

# COURIER-JOURNAL

## Southern Tier-Auburn Geneva

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### Region Conducts Self-Examination

By MARTIN TOOMBS  
 Southern Tier Editor

Ithaca—The Tompkins-Tioga Regional Assembly elected two delegates to the Diocesan Pastoral Council and three assembly officers, and discussed the impact of Bishop Hogan's Focus for 1977-78, a statement of goals for the diocese, at its spring assembly April 16.

Elected to two-year terms on the Diocesan Pastoral Council were William S. Cyganovich, of Candor, a parishioner of St. Francis, Catatonk, and Lewis Sauerbrey of St. Patrick's, Owego. They will replace Glenna Wickline and Valerie Rynne on the council.

Re-elected by unanimous consent as assembly officers were Dennis Geiser, vice chairman, Ronald Jones, treasurer, and Emilie Stuhlmiller, secretary.

Father Douglas Hoffman, diocesan director of Pastoral Ministry, prefaced the assembly's discussions with remarks on the bishop's focus statement.

Father Hoffman told the delegates that the

1977-78 statement "can be the tasks of a lifetime," and need not be regarded as only useful for one year.

"These are pastoral goals," he noted, explaining that they represent "the bishop acting as shepherd of the diocese."

He emphasized the importance of programs to reach the unchurched, commenting that persons are "invited to think of first, not programs, but people" when considering the problem. He noted findings from a report commissioned by the Glenmary Research Center on the unchurched pointing out specific cases of alienation from religion to illustrate the need for a people-oriented approach.

Concern also is needed for those "whose lives are not treated as sacredly as God would have them treated," he noted. Church people should be aware of the whole range of issues involved with the sacredness of life, he said.

The third goal, building basic, small communities, is meant to emphasize the importance of the

community in which persons live, be it a family, a social group, or a neighborhood, he said. Parishes should work to strengthen these communities, he noted.

The first step, he said, is for parish leadership to educate the parish concerning the problems. Part of that effort should be directed towards prayer, he pointed out. Such total awareness of the problems, he said, will have benefits; "the more space these people find in our hearts," he said, the more they will be truly reached by the actions taken.

The delegates divided into three groups, each to discuss one of the sections. In their reports, the groups listed parish activities that were addressing problems in each area, and suggested new initiatives.

Among suggestions was one by the sacredness of life discussion for a project in Tompkins-Tioga to provide counseling for women with problem pregnancies. Sister Mary Kruckow, Southern Tier Office of



Lucille Keller of St. Francis Solanus, Interlaken, makes a point to the group discussing the unchurched at the Tompkins-Tioga Assembly. Listening are, from left, Valerie Rynne, Cornell Catholic Community; Trudy Morgan; Glenna Wickline, St. Francis, Catatonk; Marion Geiser, St. Margaret Mary, Apalachin, and Father Bernard Carges, pastor of Immaculate Conception.

"Human Development, reported for the group, noted that no such service is now available in the region.

Father Lewis Brown, diocesan director of Religious Education, reported that the small communities discussion found many parish groups that assist small communities, especially the parish family life committee.

"Bring a friend back to church" and other parish

projects were recommended by the group which discussed the unchurched, Glenna Wickline reported. The need to look for reasons why people don't attend church also is important, she said.

Two items of interest to Tompkins-Tioga residents also were announced at the meeting. Father Douglas Hoffman told the delegates that a chapter on the region is included in a book, "New Directions in Rural

Ministry," recently published by Paulist Press.

Sister Mary Kruckow told the delegates that the region also was receiving exposure at a national convention on rural ministry. Father Neil Miller, Southern Tier Office of Human Development, participated in a panel discussion and slide show on activities in the region at the conference in Chicago April 17, she reported.



Photo by Martin Toombs

### Choir Recital

Eight choirs, most of them from Schuyler County, presented a program at St. Mary of the Lake in Watkins Glen. Each choir did individual songs then joined together, above, under the direction of Leo McDermott.

### Regional Elections held

Auburn—The Cayuga-Seneca Regional assembly met April 16 to elect two representatives to the Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) and new regional officers.

Mrs. Rose Reichart, of St. Alphonsus parish here, was elected to a two-year term on the DPC. Jeannette Berrett, from St. Patrick's, Seneca Falls will serve a one year term.

John Williams, of St.

Patrick's, Cato, was elected president of the Cayuga-Seneca Regional Assembly. Mary Ann Ginnerty of St. Mary's, Auburn, vice-president. Mrs. Barbara Arthur, Sacred Heart, was re-elected treasurer. Mrs. Maureen Pachetto, St. Patrick's, Seneca Falls, will serve as secretary.

The topic of the June assembly will focus on the unchurched sacredness of life and support for basic small communities.

### Aging Program

Elmira—"Everybody's Doing It: Aging" is the theme for a special program Sunday, April 30 at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. Sister Juliana O'Hara, director of the Chemung County Office for Aging, will speak at the 10:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. Masses on the problems of the aging.

A coffee hour, slide presentation and a discussion on the aging will follow the two Masses. Interested persons are invited to participate.

## CCGEB Sets Budget, Changes Constitution

By MARTIN TOOMBS  
 Southern Tier Editor

Elmira—The Chemung County General Education Board (CCGEB) has a budget for the coming year and a revamped constitution as a result of action taken at a meeting at Our Lady of Lourdes April 13.

Although \$32,000 higher than this year's spending allotment, the \$596,000 budget calls for no increases in tuition or in the amount assessed to parishes.

Most of the increase appears in the salary and convent maintenance categories; the instructional budget will increase \$16,533, and the convent maintenance budget \$11,323.

The budget approved as presented by Martin Tracy, Finance Committee chairman, calls for parish assessments of \$464,000, the same as for the current year. Application of the system's enrollment and parish income formula to that amount resulted in increased assessments for three parishes, and decreases for the other four. Tuition income is estimated at \$69,000; other sources of income are expected to increase sufficiently to cover the added expenditures.

The constitutional revisions, presented to the

board at the March meeting, also were acted upon. Discussion of a new quorum requirement raised questions concerning the status of St. John the Baptist and St. Charles Borromeo parishes as members of a board. The parishes send some students to the system, but do not participate in the parish assessments. Discussion failed to reach a consensus on the issue, leaving in doubt the total membership of the new board under the constitutional revisions. After a lengthy discussion, the matter was referred to the ad hoc Constitution Committee for further study.

The board approved other amendments, including one concerning membership. Currently the board consists of each pastor, each principal, and two representatives from each parish, for a total of either 25 or 31 members, depending on the status of St. John's and St. Charles. The two parishes have not been sending representatives to the board.

Approved was the recommended amendment calling for one priest to represent the pastors, one sister to represent the principals, and one representative from each parish, for a total membership of either 9, without the two parishes, or 11 with them.

Several other changes were approved, including the addition of specific alternates for each board member, able to attend meetings and vote in the member's absence.

In other action, the CCGEB approved hiring two new principals. Sister Yvonne Blind, SSJ, currently principal of Christ the King, Irondequoit, will become St. Casimir's principal, and Sister Marilyn Reeves, SSJ, a teacher at St. Theodore's, Gates, will be the new St. Mary's principal.

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