

From 8A

is a continuation of religious instruction classes on the high school level. This is also supplemented by youth retreats given in parishes and on the diocesan level by the program known as Teen Seminar. The people connected with Teen Seminar also do retreat programs for Confirmation, for those young people in the early grades of high school years.

For adults, there would be the family centered program which takes care of the whole family. Parishes do offer adult education programs, mostly in the area of the speaker-lecture type. There is a great deal of effort being made to identify small groups of adults and to deal with their needs, such as the effort being made with divorced and separated Catholics. There is also the area of various movements such as the pro-life movement which has a fine educational aspect to its programs. For tourists or people on holiday, there are only isolated programs connected with a given parish.

Regarding the world of culture, some parishes have engaged in an ecumenical series of again, lecture type of programs. There has been a certain parish where there is the talent that has developed an annual musical program. Another parish has tried to reach out to its high school youth through a religious art contest. In our diocese, there has been some use of the media, especially in the area of radio where programs of a commentary on news and a family centered religious instruction program have been held right along. There is also the long standing Family Rosary for Peace. There has been only occasional use of television as an effort to reach both Catholics and non-Catholics.

4. Statistical note

On the diocesan level, there are two priests, no religious and one lay person involved. On the parish level, the pastors generally take a supervisory role. The assistants are also very involved in classroom catechesis. Forty religious sisters are involved at a management level. There are 200 lay persons involved in management. There are over four thousand lay catechists.

**X
THE LAITY: LIFE AND
APOSTOLIC ACTION**

The life and activity of the laity of the parishes goes on under the leadership of the priests and staff, four principal parish committees (human development, liturgy, education and finance) and central leadership through the Parish Council. Throughout this report are indications of the many kinds of ministerial activity in which the laity provide significant leadership. They are too numerous to repeat again here. Formation in faith and leadership are provided both at the local level and by various diocesan offices.

The Office of Pastoral Ministry monitors the ecclesial structures of the parish in several ways, and provides resources and services to assist Parish Councils in their leadership role.

A variety of less formal groups minister within and among parishes; namely, the renewal groups such as Teen Seminar, Marriage Encounter, Cursillo and Charismatics.

To single out all the important ecclesial ministers and identify the extent of lay involvement is impossible. Laity are extensively involved within the Diocese in every kind of leadership role, including many activities traditionally carried on by priests and sisters. Shared responsibility, so heavily promoted in Vatican II, has been a strong development in the diocese in the last five years. We continue to seek further ways to enrich the Church by the gifts and talents which there are in such abundance.

All service departments of the diocese seek to promote this, and the Seminary has a renewed commitment to providing such formation among the laity.

**XI
ECUMENISM**

1. All main-line Christian confessions exist in the Diocese of Rochester from Baptist to Anglicans along with separated Eastern Churches. Among these groups no proselytizing is done in a detrimental or pejorative sense. Independent Fundamentalist groups which spring up from time to time do attempt to proselytize as do the sects known as Jehovah Witnesses and Seventh Day Adventists. There is also a large presence of Mormons in the Diocese.

A diocesan commission does exist for promoting ecumenism. This is presently done by a part-time coordinator but plans are made for making this a full-time position. Ecumenical dialogue takes place on various levels — notably through ministerial associations in which Catholic ministerial personnel take part with ministers of other religions. There are also jointly planned conferences involving a wide spectrum of people from time to time. An ongoing consultation with the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester is a local development inspired by the international and national ARC conversations.

No real difficulties exist. Joint programming, apart from professional dialogue and investigation going on among faculty of seminaries and Divinity Schools, has taken place in the social action area, i.e. Jail Ministry, Judicial Process concerns in the City of Rochester and County of Monroe, food cupboards sponsored by Catholic and non-Catholic groups and various ad hoc groups responding to emerging social needs.

An ongoing planning process for social ministry is done through an ecumenical association in the city of Rochester (Genesee Ecumenical Ministries — GEM — reference to the Genesee River on which Rochester is built).

2. Judaism is the most significant non-Christian group in Rochester. Scattered immigration from Asian countries brings small group adherence



HUNGER

to Buddhism, Hinduism and Muslims in the Black Community. All organized religions enjoy the same juridical status in the United States. Relations between the Jewish and Roman Catholic community in the Diocese has been very cordial. Generally speaking Christian-Jewish relations appear to be surfacing in conversations around social concern especially within the context of GEM.

3. Thus far no really organized group of non-believers has surfaced in the Diocese. From time to time individuals speak about issues especially on teaching of religion in public schools or other moral issues from an atheistic viewpoint. Usually these efforts are very unorganized.

**XII
SOCIAL ASSISTANCE**

In the Diocese of Rochester the Church's role in bringing the strength and healing of Christ to the social order takes many forms. Certainly as a diocese on a regional level, as a parish and as individuals we feel a deep need to respond to the immediate and pressing problems of the poor. However, our response cannot be limited to this. The Church also has a role in humanizing the structures of our society, so that they might be more apt to fostering human growth before God. In each of the following categories we will present person-to-person initiatives and social change initiatives.

A. Hunger

There are many hungry people in the Diocese of Rochester and the presence of hunger is not limited by political boundaries. There are hungry people in the cities, in the rural areas and in the small towns. Parishes on an individual basis and clustering with each other (usually on an ecumenical basis) gather food and money to help people who do not have enough to eat. Often food cupboards are organized and stocked by contributions from the laity at Sunday Liturgy. The Diocesan Pastoral Council recently did a study of these food co-ops all over the diocese in order to further strengthen and organize their presence. Parishes help people who come to the door and this is not an uncommon experience. Catholic Charities has outreach centers in the City of Rochester which will provide emergency food assistance. Our diocesan newspaper, the Catholic Courier, has a Christmas Fund each year which provides more than \$40,000 for emergency assistance during the months of December and January. This money is distributed across 12 counties. We are blessed in the City of Rochester with the presence of St. Joseph's House of Hospitality. This provides daily meals for the transient poor and the street poor. Operation Breadbox, which is a diocesan initiative formulated by the Justice and Peace Commission gives 25% of the money it collects to local hunger projects within the diocese. Seventy-five percent is sent to Rural Agrarian Development Projects overseas.

The Office of Human Development has provided organizational skills in drawing together coalitions of people to press for more favorable food stamp legislation. Further, one of their major legislative initiatives is "Job Development Programs" enabling families to feed themselves. Membership in the "Bread for the World" Organization a national legislative initiative is encouraged by the Justice and Peace Commission.

The main problem that is encountered in the area of the hungry is twofold — the first would be identifying the hungry making sure that we are in touch with them and the second, of course, would be the mobilizing of the provisions to respond to their need.

B. Housing

The Diocese of Rochester has eleven rural counties. Many of these are characterized by substandard housing. In Metropolitan Monroe County on the other hand the major problem would be in the Inner City where very old housing stock becomes divided up into apartments, not repaired properly, and in general broken down. The person-to-person response of the Church — urban and rural parishes interact frequently with parishioners who occupy this type of housing. Many times money will be given for fuel or for emergency repairs. However, the cost of these makes this program prohibitive. Parishes do interact with renters and in some of the larger housing projects would organize tenants associations. Projects of this

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