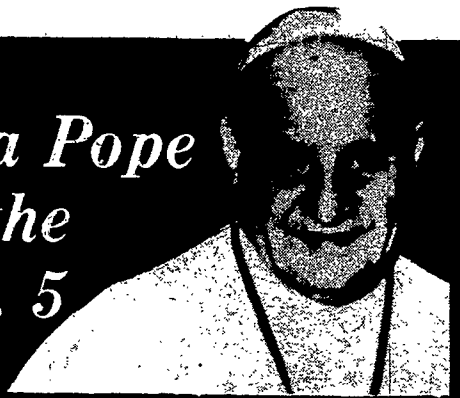


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OUR 96th YEAR

20 Cents



Photo by Susan McKinney

Choose Life

That was the theme of the annual March for Life demonstration in downtown Rochester last Saturday. The Rochester Right to Life Committee stages the march annually to protest the 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion on demand. Hundreds took part as the march proceeded from Washington Square Park to the Liberty Pole where a wreath was laid in memory of the 6 million abortions performed since 1973. Other photo on Page 3.

Bishop Kelly 'To Learn' at CELAM Meet

By JOHN DASH

Bishop Thomas C. Kelly, OP, one of the official U.S. observers to the conference of Latin American bishops this week in Mexico, expects "to learn a great deal."

And, conversely, "We have something to share," he said.

In a telephone interview late last week, the Rochester-born, now Washington, D.C.-based general secretary of both the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the United States Catholic Conference, said that because U.S. capital plays such an important role in the welfare, and the woe, of many Latin American nations, he expects to return to the States with a clearer notion of social justice issues here.

"The Church (of Latin America)," he said, "is so aware that its commitment to the poor is terribly important," that he expects that to be the major thrust of the conference.

Bishop Kelly also is hoping to garner insights into the workings of "comunidades de

base," those small cells of Catholic action that have sprung up all over Latin America and are now appearing, in modified form, in the U.S.

Not every national bishops' conference will send observers, he said; but the gathering of observers should be fairly international.

On reports that the national office of the Women's Ordination Conference (located now in Rochester) will stage a conference in Mexico at the same time as the prelates gather, in the hopes of bringing women's issues to the prelates' deliberations, Bishop Kelly felt assured that "at least individual bishops will meet with the women."

"They may make an ad hoc decision to hear them," he said. "But I don't know the mechanics of that."

On an entirely different issue, Bishop Kelly chuckled and said that while he doesn't know who the next bishop of Rochester will be, "Whoever gets it will have a wonderful, wonderful ministry. He'll be really lucky."

THE PROCESS at the DPC

By MARTIN TOOMBS

Canandaigua — The wish that the new bishop be open to the needs and concerns of the various groups in the diocese was the most commonly expressed concern among the 25 Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) members who spoke at the Selection of Bishop hearing Saturday.

Sister Ann Habershaw, SSND, encompassed the remarks of several speakers when she called for the new bishop to be aware of the needs of small groups. A bishop should be prepared to "attend to the divergent needs of this diocese," she stated.

Diane Blum, an appointed member, stated that she felt the new bishop should be responsive to the needs of women and

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the wishes of women for increased Church involvement. Sister Dorothy Ellen also called for a new bishop who would be "open to the dialogue" about the status of women.

The new bishop should be willing to accept the diocese's Hispanic population, Angel Rivera stated, noting that the group's numbers are growing.

Thomas Costello, Chemung-Schuyler delegate, noted his "deep personal hope" that the new bishop will call priests to a

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... at the Priests Council

By JOHN DASH

The present organization of the Pastoral Office and the current state of affairs at St. Bernard's Seminary are of grave concern to the clergy of the diocese, the Selection of Bishops Committee was told last week.

The occasion was a hearing in the forum of the Priests Council attended by about 35 participants and observers.

Several of the priests publicly averred both their loyalty and the loyalty of their constituents to the next bishop, regardless of who he may be.

On the Pastoral Office, Father Leonard Kelly, representing age bloc one, told the committee his constituents see a need for a "much less complex operation" of the Diocese of Rochester. He described the Pastoral Office as "far too complex," providing many services that are not needed, with too many bureaus and too much expense.

While his sentiment was not universally held at the hearing, Msgr. John Maney of the Yates/Ontario/Wayne Region being the most notable defender of the office, the majority of speakers saw a need for streamlining the Pastoral Office both in terms of personnel and services.

On the question of St. Bernard's Seminary, the priests almost to a man said that they felt the institution was experiencing not just a financial crisis.

Several speakers spoke directly to what they consider inadequate theological training being given candidates for the priesthood.

Father Paul Cuddy, representing age bloc two, stated:

"Almost every member (of age bloc two) expressed himself as uneasy at the program of the seminary, with the relative

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... in the Regions

North

About 20 members of the North Regional Assembly, representing 7 of the 12 parishes in the region, met with the Selection of Bishops Committee Jan. 15 to voice their opinions on what qualities they would like to see in the new bishop.

Four regional members addressed the committee expressing a variety of concerns.

Frank Mockevicius, from St. George Lithuanian Parish, stressed the need for a truly spiritual man and hoped that the individuals who would make the final decision of selecting the bishop would "have the Holy Spirit in their hearts when they make their choice."

Two regional hearings for the Selection of Bishops Committee were postponed by poor weather conditions last week and have been rescheduled for tonight (Wednesday, Jan. 24).

The Northeast Region, Father Foster Rogers, coordinator, will meet at 7:45 p.m. at St. Ambrose's Dailey Hall and the Northwest Region, Father Michael Valente, coordinator, will meet at 7:45 p.m. at Sacred Heart Cathedral Hall.

Ann Messare, representing the regional task force on Women in the Church, said that she hoped the new bishop would "continue the good work started by Bishop Hogan and others" in regard to women's role in the Church.

She said that Bishop Hogan "opened many doors" for women and she would like to see that trend continue.

Elaine Clausen, who is from St. Stanislaus and is a

member of the Diocesan Pastoral Council, felt that the new bishop should strongly support the continuation of Catholic education in the diocese. She said that a Catholic education was very important for both the children and their parents and should be made available for everyone who wants it, not just those who can afford it.

Clausen felt that vocations might increase if Catholic schools were maintained, or even increased in numbers.

James Georger, from St. Salome's, agreed with Clausen on education. He added that the diocese should continue to "reach out to the Divorced and Separated in this diocese." He said that there was a real need for this ministry and hoped it would continue.

Father Robert Smith, pastor of St. Margaret Mary's, Irondequoit, suggested that the regional coordinator might be given more authority and more responsibility and serve as the "bishop's ear" in his region. He added that more effective functioning of the regional system probably would require geographical restructuring of the regions.

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