

Chaplains Ask DSC To Assess Report On Health Ministry

By JOHN DASH

The Diocesan Association of Health Care Chaplains last week approached the Diocesan Sisters Council with a petition to consider a formula the chaplains have devised to improve ministry to the hospitalized.

The chaplains' group, which consists of 17 priests and two religious sisters, has established a system of assigning credits to hospitals in the diocese. The group asks that chaplains be assigned to hospitals based on these credit ratings.

Presenting the group's case to the council were Father Charles Mulligan and Father William Barrett, a member of the group.

In a five-page report to the council, the chaplains note that "Hospitals with 2.5 credits warrant a diocesan commitment to a full-time chaplain. For each additional .35 credits, that same hospital would warrant a further diocesan commitment to another chaplain." The report also states that the group's use of the word chaplain "does

not necessarily mean a priest chaplain."

In assigning credits, the group considered hospital size, Catholic population per 100 patients, institutional commitment to the work of a chaplain, whether the hospital is Catholic, involvement of the local community, and whether a mental health center is a part of the hospital.

Under the formula, both Strong Memorial Hospital and Rochester General Hospital would be assigned two chaplains. At the present, Strong is served by individuals from a coalition of area parishes, and General is served by a single priest serving as an "ecumenical minister."

The report further states that "Hospitals with 1.5-2.5 credits warrant a twenty-hour time commitment per week in pastoral ministry. Because this would be a heavy demand on an individual parish, regional coverage should be seriously explored." The report concludes that, "Hospitals with less than 1.5

credits should continue with single parish responsibility for coverage."

Father Mulligan describes the report as indicating a "pastoral shift" in diocesan attitudes toward hospital ministry. He further stated he hoped the report would be debated in all the consultative bodies. (The report is in committee in the Priests Council.)

The Sisters Council will return in February following consultation with constituents and bring the chaplains' proposals to a vote.

In other matters:

The council heard a report from Father Douglas Hoffman, director of the Office of Pastoral Ministry, on the work of his department.

He described his work as "That action which gives impetus, direction and active coordination to the full range of ministry in the diocese."

He described the
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Bishop Hogan with members of the new diocesan liaison committee to charismatic. From left, Gail Lyle, Barbara D'Ortenzio, Robert Tauscher, Bishop Hogan, Chairman Father Thomas F. Schmidt. At right is Father Edward McDonough who joined Father Schmidt in conducting a weekend charismatic retreat at Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua. Other photo on Page 2.

Charismatic Unit Named

Canandaigua Bishop Joseph L. Hogan has formed a committee to act as liaison between the diocese and the charismatic community, it was announced at a charismatic retreat here last weekend.

Father Thomas F. Schmidt, rector and director of the Notre Dame Retreat House here where the weekend retreat took place, will be chairman of the committee.

Aida Sansor, one of the group of Mexican sisters working in the diocese

Father Schmidt said the committee will work to establish retreats, information nights, days of recollection and liturgies throughout the diocese.

Other members are Gail Lyle of St. Mary's in Bath, Barbara D'Ortenzio of Holy Spirit in Webster, Robert Tauscher of St. Stephen's in Geneva, Robert Dunnino of St. Pius X in Chili, and Sister

The weekend retreat was conducted by Father Schmidt and Father Edward McDonough from Boston.



Bishop Kearney Mass

Photos by Susan McKinney

A Mass in honor of former Rochester Bishop James E. Kearney took place last week, the first anniversary of his death. Above is the entrance procession. Below, at

left, Auxiliary Bishop John E. McCafferty was principal concelebrant of the Mass. Below, right, Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey delivered the homily.



Msgr. Cocuzzi To Get New Post

James Noonan, administrative assistant to Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, acknowledged to the Diocesan Sisters Council meeting last week that Msgr. George Cocuzzi will shortly be named to head the local permanent diaconate program.

In response to a question from Sister Frances Sweeney, Noonan conceded the validity of what he described as an "open rump" that Msgr. Cocuzzi would step aside from the post of Vicar of Urban Ministry to take up his new position.

The permanent diaconate program, in the designing stage for the past two years, now becomes an operative ministry in the diocese with Msgr. Cocuzzi's appointment.

Stepping into newly-created posts is nothing new to the Rochester-born priest. Two-and-a-half years ago he was given the title of Vicar for Urban Ministry, then a new position in diocesan administration. The year prior to that assignment he had worked with the National Center of Urban Ethnic Affairs in Washington D.C.



MSGR. COCUZZI

Born in 1924 and ordained three days shy of his 25th birthday, on June 11, 1949, Msgr. Cocuzzi quickly rose in diocesan administrative positions. After two years as assistant pastor of St. Jerome's Church in East Rochester, he went to the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, where, three years later, he was granted a doctorate in canon law.

For the 12 ensuing years, Msgr. Cocuzzi served as notary, vice-chancellor and

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