



Members of the Rochester Regional Task Force on Women discuss plans for the organization's future events. From left: Mrs. Jeanne Gehret, Mrs. Ruth Hauser, Sister Joan Sobala and Ms. Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz.

Women's Task Force To Start Newspaper

BY JOAN M. SMITH

The Rochester Regional Task Force on Women in the Church had its beginnings in early 1976 following the Detroit Call to Action Conference of November 1975. Since its inception, the organization has been making progress toward its goal of women taking what they consider their rightful place in the responsibility for the life of the Church especially at parish level. Though the local association and many of its members belong to the national group, Women's Ordination Conference (WOC), the Rochester organization maintains a flexible independence.

Task Force representatives, in talking with the Courier-Journal, emphasized their ranks were not limited solely to women religious but included laity and priests. Those interviewed are Sister Joan Sobala, Mrs. Jeanne Gehret, Mrs. Ruth Hauser and Ms. Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz.

It is Sister Joan Sobala, a chaplain at the University of Rochester, who heads a new project for the Task Force, its newspaper — New Women, New Church. The first issue is expected to coincide with the organization's sponsored reflective study and prayer program, Saturday, Jan. 28 at St. Bernard's Seminary, 2-4 p.m.

According to Sister Joan, the newspaper stemmed from discussions on national and local levels as well gathering information from Episcopalians Anne Knight who edits a successful publication in Iowa. The Task Force decided that such a publication in this area would be a viable idea.

Sister Joan explained the quarterly newspaper as a communication vehicle through which the theology, history and current status of

MADRIGALIA

Robert Dwellley, music director at St. Bernard's Seminary, will conduct his chamber choir, Madrigalia, in a chapel program open to the public at 3:30 Sunday afternoon, Feb. 5. Vespers will follow immediately at 5 p.m. The program is sponsored by the seminary's Dante Society.

the evolving roles of women in the Church will be aired. "A modest beginning," she said.

"But one with great expectations," added Mrs. Isasi-Diaz.

Mrs. Isasi-Diaz's duties with the Task Force include handling press coverage for national, regional and local organizational events which encompasses scheduling TV talk show appearances for members. As a member of WOC's core group she has recently returned from a national planning session in Chicago. Mrs. Isasi-Diaz also is a parish minister with St. Francis of Assisi parish.

Aside from Mrs. Gehret's special task of coordinating association projects, she has just received her MA in Theology from St. Bernard's Seminary and is also religious education coordinator for Holy Name parish.

Mrs. Hauser, mother of six children, is also pursuing her MA in Theology at St. Bernard's and is a religious ed teacher at St. Ambrose. She coordinated the liturgy segment of the Jan. 28 event.

Being involved in Women in the Church all adds up to time consuming work not only for the Task Force members but their supportive groups as well. Not only do they make themselves available for workshops and lectures but they are always planning and working for the future projects like the newspaper, the national conference in November in Baltimore, 1978; the regional Spring conference; the scheduled April lecture series to be given in conjunction with the Continuing Education Department at St. Bernard's Seminary; and the feasibility study and survey regarding the possibility of a diocesan office for women's affairs.

AS I SEE IT



Pat Costa

How long is your crystal department going to keep my defective salt and pepper shakers? I left them there in October. It is now the middle of January. I have been to your downtown store three times and made four phone calls. Your department head seems to have evaporated in thin air.

Sincerely
Daunted, but not Defeated

To our town highway department:

Once again your plow operators have demonstrated that their equipment is capable of lifting two feet of sod and soil with each foot of snow they remove. Reseeding is not good enough. The growing season is too short in this part of town.

Always,
Shorn and Shifted

To the makers of a pushy peanut butter:

How dare you say our favorite peanut butter doesn't taste like fresh peanuts? Probably only Jimmy Carter knows what a fresh peanut tastes like. Everything the public gets is either blanched, salted, sorbitoled and dextrened or roasted and bagged for consumption six weeks hence. Go eat a shell.

Resisting Still,
Guiltless Mother

Below are some letters I probably will never send.

To a leading department store president:

One of your incompetent part-time holiday clerks refused to give me a box for my purchase which she piled in front of her. Instead she made me go to a central boxing table. You guessed it — the table was out of the size box I needed.

Yours truly,
Bloodied but not Bowed

To the president of the other leading department store:

Father Graf To Speak In Penfield

Father William Graf, chaplain at Nazareth College, will speak at St. Joseph's, Penfield, Saturday night on modern concepts of sin and conscience. Informal discussions over wine and cheese will follow his talk, which begins at 8:15 p.m.

through the previous day. The program is the first in a series planned by the parish and religious education committee.

SOME THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER

By Ed Sulewski

Someone you love has died. You may feel you want to deny the death which has occurred. It is not unusual to try to do so. However, it is necessary to admit to yourself death's presence, even though this can be a painful experience. One of the ways some attempt to eliminate a confrontation with death and hope to avoid the pain that loss brings, is to resist viewing the body of the deceased. They say that they wish to remember the deceased as he or she appeared alive. However, for you to view the body is an important first step toward accepting the death. The funeral, from the first announcement of death to the committal service, is a declaration that death has occurred. Viewing, when possible, is an essential part of the affirmation. If you are religiously oriented, the funeral service is a spiritual occasion. If you do not profess a specific religious belief, you may want to consider having what is called a "humanistic service." This should also be public to grant to your family and friends the opportunity to share their love and sorrow with you. No.

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