

**DPC**

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ecumenism; and from Father Charles Mulligan, director of Social Ministry.

Msgr. Roche, Yates-Ontario-Wayne regional coordinator and St. Mary's, Canandaigua, pastor, explained that "presently Yates-Ontario-Wayne is a very loose organization," as he has waited for a need to arise before forming committees.

Sister Ann Miller, principal of the Corning Catholic Schools, noted that when she was studying at Seattle University last Summer, an assignment for her class was to study "You Are Living Stones" written by Bishop Hogan.

Sister Ann explained that classmates asked her how the diocese tried to involve everyone as ministers, as the pastoral called for. Looking

for the answer, she said, she concluded that "maybe that's what regionalism is all about."

With that in mind, she decided to do her thesis on regionalism, she said. As her study continues, sister explained, she intends to look at several questions, including the region's value as a support system for the diocese, how the diocese follows the lead of the regions, and the effectiveness of accountability and communications.

Riesenberger noted that his committee is studying the position of DPC regional representatives, with a goal of writing guidelines that could be made available to the regions before members are elected, so new members will understand the commitment involved

Marilyn Meunch, a Northeast Region delegate, commented that parishes should not be allowed to exclude themselves from regional activities, as is now occurring.

Father John Mulligan, co-pastor of St. John the Evangelist, Humboldt St., asked "how do you call your coordinator to accountability?" when he is now following the region's constitution. Several members picked up on the topic, saying that they had been involved in situations where a regional coordinator had obstructed regional activities, including one instance of canceling a scheduled meeting because he said it wasn't needed.

Father Hoffman noted that on one occasion he called a coordinator to accountability, and said that he knew of no other situation as serious. He

suggested that persons or parishes in the region call a coordinator on action which they feel is inappropriate.

Concluding the discussion, Father Hoffman noted regionalism's emphasis on inter-parochial cooperation, and commented that "the difference between now and five years ago," in parish cooperation, "is incredible."

The proposal concerning food shelves, made by the DPC Social Mission Committee, asked for the DPC's approval for a survey of diocesan institutions to identify existing food shelves so that a diocesan directory could be compiled. Cecile Bodnar explained the proposal, noting that the committee hoped such a directory would enable food shelves to cooperate. The proposal was approved unanimously.

Commenting on the recently completed national bishops meeting, Bishop Hogan told the DPC that "I always feel the same at the end of all those meetings—numb."

He said that the approval of the National Catechetical Directory was the most important action, and occupied much of the bishops' time. Four years in the making, the directory represents "the greatest act of consultation" in the American Church's history, he said.

He also noted that the bishops recommended to Rome by a vote of 212 to 11 that the American norms for marriage annulments be continued, and voted 139 to 11 to continue the Campaign for Human Development, in a vote of diocesan ordinaries.

Ruth Hauser, DPC appointed member for ecumenism, urged members to have parish councils include a member representing ecumenical

efforts, and she referred them to the diocesan statement concerning inter-communion as being an important feature in ecumenical affairs.

Father Charles Mulligan provided members with a written summary of the efforts of the Social Ministry Department.

Commenting on Catholic Charities, he noted that "most of its operations occur in Monroe County,"

raising the question "can Catholic Charities work on a diocesan-wide basis?"

He also noted the efforts in health care ministry and prison ministry. The need, he noted, is illustrated by such factors as the concentration of deaf persons in Rochester, the largest in the country, and that one-third of the more than 3,000 inmates in state prisons in the diocese, and of the 10,000 prisoners in county jails each year, are Catholic.

**Neediest Cases**

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children and has no regular income.

4 F and his wife have five small children. The family lives in a rural area. Although he works, he needs help because his home is badly in need of repair. It is always a toss-up whether the money goes for food or heat.

5 P is 17 and in foster care with her baby. She recently enrolled in school again and hopes one day to be a social worker. Because she cannot return to her natural mother, holiday times find her depressed and wanting to "give up."

6 The D's are a middle-aged couple with a teenager to support in the home. D has been ill for some time and the family income has been diminished while many bills have accumulated.

7 M is a widow who lives alone on Social Security. Because of very high rental expenses, she is unable, financially, to observe the holidays.

8 V and her three children recently arrived in the area from another state. This will be the first Christmas they will celebrate in the diocese, but their budget is minimal.

9 The R's have a small child to support but no steady income. R is a day laborer and his employment has been minimal since the summer.

10 R is the mother of three and the grandmother of one. Both she and her husband are in very poor health. Illness forced him to stop working.

11 S and her four children live alone. One child is retarded, another was born with permanent damage following a severe beating S suffered at the hands of her husband while she was pregnant.

12 M had been living with her son's family but recently moved to her own apartment because she felt her son's house was too small. She has had to set up housekeeping and the expense, with rent and bills to pay, is overwhelming her. She is on a fixed income.

13 Nearing her 70s, B lives alone in a disadvantaged urban neighborhood. The physical and emotional and financial problems of growing old have made her almost a recluse. She does not have the money to eat properly.

14 C is going blind and is unable to work. His wife and their four children are struggling with managing a limited income into providing the bare necessities of life.

15 H is an elderly woman living alone in a very remote area. She lives on a fixed income in an old farm house badly in need of repair.

16 H is an old man whose loneliness is more crippling than his physical illness. He is afraid to leave his apartment for fear of being ill in public. He unwittingly alienates others and has no friends.

17 B's wife became ill a few months ago and is now in a nursing home. He is completely lost without her and the tasks of shopping,

cooking and managing their small fixed income is too much for him to bear.

18 E is in her 90s and has no living relatives. She is unable to shop for herself or take care of her own finances. She also is very shy and retiring and unable to seek the help she needs.

19 S is in his late 70s and extremely poor. Although he remains a cheerful man, his children are remote from him and therefore he lacks the basic necessities in his apartment.

20 Crippled with arthritis, L lives by herself in a dilapidated upstairs apartment. Somehow she manages to get to Church every day. She cannot cook for herself because of her arthritis, and so eats very little.

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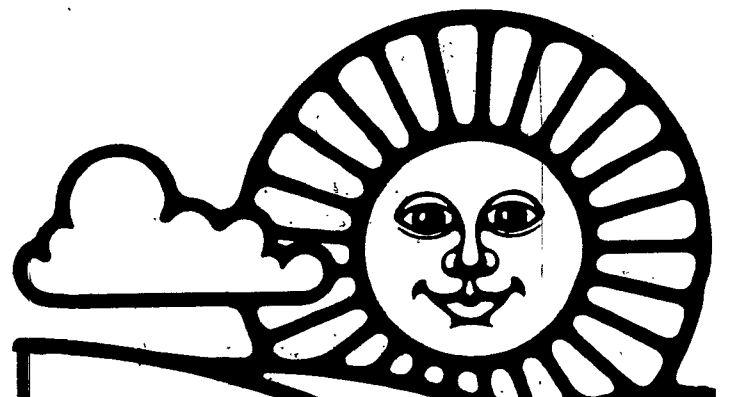
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