

**Bishop's Letter
On Permanent
Diaconate . . . 6**



**Bishop's 'Ad Limina' Report
In Center Section . . .
Story . . . 2**

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NOVAKS:

'The family is one of the most fruitful institutions . . . to bring about change.'

By JOHN DASH

"In intellectual circles, the most neglected subject of inquiry is the family," Michael Novak said last week in an interview at St. John Fisher College.

Novak, author of *The Rise of the Unmeltable Ethnics*, and a Washington Star columnist, spoke at the college, together with his wife Karen, on the subject of the family.

He notes that while "typically the family has been a matter of Catholic concern, it is becoming a major concern through society as a whole."

And he sees a need for exploring the family unit theoretically to match that concern.

His wife, an artist and recently named Fellow of the Society for Values in Education, differs with her husband on what should constitute a family in intellectual debate.

The growing notion that the family may be any communal gathering, an idea that permeated the recent meeting of the state's bishops and office of family life directors, receives her support.

Novak, on the other hand, cautions "you want to be careful with the natural family, that is what needs nurturing."

Mrs. Novak sees an intrinsic connection between her work as an artist and as an explorer in mysticism, with her vocation as a mother and family member. She sees an analogy between the "entrance into ambiguity" promoted by Eastern modes of thinking and establishing a family as "entrance into the unknown."

In theorizing about the family, Novak notes that the information for theory "comes from the top 10 per cent, and that's a distorting factor. In this upper class it's terribly

TOPIC: THE FAMILY

hard to maintain a family. There is a vision of upper class decadence. The truth is however that 66 per cent of the couples will stay together and that 78 per cent of those who divorce will remarry. Now what does that say to the question of the viability of the family!"

Novak's notion is that the family belongs with that group of "mediating institutions which nourish the individual and protect him from the state." Among those groups, he says, are parishes and neighborhoods.

Projecting that notion is high on the agenda for the Carter Administration, he says. He prides himself that that situation is due, he says, to his own advocacy.

The Church, he observes, "Until the Second Vatican Council was very family oriented . . . it was the only institution that worked. The notion of the Trinity as a community, the communal sense, The Holy Family," all are expressions of the Church's concern for the family.

Since Vatican II, however, "the attention has shifted to the problems of the world." He cites the issues of civil and human rights, of war and peace, as being worthwhile, but as examples of a diminishing emphasis on the family.

"This is one place we can make a positive contribution to American scholarship," he says. "I would urge social action groups to examine the role of the family in any larger problem. The family is one of the most fruitful institutions to work with to bring about change."

STAROPOLI:

'The family is found wherever people live together in community.'

By JOHN DASH

The commonly accepted idea of a family as "white middle class with 2.4 children," had rough going last week in Albany when Cardinal Terence Cooke, and the state's bishops and office of family life directors discussed their work for the family.

Frank Staropoli, who, with his wife Sue and other members of the local team, were present at the meeting, said last week that the general tone of the gathering "tried to reflect the pastoral needs of the family beyond the ordinary understanding of the nuclear family."

"The family is found," he said, "wherever people live together in community."

Incorporated in that understanding, he noted, are "single parents, the elderly, childless couples, black and Hispanic families and even singles," when they gather as a recognizable unit.

"The separated and divorced also are members of family units," he said.

The Albany meeting was a dialogue, he observed. No resolutions were passed, but rather information was given the bishops as they prepare to tackle the subject of the family in their national May meeting in Chicago.

It is expected that at that time, the bishops will issue a "pastoral plan" for family ministry.

"Another key, key message," in Albany, Staropoli said, "is the notion of getting away from asking the question 'What can the Church do to serve families?' to asking 'How can the Church enrich its own life? How can families themselves minister to each other and call forth the richness already there?'"

Fr. Peters Ordination April 21

"Alleluia" will be the theme for the ordination of Deacon James D. Peters, scheduled for Friday, April 21 at 8 p.m. at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Irondequoit. Deacon Peters will be the first parishioner from Holy Ghost parish ordained as a diocesan priest.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan will be the ordaining prelate.

The son of Raymond and Evelyn Peters, who now reside in Greece, N.Y., Peters attended St. Peter and Paul School and graduated from Aquinas Institute in 1968.

He graduated from the State University at Brockport with a Bachelor of Arts in English in 1972. He attended Becker Hall for one year for graduate work before entering St. Bernard's Seminary where he earned his Masters of Divinity.

During his years of

To 3

Father Conboy Named Pastor in Seneca Falls

Father Michael F. Conboy, who has been secretary to Bishop Joseph L. Hogan for more than eight years, soon will become pastor of St. Patrick's in Seneca Falls. The Pastoral Office announced his appointment Monday.

"I am looking forward to the parochial ministry," Father Conboy told the Courier-Journal. "I have heard many fine things about the people of Seneca Falls. I count on the ministerial staff, the parish council and all the members of the parish family to help me build up the community of faith in the parish."

The Seneca Falls pastorate has been vacant for several weeks, since Father Leo E. Lynch resigned it. Father Lynch, on sick leave, will be assigned in June to less arduous duties, the Pastoral Office said.

Father Conboy, 43, was ordained June 2, 1962, and served successive assistantships at Holy



FATHER CONBOY

Trinity, Webster, St. Charles Borromeo, Greece, and St. Margaret Mary, Irondequoit. Bishop Hogan chose him as secretary in December 1969.

He was born in Auburn, where he attended St. Mary's School and Holy Family High School before entering the diocesan seminaries.

As secretary, he has been personal aide to the bishop, arranging his appointments and accompanying him on his rounds. It has been his responsibility to channel information between priests and bishop, to handle correspondence and to keep up-to-date records on the clergy.

"I have enjoyed my years assisting the bishop in promoting the growth of the Church in Rochester," Father Conboy said. "There are many hopeful signs of renewal."

"Bishop Hogan is a very fine man to work with — gentle, sensitive, caring. He has had to make a lot of decisions, at times, very difficult ones. Always, he has the best interests of the Church at heart. I am glad I have been able to be a part of his administration. And I want to thank the priests for their fraternal support, for their encouragement to do the jobs that had to be done."



Ciao!

Photo by Susan McKinney

Bidding goodbye to Bishop Joseph L. Hogan as he left the Monroe County Airport, Monday, for his "ad limina" visit to Rome are Auxiliary Bishops Dennis Hickey, left, and John McCafferty, right.