gratitude for the healing power of Summer. He noted the change in the barometer and the calendar date "reminding us that the holidays are over and we must take up the normal rhythm of our work with a new and strong heart."



In this spirit I speak to you today - you who are my faithful and loyal co-workers in the Lord - who give day after day so generously of your time and talents in the task which is our common vocation - to be living witnesses of the Lord's presence among us. Yes, it is that time of the year again which calls us to renewed efforts to promote His kingdom. I look to your leadership especially to give strength to mine in addressing the tasks that lie ahead. Leadership is a gift which inspires God's people first to recognize their own special gifts and then to offer them generously in a life of caring concerns for the needs of our brethren.

To those of you who may be tempted to frustration and to think as the Apostles did when they complained to Christ that their best efforts (We have labored all night.) had produced nothing, let me assure you that this is far from the truth. On this Labor Day weekend I reviewed the record of some of our accomplishments of the past year. The efforts were great but the results were not hidden from us. The Lord indeed has prospered the work of our hands, minds and hearts.

PART I - I would like to share with you significant accomplishments of the past year in THREE major phases of our work.

- A. New Beginnings
B. Fostering Gift
C. Trials and Tests

A. First, let us REVIEW NEW BEGINNINGS.

- 1. CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR FULL-TIME PARISH STAFFS AT ST. BERNARD'S. This was called for in LIVING STONES two years ago and now has become a living reality.
2. A NATIONAL GRANT FROM THE CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT was presented to a community organization (14621) in which six urban parishes have played and are playing a supportive role with involvement of clergy, religious and laity.
3. INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSION has been initiated to assist and challenge us to respond to global social needs and concerns.

One of its accomplishments has been the success of Operation Breadbox with which you are acquainted.

4. The Diocese is also utilizing the talents, gifts and leadership of four lay leaders in KEY positions:

- A. Catholic Charities (Mr. Maurice Tierney)
B. Office of Family Life (Mr. & Mrs. Frank Staropoli)
C. Office of Human Development (Mr. John Salter)
D. Office of Spanish Apostolate (Mr. Italo Rodriguez).

5. Two new beginnings in regard to Parish Ministry have been initiated. They are developing better methods of providing pastoral services to their people and the community. These two cooperative parish-based ministries are:

- A. The cooperation of St. Felix - Clifton Springs Project 96.
B. St. Bridget's - new forms of parish ministry. These new beginnings have been assisted by the work and cooperation of the Vicar for Urban Ministry and the Regional Coordinator.

6. DIVORCED AND SEPARATED CATHOLICS

This new ministry represents the diocese responding with care, concern and love in bringing about healing to people whose lives have been broken and wounded.

7. DIOCESAN PLANNING PROGRAM

This new beginning was called for in Living Stones and has been responded to with the diocesan departments presenting clear statements of their goals and directions. In a cooperative effort, the three Consultative Bodies have reviewed and evaluated, along with me, the major directions of our diocesan departments through the Ministerial Review Committee.

8. STEWARDSHIP

A new beginning with regard to people sharing their time, talent and treasure with the Lord and their parish - an updated parish census program is available which will assist the parishes in identifying parishioners' needs and responding with pastoral programs.

B. We have been fostering a variety of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the past year throughout the diocese:

- 1. in our priests through the Priest Performance Evaluation Program and the first stages of the Needs Assessment Project.
2. in our liturgy committee members in all parts of the diocese by means of a series of Focus Workshops on prayer - nine in all in various parts of the diocese
3. in our Parish Councils through a Parish Council Congress that brought together 900 people from across the diocese around the theme THE PARISH.

IT ALL BEGINS WITH YOU, part of my message in THE LIVING STONES.

4. through the Black Ministries Office, which hit stride during this past year, promoting Black Liturgical Celebrations, Ecumenical Revival and Black leadership on diocesan boards like Catholic Charities and the Diocesan Pastoral Council

5. in our Catholic school children through an improved school curriculum and in our religious education teachers through improved training for teachers. (See page 11 in September 7 Courier-Journal)

6. We recognize the gifts that are growing through prayerful parish activities, such as retreats for councils and committees, installation of parish councils, and prayer groups. As I wrote in LIVING STONES, prayer is essential at all meetings that we hold for ministry

7. We are thankful to God for a new regard in parishes for sick and frail people, evident in communal anointing services and in ministry to people in nursing homes

C. We have faced up to certain trials and tests in our ministry this past year

1. Finding ourselves under the gun financially, we have developed new property and health insurance plans which save us money and save you money

2. The Bicentennial LIBERTY & JUSTICE FOR ALL program of the Bishops was a major testing of the Spirit of American Catholicism. The Bishops called for a national consultation on JUSTICE IN OUR COUNTRY. It was highly controversial. I thank you for your help in sharing with me your perspective on every level. It was hurried, but the results were rich. I went to the meeting in Chicago with a sense of my people.

3. The OB units at St. Mary's and St. Joseph's Hospitals faced critical tests. We saw the dedication of our hospital people in raising questions and in outstanding support of the laity. Both units will continue

4. Busing for our Catholic High School students in Rochester was challenged this year. The secret was in the support we had from the school staff and laity. We seemed to win and lose many times, but finally had success.

5. A response to the struggles of our Urban Catholic Schools has come. A careful examination of problems involving so many people has led us to a cooperative program that offers hope. I had asked for this in LIVING STONES almost two years ago

6. There has been much greater involvement in the personal trials and struggles of our people in broken marriages. I wish to commend the work of the Tribunal and the work of parish staff through an increased number of cases well handled

I have taken the time to share with you many of the accomplishments that were achieved in the past year. I do this because I find them to be sources of hope. We have made new beginnings. We have furthered the life that we are gifted with and we have stood up to the trials and tests of the past year

St. Theresa's Marks 50th Anniversary

Fifty years ago, a whole neighborhood of Catholic Poles politely seceded from the Polish church, St. Stanislaus. They wanted their church and school to be right where they lived. The bishop understood, as did the pastors of St. Stanislaus and Holy Redeemer, and so a new parish was formed - St. Theresa's, on Mark Street.

The parishioners now commute from distant neighborhoods, for the most part, but parish life has been sustained through this half century - even the Mothers' Club has survived the passing of the grammar

school. A jubilee Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan at 5 p.m. this Saturday, Sept. 24. A banquet will follow, in the church hall.

The Franciscan Fathers Minor Conventuals of Buffalo were called in by Bishop Thomas Hickey to organize the parish, after a citizens committee had done the ground work. On Sept. 10, 1927, the parish was dedicated to the newest saint, Theresa of Lisieux, who had been canonized two years earlier as St. Theresa of the Child Jesus

The congregation used Holy Redeemer Church's Concordia Hall until its own building was ready in December, 1928.

The red brick structure with white stone trim looks today as it did then, except that the grounds are trimly landscaped. Above the church proper are four school rooms, which, until 1972, housed eight grades and a kindergarten, taught by the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph. Below the church is the social hall. The property soon included a rectory. From the beginning, a convent had been provided in Watkins Terrace, a block to the

north. The Mexican Sisters of Guadalupe, who work in the Spanish Apostolate, live there now.

Now, as then, many of the St. Theresa people "still feel a need for a bilingual parish," according to Father Cajetan Wisniewski, OFM Conv. An influx of refugees from World War II and its aftermath strengthened the parish, and it continues to have 220 families, he said. There is a parish council, the women have their Rosary Society and Sacred Heart Society; the men, a bingo committee.

Father Wisniewski, who disclaims the title of

associate pastor, has been "just an old-fashioned assistant" at St. Theresa's for the past 10 years. In the summer of 1976, Father Joseph Trawinski succeeded Father Ferdinand Cisek as pastor.

Five members of the congregation have entered the religious life - three priests and two nuns. Originally, the parish had about 250 families. They all lived near enough to Holy Redeemer Church, but the second language there was German. They were close also to St. George's Lithuanian Church, and St. Joseph's Ukrainian Church was not far down

Hudson Avenue. St. Stanislaus isn't really very far, either, except for old folk on foot and little children heading north into the winter's wind one school day after another.

Mark Street is one short block just south of Clifton Avenue, between Hudson and North Street. Below that point, Urban Renewal high a sporadic building again urban decay. Not many of the old-timers stay to watch it happen. Father Trawinski says mostly bilingual in other parishes, where they live where their children go to school. But they keep the roots alive at St. Theresa's.