

The Courier-Journal is publishing this copy of the selection of Bishops questionnaire which is being sent to some 10,000 members of the diocese. We publish it for your information and suggest that you fill it out for your own use, save your copy and compare it with the final results of the questionnaire survey which will be published in January.

SELECTION OF BISHOPS CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Our participation in the selection of episcopal leadership must be set in a context of prayer. Christ himself prayed before choosing the twelve: "Then he went out to the mountain to pray, spending the night in communion with God. At dawn he called his disciples and selected twelve of them to be his apostles..." (Luke 6: 12-13).

In this spirit, a period of prayerful reflection should precede the sharing of insights and vision in the selection of bishops process. We should ask the Lord to fill us with wisdom and insight and to help us rise above our personal viewpoints to consider the good of the entire Diocesan community.

To some it may seem difficult to visualize how the Spirit is going to break through when we are asked to consider 'current evaluation, priorities, personnel, finances, and qualifications', the selection of Bishops Committee feels that we have been challenged by Rome to formulate our vision of Church as actually lived in our Diocese of Rochester.

We are relying on individual and community prayer throughout the Diocese to help us remain sensitive to the urgings of the Spirit in the course of this process.

Persons wishing to make further comments are invited to do so during regional hearings. The hearings will begin in January. Dates and locations will be announced soon in the Courier-Journal.

PART I, NEEDS ASSESSMENT

I. EVALUATION OF THE CURRENT STATE OF THE DIOCESE

From your experience please **WRITE THE NUMBER OF THE ANSWER** you consider the **MOST** appropriate response after each question.

- A. _____ The best way to foster additional church vocations will be by (1) a more concentrated effort on the college campuses and among working people; (2) a more concerted effort by the priests and sisters in the parish; (3) a more concerted effort by parents; (4) the church changing the role of celibacy; (5) developing ministries for lay adults for limited terms; (6) don't know; (7) don't care.
- B. _____ Parish Councils (1) are underdeveloped and need much more emphasis; (2) have become too powerful; (3) are actually window-dressing and have little influence; (4) are progressing quite well and beginning to make a real contribution; (5) are unwieldy and inefficient; (6) don't know; (7) don't care.
- C. _____ The diocesan weekly newspaper the Courier-Journal (1) is a good communication tool but should be better utilized; (2) is currently doing a good job of communicating; (3) is ineffective and should be eliminated; (4) don't know; (5) don't care.
- D. _____ The division of the Diocese into 10 regions during the past five years; (1) has made no difference at all; (2) has helped to get parishes working together; (3) needs much greater emphasis if it is to succeed; (4) don't know; (5) don't care.
- E. _____ The way Mass is celebrated is (1) quite effective; (2) gradually improving; (3) quite poor; (4) don't know; (5) don't care.
- F. _____ The quality of Sunday homilies (1) is generally good; (2) is improving; (3) is in need of serious improvement; (4) is a disaster; (5) don't know; (6) don't care.
- G. _____ The clergy of the Diocese (1) are unprepared to meet what is expected of them at present; (2) are adequately prepared to meet current challenges; (3) spend too much time on administrative duties; (4) don't know; (5) don't care.
- H. _____ The area outside Monroe County (Rochester) in our Diocese (1) is neglected; (2) has too many priests and too many altars for the numbers involved; (3) has its needs adequately met; (4) needs a greater variety of priests and sisters to meet its needs; (5) don't know; (6) don't care.
- I. _____ Today people determine their parish by (1) established parish boundaries; (2) the quality of liturgical celebration; (3) the quality of educational programs offered; (4) the friendliness of staff and parishioners; (5) don't know; (6) don't care.
- J. _____ Participation in decision-making at the parish and diocesan levels is (1) out of control; there is too much meaningless dialogue; (2) is a sham; it means nothing; those in power do what they want anyway; (3) is developing along healthy and constructive lines; (4) don't know; (5) don't care.

II. PRIORITIES

Effective organization demands that our Diocese establish suggested priorities. **CHECK THE FIVE** you feel are most important to God in our Diocese.

- 1. _____ a much greater emphasis on reaching out to those who have not attended church.
- 2. _____ greater emphasis on renewal groups (Cursillo, Marriage Movement, etc.).
- 3. _____ more effective ministry to the divorced, widowed, and single.
- 4. _____ more intensive efforts to meet the needs of the material poor.
- 5. _____ developing closer bonds with the other Christian denominations.
- 6. _____ begin to give more authority to consultative groups (Parish Councils, Diocesan Pastoral Council, Priests' Council, etc.).
- 7. _____ develop a method whereby parishioners are responsible for their own needs.
- 8. _____ help us develop a way to enable women to assume full and equal participation in the church.
- 9. _____ that we have more effective ministry to the senior citizens.
- 10. _____ that we make greater efforts to raise consciousness of social issues.
- 11. _____ that we take steps to promote joyful and spirit-filled liturgy in our Diocese.
- 12. _____ that we develop a more effective ministry to the disabled.
- 13. _____ that greater emphasis be given to programs which encourage faith.

III. PERSONNEL

The Diocese is confronted with a diminishing number of personnel and the increase, but just salaries and benefits limit many of these resources. In light of these personnel restrictions, the Diocese could most appropriately begin to undertake:

- 1. _____ devote more existing personnel to promoting and fostering vocations and lay church vocations.
- 2. _____ merge parishes and parishes staff wherever this seems to be a logical step.
- 3. _____ hire additional personnel where the need is greatest and where they can be most effective.
- 4. _____ recruit clergy from minority groups so that we can minister more effectively to them.
- 5. _____ place much greater emphasis on the utilization of lay people.
- 6. _____ place greater emphasis on the permanent diaconate program.
- 7. _____ develop more team ministries utilizing priests, sisters and lay people.
- 8. _____ decentralize the pastoral office and offer more ministries to the parishes.
- 9. _____ develop greater cooperation among parishes.
- 10. _____ do not focus only on our own needs, but send more people to other areas.
- 11. _____ divide large parishes into smaller groupings, so that they can be more effectively ministered to.
- 12. _____ develop much stronger lay leadership in parishes and diocesan offices.
- 13. _____ emphasize training programs which facilitate more effective ministry.

IV. FUNDING

Parish and diocesan funds are limited. Program expansion or that current programs be curtailed. Listed below are programs which require additional funding. **CHECK UP TO THREE PROGRAMS** which warrant immediate attention.

CHECK UP TO THREE PROGRAMS which warrant immediate attention. **REQUIRE ADDITIONAL FUNDS OR THE REALLOCATION OF EXISTING FUNDS.**

- 1. _____ improve significantly the quality of religious education.
- 2. _____ expand the parochial school system so that more children are educated in the faith.
- 3. _____ develop a comprehensive continuing education program for those who are full-time members of parish staffs.
- 4. _____ improve the Courier-Journal and have it sent into 50% of the homes in the Diocese.
- 5. _____ continue to maintain St. Bernard's Seminary as the center of theological education.
- 6. _____ expand the quality and quantity of services available to the poor.
- 7. _____ increase funding to sustain city schools thus maintaining them in our midst.
- 8. _____ expand our ministry to the high school youth through the Young Men's and Women's Christian Association.
- 9. _____ further develop our sense of mission by sending more people to other areas.
- 10. _____ expand the quality and availability of adult education.
- 11. _____ expand the services and programs offered to families.
- 12. _____ curtail existing programs thus reducing the need for additional funds.