

## From 10A

the retarded and developmentally disabled). We provide chaplains in two State institutions — one in Newark and one in Sonyea.

4. Monroe County Hospital — institution for the indigent (Mostly Elderly) is covered by a Chaplain

5. Approximately 20 other Acute Care Hospitals in the diocese are covered on a parish or a cluster parish basis.

6. Many Nursing Homes and Proprietary Homes are also serviced on a parish or cluster parish basis.

### D. DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH CARE CHAPLAINS

This group guides chaplaincy service for all the Health Care Facilities in the Diocese of Rochester. Further they reflect upon the Medical Moral Practices of these institutions and will interact with the State, County or Appropriate Persons to discuss these oral practices. They are committed to quality services for those who are sick and in institutions.

The Catholic Health Care Council is an association of the Catholic Health Providers to communicate their work, interact with the State and other level institutions, and improve the quality of their services through cooperation.

Office of Human Development would interact with the local Health Systems Agency which is a governmental unit determining what kind of health care will be given. Further, they will work on the initiative of National Health Insurance in a form that will be fair especially for the poor. The Office of Human Development is involved in the Rushville Clinic, a health care facility which provides services especially for farmworkers and the rural poor.

### E. INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE & PEACE COMMISSION

This commission was established at the recommendation of the Diocesan Pastoral Council and the endorsement of the Bishop. It is a commission of approximately 20 priests, sisters and lay people, and two part-time staff persons. They are focused explicitly on international questions in keeping with the call for Justice & Peace Commissions from Rome. They have been in existence for approximately two years and number the following among their major purposes:

1. Administration of the Catholic Relief Services Collection and Clothing Drive.

2. Special Program on Human Rights — to date they have spoken on the question of Rhodesia and South Africa and sponsored a day of prayer for Human Rights in September.

3. They have established a special relationship with the Vicaria de Solidaridad in Santiago, Chile.

4. They sponsor Operation Breadbox which is a parish-family Lenten Program focused upon appropriating the culture of peoples of Latin America, Asia and Africa and through



alms giving contributing money through rural agrarian projects in those three continents. The Justice & Peace Commission would select a specific project and give each family an outline of life in that area, the prayers and religious heritage in that area and some food recipes from that area. Three quarters of the money collected goes to those rural agrarian projects; one quarter remains here to feed the hungry.

### XIII OTHER PASTORAL QUESTIONS

#### 1. Pastoral work with the family:

Two organizations which are affiliates of Catholic Charities focus on family ministry.

A. The Office of Family Life coordinates several areas:

1. Marriage Preparation programs including an Intensive Pre-Cana for teenage marriages.

2. Natural Family Planning which is separately incorporated but maintains a close liaison with the Diocese.

3. Marriage Encounter which is also separately incorporated but maintains a close liaison with the Diocese.

4. Ministry to Separated, Divorced and Remarried Catholics (described below).

5. Marriage & Family Enrichment programs which focuses on family ministry at the parish level. This area also includes workshops, seminars, and liaisons with other family-related agencies in the community.

B. The Catholic Family Center focuses on social services to families in the following general areas, serving over 4000 people each year:

1. Family, marriage and individual counseling.

2. Family Life Enrichment programs

including communication and parenting skills (in close cooperation with the Office of Family Life).

3. Unwed Parent Service for unmarried pregnant women including counseling for unwed fathers.

4. Adoption Service as an authorized child placement agency.

5. Other special programs related to the poor, the elderly, drug addiction and the inner city.

These two organizations employ approximately 35 people with hundreds of volunteers in the field. The Office of Family Life is subsidized primarily by the diocese, while Catholic Family Center is subsidized almost exclusively by the United Community Chest and governmental programs. Funding is a major concern because of the many demands on the limited diocesan funds, as well as the conditions attached to use of public funds.

The most significant successes in these programs are achieved when families are mobilized to serve one another — thus the emphasis on the "volunteer" activity in this ministry.

#### 2. Problems of Divorce

##### 1. Developments in public opinion

Researchers consistently note that public opinion has significantly changed its stance. Many conclude today that divorce, with its accompanying traumatic readjustment phase, may be, not only the best solution to the intolerable marriage, but may be the most appropriate means to continue personal growth and parenting responsibilities. Certainly the social stigmatism attached to the divorced person has significantly lessened. Today people of all faith backgrounds are identifying themselves as divorced persons, and feeling considerably less embarrassment and shame than those of a decade ago.

##### 2. The situation in society of divorced people:

The need for pre-and post-divorce counseling is affirmed by the divorced person him/herself, and by those assisting those in transition. Formerly married seeks appropriate ways to regain self-identity, esteem and confidence individually and interpersonally. Ministry to Divorced and Separated Catholics has expanded throughout the United States and Canada more rapidly than any other church-affiliated ministry of the past five years. Because today's society is couple-oriented, formerly marrieds often times separate themselves from many activities and require situations focusing on their status so that new social behaviors can be reinforced.

##### 3. Irregular marital status

In the past year and a half, marking the length of an initial Ministry to Separated, Divorced and Remarried Catholics, the number of people in irregular marriages who have made inquiries regarding their full participation in the life of the Church has explicitly increased by 400%. As the message of hope and reconciliation reaches them, we in the Diocese of Rochester, have been amazed by their immediate response. The No. 1 concern of those in irregular marriages is reception of Holy Communion. It is significant to state that remarried Catholics have a strong belief in the Church's teaching regarding the permanence of marriage.

##### 4. Reasons for Divorce

The more than 400 research students since 1970 indicate inclusive conclusions, however, there is some consensus regarding general reasons for marital breakdown:

##### 1. Inappropriate expectations of the marital relationship itself.

To 12A