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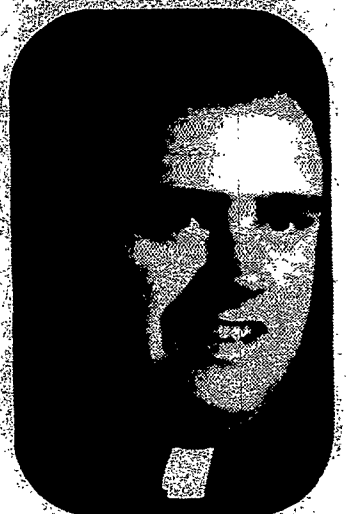
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COURIER-JOURNAL

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Father Latus Appointed Secretary



FATHER LATUS

Father Charles J. Latus has been named secretary to Bishop Joseph L. Hogan.

He will succeed Father Michael F. Conboy whose appointment as pastor of St. Patrick's in Seneca Falls was announced April 19. Father Conboy served as secretary to Bishop Hogan for the more than eight years of his tenure as ordinary of the diocese.

Latus also was director of the diocesan Commission on Ecumenical and Inter-religious Affairs. Before that appointment he was associate pastor at Blessed Sacrament Parish.

Ordained in 1968, Father Latus is a graduate of the diocesan seminaries and attended St. Ambrose Grammar School and Vincentian Institute in Albany.

Father Latus also will be vice chancellor of the diocese.

He will leave his present position as co-pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Parish where he has served with Father William Amann since 1974.

From 1974 to 1976 Father

No date has been set for the appointment to become effective but Father Latus feels it will probably be in the very near future.

"I am really grateful for the time I had at Our Lady of Mercy," he said. The co-pastorate has been a real joy

and parish work will always be uppermost with me. But I also recognize the importance of the new job and the opportunity to serve the Church in a different style. I hope to serve well the bishop, the priests of the diocese and the whole Church.

Plans are still indefinite concerning the ministerial team at our Lady of Mercy.

Bishops Will Launch Family Year Program

Chicago (RNS) — The bishops of the U.S. have designated 1980 as "Family Year" to serve as a focal point for a comprehensive 10-year action plan for family ministry.

member of the Bishops' Ad Hoc Commission on Marriage and Family Life, said that the plan emphasized "giving support and encouragement to lay people, freeing and enabling them to minister to one another."

Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).

By the rejection, the administrative group unanimously voted down authorization for its Ad Hoc Committee on Women in Church and Society to issue a statement in its own name in support of ERA.

The program approved without dissent at the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB) meeting here aims to provide support and services in six areas of family life: pre-marrieds, married couples, parents and their children, families with emotional and/or financial problems, and leadership training for couples and families.

The program designates 1979 as a year of special preparation and planning on the diocesan level leading to the Family Year and a decade of research and development of family ministry programs.

The plan places special emphasis on ministry to Hispanic and black minority families.

At a press conference, Archbishop John R. Roach of Minneapolis-St. Paul said the committee felt it was inappropriate "to support ERA because of a difference of legal opinion on the consequences of ERA with regard to family life and abortion."

The action plan grew principally from recommendations made at the 1976 Call to Action Conference, the culmination of a two-year consultation with grass roots Catholics, where family life emerged as the principal concern.

The bishops also, by a 236-6 vote, endorsed a six-phase action program for social justice, also in response to the Call to Action Conference.

That plan calls for a five-year implementation of programs on education for justice, family life, church as community, economic justice, human rights and world hunger.

In the area of human rights, the bishops are calling for local initiatives to combat racism and sexual discrimination, against women and to support the handicapped and the right to life of the unborn.

According to Auxiliary Bishop J. Francis Stafford of Baltimore, a member of the U.S. Catholic Conference Education Committee, which designed the plan, the family ministry program has two goals: to raise the awareness of the Church in general to the realities and problems now facing married couples and families, and to help families themselves become aware of their special talents and potential for self-help and ministry to others.

Dr. David Thomas, a

Earlier in the week, the bishops' Administrative Committee rejected a statement of support for the

The proposed statement had sought to "decouple" ERA and the abortion issue.

At the same time, however, Archbishop Roach issued a committee statement "reaffirming our support for women's rights and our determination to continue to work for them."

The administrative group also voted to return a draft statement on Rhodesia, South Africa and Namibia to its Committee on Social Developments and World Peace for "further study and work."

The Vatican had apparently expressed reservations about the proposed statement which was to be voted on by the 250 bishops after floor debate.



Springtime!

Photo by Terrance J. Brennan

Smyth Hall towers behind Nazareth College students Martha Hill, Mary Dinan, John Linehan, and Sue Rowley as they take a break from classes to soak up some long-awaited spring sunshine.

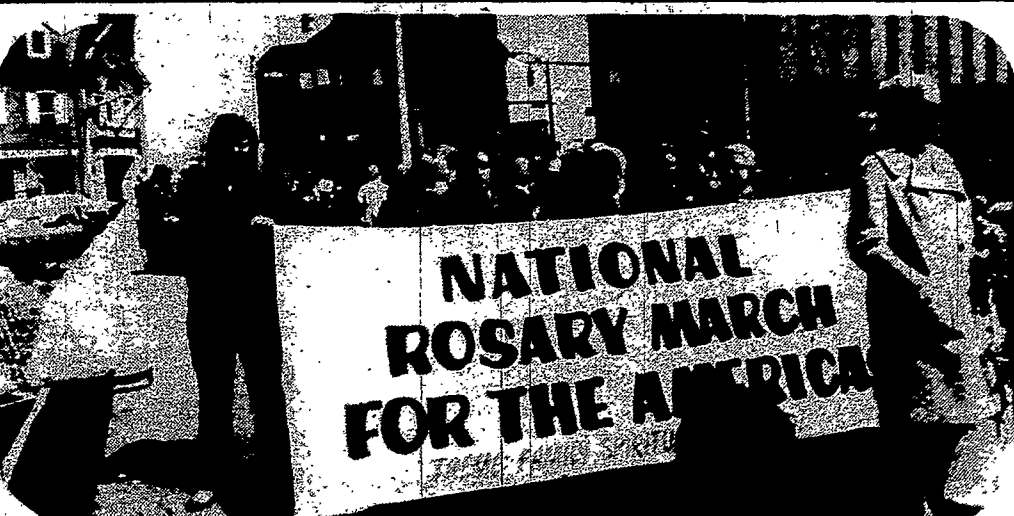


Photo by Susan McKinney

Rosary March

The Rochester segment of the National Rosary March for the Americas took place in downtown Rochester last Sunday. The marchers left the Liberty Pole at 3 p.m. and proceeded along Main Street to Broad, and then to St. Mary's Church where a Holy Hour was held. The theme of the march was Family Spiritual Unity.

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