

Black Catholic Collection Next Sunday

A collection will be taken up next Sunday throughout the diocese to aid the work of black apostolates both locally and nationally. Those agencies aided by the collection are the National Office of Black Catholics, the Catholic Bishops' Black and Native Americans Collection and the diocesan Office of Black Ministries.

This year the Black Catholic Clergy Caucus notes its tenth anniversary. That anniversary "is both ironic and significant within the life of the Roman Catholic Church and the Black American experience," Father Jerome Robinson, OP, director of the Office of Black Ministries, said last week.

"Many persons will recall the mood of the country in April of 1968 as one fraught with sorrow, violence and tragedy as a consequence of the untimely death of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.," he said. He also noted the escalation of the war in Southeast Asia, urban unrest and mounting political tensions as contributing to the tensions of that time.

Also that year, he said, "the largest assembly in history of Black Catholic priests from throughout the nation convened in Detroit to reflect upon their racial heritage and responsibilities as ordained ministers."

"It was an extraordinary moment born in the midst of pervasive disillusionment and perplexity for civic as well as religious spheres," Father Robinson said.

CHOICE WEEKEND

Training sessions for CHOICE volunteers are scheduled for this weekend at Blessed Sacrament parish, Monroe at Oxford. The volunteers will learn how to help jail inmates develop decision-making skills that will take them out of the "loser" category, the announcement says. Classes will run from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11; 8:30-4:30 Sunday, Feb. 12. The registration fee of \$12 should be sent to CHOICE, Criminal Justice Center, 101 S. Plymouth, Rochester 14608. For details: Evelyn Morton, 458-5765, days; 464-8932 or 647-3608.

He said that gathering "introduced a new era that would... inevitably (lead to) the National Office for Black Catholics."

Father Robinson said that the "very existence of the local Office of Black Ministries owes the seeds of its foundation to the phenomenal struggle and vision of the Clergy Caucus pioneers. Their endeavoring on behalf of the Church and Black people cannot be forgotten for it represents a crucial chapter in the saga of American religious experience for the entire Christian community."



Photos by Susan McKinney

Schools Week

As the St. Augustine's fifth grade choir was entertaining Midtown Mall shoppers as part of Catholic Schools Week last Wednesday, a friend dropped by to share in the festivities. That's Bishop Joseph L. Hogan with the choir. At right of the choir is its director Mary Jo Mulligan. In photo at right, Bishop Hogan and pupils look over the schools display in the mall.



Schools Mass

Photos by Susan McKinney

A special Mass as a highlight of Catholic Schools Week took place Sunday in Sacred Heart Cathedral, which was filled to capacity. Bishop Joseph L. Hogan and Auxiliary Bishops John E. McCafferty and Dennis W. Hickey were concelebrants.

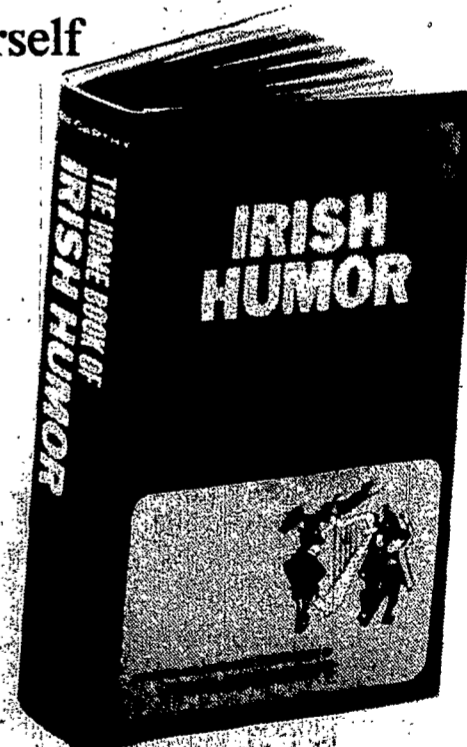


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Throughout, the editor, John McCarthy, formerly Executive Editor of Catholic



Digest has contributed a lively series of quips and jests about the Irish, humble and great.

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