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Kearney Brother to Be Chairman of DPC

By MARTIN TOOMBS

Brother Brian Walsh, CFC, a teacher at Bishop Kearney High School, was elected chairperson of the Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) at its annual convocation at Becket Hall last weekend.

Brother Brian, serving as an appointed member representing the diocese's religious brothers, is the first religious or ordained person to hold the post, and the first appointed member to be asked to chair the 54-member consultative body.

Elected to serve as vice-chairperson was Hilda Stebbins, Chemung-Schuylers delegate.

Elected to serve on the DPC Executive Committee with them were Marilyn Muench, Northeast Region, Beth Stefano, Tompkins-Tioga,

Sister Barbara Ann Foos, representing diocesan sisters, Thomas Rosica, an appointed member representing youth, and Father John Mulligan, a priests' representative.

Brother Brian noted that his participation in the election was unusual in that he was an appointed member, and that, being the only brother on the council, had been nominated for the position by the sisters on the council. He said later that he was surprised by his election, but would "abide in the Spirit." He also thanked the group for the "fine people you have chosen for me to work with."

Saturday's sessions began with a working breakfast, which featured talks by the diocese's five division directors, who gave members a current insight into diocesan affairs.

Father Gerald Appelby, head of the Special Ministries division, noted that the diocese "has extraordinary strength, extraordinary health," something diocesans should realize. He cited as problems a Church-wide ignorance of various Church ministries, and an "ignorance of faith." Indifference among Catholics and financial concerns also need to be addressed, he noted.

Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, head of personnel, described the priests personnel situation, noting that ordinations are not quite keeping up with deaths and retirements. He noted that the average age of pastors is 56, the average of associates is 39, and all priests in the diocese average 48 years. He added that one quarter

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Photo by Terrance J. Brennan

A special "fisheye" view of Bishop Joseph L. Hogan delivering his keynote address to the Diocesan Pastoral Council Convocation at Becket Hall Friday. Coverage of the event and an article on his address are on page 10.



Photo by Susan McKinney

New Queen

A new queen is crowned by the Puerto Rican community in recognition of the feast day of St. John the Baptist, the patron saint of Puerto Rico. Josefina Quintana is crowned queen by last year's queen Olga Lebron. The festivities which foster a sense of pride and an awareness of culture and heritage in the Spanish community continued the next day with a parade and carnival.

Project Goal: End the Cycle of Abuse

By MARTIN TOOMBS
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira—The battered wife finds herself in particularly bad circumstances — usually having no place to go, and no one to turn to for assistance.

Legal charges against abusing spouses are usually dropped, but then they often require that the arrested persons and the complainants live together while waiting for the case to go to court.

And the way spouse-abuse usually occurs, Walt Briggs, a social worker working with the Salvation Army noted, it is especially difficult for an abuse victim to end the abusing relationship.

The first phase of spouse-abuse, he said, is when tension builds. Then severe beating takes place; it is "almost impossible for any type of intervention" to occur during the assault, he noted.

The third phase is the "tender, loving care situation," usually in a hospital emergency ward, with the batterer filled with "remorse, regret," for what he or she did. Briggs pointed out that while the victim is usually the wife, that is not always the case.

Intervention must occur

during the third phase, Briggs pointed out, but it is difficult to get the couple to realize that, pledges to the contrary notwithstanding, the entire sequence probably will be repeated unless some action is taken to prevent it.

Those spouses who do decide that they must act to end the abuse may find that they are unable to change their situation. Often needing to provide lodging for children as well as themselves, and often without any financial resources of their own, they may have no choice but to continue living with their abusing partner, hoping each time will be, as promised, the last abusing episode.

In September 1977, the Salvation Army began a project to give abused spouses and their children an opportunity to get away from the abusing spouse. Since then, 31 families have received temporary housing at the agency's 414 Lake St. facility, although there has been little publicity.

The lodging provides a secure place for the battered spouse and children to decide how to deal with their problem. Marilyn Rieger, a social worker for Salvation Army heading the program, noted that the agency utilizes other local agencies in

assisting the families, and in finding them a place to live, if necessary. She noted that the assistance to a specific family can last as long as three months, although stays in the facility are usually only a few days.

Briggs, currently a student at Elmira College who is working with the Salvation Army, commented that they have been reluctant to publicize the program because they feel that the "tip of the iceberg has just surfaced," and they are not able to handle the potential number of families involved. He added that no one really knows the problem's full extent, but spouse abuse and child abuse are usually related, and it is known that child abuse is a severe problem in Chemung County.

The Salvation Army currently is working on a proposal to set up a "safe house" separate from their facility that would be able to provide increased services to abusing families. The safe house would provide group counseling as well as housing.

The agency is working with Raymond Fortier, Chemung County Social Services Commissioner, on the proposal, which is being made

under a new government program which will begin in 1979. Capt. Charles R. Butts, Salvation Army commanding officer, noted that the agency hopes to establish the safe house before that time, using local funding to begin an 18-month pilot project.

Safe houses are a comparatively new concept, and

are not available in most areas of the country. They provide secure lodging for families that are scarred physically and psychologically by family violence, and need an opportunity and assistance to rebuild their lives.

The key to the proposal for

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Demonstration Here To Counter Skokie's

Sponsored by the Rochester Jewish Federation and Genesee Ecumenical Ministries, a demonstration will begin at 3 p.m., Sunday, June 25 at the Liberty Pole in downtown Rochester to counter the Nazi march planned that day in Skokie, Ill.

The U.S. Supreme Court voted, 7-2, to deny Skokie's request for a stay against the planned rally in that city thus clearing the way for the Nazi demonstration. Skokie has a largely Jewish population, including many survivors of Nazi brutality during the Holocaust.

Still pending is court consideration of a formal appeal filed by Skokie.

In announcing the Rochester demonstration, the sponsoring organizations said, "This is our way of indicating our support to the people of Skokie and to Holocaust survivors everywhere and to state once and for all that we will never again permit the degradation and massacre of people anywhere because of their race or religion... we will not allow a handful of Nazi psychopaths to distort the values of America."

All are invited to take part in the demonstration.