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Mass for Divorced, Separated

400 Cheer Bishop

By MARTIN TOOMBS

Canandaigua—Spontaneous, sustained applause ushered Bishop Joseph L. Hogan and the other celebrants of the Mass for divorced and separated Catholics from the church here Sunday.

As the procession at the end of Mass entered the sacristy, the more than 400 persons attending broke into applause, and continued as all the celebrants left sight.

Concelebrating with Bishop Hogan were several priests who are involved in the ministry to the divorced and separated.

Bishop Hogan told the divorced and separated persons attending that "I love all of you with a father's love," and that "I have compassion for your sufferings" and feelings of alienation.

"We, the Church of

Rochester, need you desperately," he told them, to give the rest of the Church a sense of awareness of the problems of family life. "You challenge us to look at our own attitudes about success," he stated, adding "you are a great blessing to our Church, and a great blessing among us."

Sponsored by the diocese divorced and separated groups, the Mass drew persons from throughout the diocese, including persons who aren't group members. Most of those attending moved to St. Mary's School for a reception which followed the Mass.

Bishop Hogan, in his homily, called the Mass "unique in the history of the diocese of Rochester," and a "wonderful day for me."

Noting the theme of the Mass, "Til All My People Are One, Bishop Hogan emphasized the "strength that comes from unity," and that

everyone should pray "that this unity becomes a reality." Although the world is divided, there are signs of hope, he said, caused by efforts concerning ecumenism, human rights, racial discrimination and "much has happened" with respect to marriage, separation and divorce.

"One year ago in the diocese, he noted, there were only two groups for divorced and separated Catholics; now, "thank God we have 14 groups throughout every region in the diocese." He has been "impressed by the work that has been going on in the groups," he said. He added that he is happy he appointed Sister Kathleen Kircher to lead the ministry, pointing out the "wonderful work she has done."

He also thanked the clergy and sisters who are working with the groups

Continued on Page 2



Photo by Martin Toombs

The congregation at the Mass for the divorced and separated, joining hands during the singing of the Our Father.

Sisters Laud County On Jail Project Vote

By JOHN DASH

Action taken last week by the Monroe County Legislature to remedy conditions for women in the county jail won the unanimous approval of the Diocesan Sisters Council, meeting last week at the motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

In so approving, the DSC also threw its weight behind the Monroe Alternatives Project (MAP), a citizen's group working for penal reform.

MAP is a member of the Women's Justice Coalition (WJC), a subgroup of Genesee Ecumenical Ministries' Judicial Process Commission.

MAP also is the architect of the proposal which the WJC presented the county legislature. That proposal, which was passed by the legislature last week, calls for a special commission to study conditions of the county facilities for women offenders, to propose alternatives to incarceration and to draft appropriate legislation, among other charges.

Members of the special commission would be drawn from the WJC. The sisters also agreed that their own representatives would be sent to the WJC.

The council action followed a presentation by Diane Larter, project coordinator of MAP. The

council's social concerns committee had last month unanimously approved similar resolutions.

It is MAP's (and the WJC's) position that the following needs to be done in regard to the question of women's detention:

- Compile statistics and information concerning the present utilization of the women's section: 1.) type of inmate housed: age, education, employment, family; 2.) charges and related pretrial policies.

- Study present programs which could be utilized as alternatives to incarceration.

- Consider modification

Continued on Page 20



Photo by Martin Toombs

God in the Pits

Watkins Glen— Each year, nearly 100,000 persons attend the Watkins Glen Grand Prix on the first Sunday of October. And for the last 20 years, Mass has been offered at the track for those attending

On race day this year, Sunday, Oct. 2, more than 200 cold, wet race fans, mostly persons who had camped at the track, attended the Mass, offered in the pits by Father Andrew Kalafsky, pastor of St

Mary of the Lake, Watkins Glen

The course was rain-soaked for the second year, causing Father Kalafsky to remind those attending Mass that the "rain of God is forever"

Father Kalafsky also led those attending in a prayer that there would be no injuries during the race, a prayer which was fulfilled in the afternoon's events

Major Agreements Reached with GEM

By JOHN DASH

Less than a month after insiders were laying the odds at five to one the diocese would pull out of Genesee Ecumenical Ministries (GEM), those same insiders have reversed the odds; and, if all goes according to schedule, the problems which caused the rift in the first place should be solved by Thanksgiving

In the interim, GEM has gone through a self-evaluation, with the member communions offering their observations and recommendations for reworking the GEM constitution, signed almost a year and a half ago

The purpose of GEM, the criteria for membership in its action group, the Ecumenical Strategy Board (ESB), styles of ESB action, voting procedures, the budget structure and funding resources, and certain structures within GEM have all come in for revision

Last week, Msgr George Cocuzzi, head of the diocesan GEM delegation and a member of an ad-hoc group discussing the revisions, noted that a number of points had "been pretty much agreed on," points, he said, the diocese "can live with"

First among them is a statement of purpose for GEM. That statement now reads:

"The primary purpose of GEM is to facilitate collaborative social ministry by the member communions in establishing and maintaining justice in all

dimensions of community. Corollary purposes include nurturing congregations in mission to enable more effective participation, and giving expression to the unity of the Church of Jesus Christ in service and celebration."

He noted that the statement should preclude the establishment of any "third party" social mission beyond the mission of the communions themselves

As reported last month, this was of great concern to the diocese

The diocese also is pleased that the statements on membership on the ESB include the following: "Communities will increase their representation from two to three persons — communities with staff are urged to include at least one staff person, communities without staff may designate a representative to represent the communion on the mission staff team. The mission staff team, Msgr Cocuzzi explained, is a short-range planning group which meets from time to time

Msgr Cocuzzi noted that the statement of GEM's purpose also is reflected in a note on ESB style of action: "The principal function of the ESB is to facilitate effective collaborative strategy development for mission in Monroe County by member communions. Communities agree to participate in the development of ecumenical mission strategy and to give priority attention to the cooperative strategy unless restrained by doctrine or conscience" He pointed

out diocesan agreement with another note: "Communities agree to bring major local mission programs projected for Monroe County to the ESB inviting the critique and support of all Communities undertaking other local mission activities will advise all communions of their plans and periodically report progress"

It also is agreed that the ESB "will coopt existing ecumenical and or

Continued on Page 2



Tomorrow, Oct. 13, is the 60th anniversary of Our Lady's apparition at Fatima. Father Albert Shamon, a leading mariologist in the diocese, discusses apparitions of Our Lady with particular attention to Fatima on Page 5.