

Sisters Council Re-elects Its Executive Committee

By John Dash

Meeting for the first official time since the resignation of Bishop Joseph L. Hogan as Bishop of Rochester, the Diocesan Sisters Council (DSC) last Saturday approved a resolution asking all members to remain for an extended term of office.

The council in turn unanimously re-elected all members of its executive committee.

That committee includes Sister Mary Jean Smith, president; Sister Marlene Vigna, vice-president; Sister Francella Quinn, secretary; and Sister Rita Kaufman, secretary-treasurer.

In other action, the DSC



SISTER MARY JEAN

approved a resolution calling for a general convocation of diocesan women religious. It is expected that this con-

vocation will be called in the spring of 1980. The convocation is seen as an "opportunity for the sisters to 'bond' with each other and with our new bishop," Sister Dorothy Ellen said during the discussion on the matter.

The DSC found itself in an unusual position. It held its first meeting of the calendar year. That meeting however was the last meeting of the DSC year; and, once the elections were over, the first meeting of the new DSC year.

In her opening remarks Sister Mary Jean Smith, president, acknowledged the oddity, expressing her pleasure that the council was meeting "in a really critical time — a critical time in the god sense."

Father Illig Broadcasts Set in Area

Father Alvin Illig, the Paulist Priest who is executive director of the National Conference on the Catholic Bishops Committee on Evangelization, may be heard on radio for four weeks beginning July 1.

Father Illig will be heard on the Sacred Heart Program and will deal with evangelization.

Father Illig has said that, in its simplest form, evangelization means,

"willingly accepting Christ into your life, coming to know and love Him, and then simply sharing Him with others. It is the essential work of the Church, what Christians have been doing for 2000 years under many different terms and in many different forms."

The following stations are carrying the program at these times: Auburn, WAUB, Sundays, 7:05a.m.; and

WJMO, Mondays through Saturdays, 5:15 a.m.; Canandaigua, WCJR, Sundays, 8:30 a.m.; Corning, WCLI, Sundays, 10:35 a.m.; and WCEB-FM, Saturdays, 8:05 a.m. and Monday through Friday, 11:55 p.m.; Geneva, WGVA, Sundays, 7 a.m.; Hornell, WLEA, Sundays, 7:30 a.m.; Newark, WACK, Sundays, 7:30 a.m.; Rochester, WBBF, Sundays, 5 a.m.; and WROC, Sundays, 6 to 8 a.m.



Dr. Webb addresses the Pastoral Assistants.

PAs Evaluate Ministries

By John Dash

Pastoral Assistants across the diocese last week gathered at St. Bernard's Seminary to conduct an intensive evaluation of the 10 years of ministry they have provided.

Dr. Katharine Webb, associate professor in the department of counselling education at Brockport, led the gathering through its deliberations.

Dr. Webb, interviewed at the close of the three-day session, said that she found

the women religious to be "very into," their ministries.

The self-evaluation, she said, demonstrated that the pastoral assistants, "were not here for lip-service." Their work, she said, "is very dear to them. They want to be the best they can."

Their ministry, she said, is to them a "pleasure; and they want to be aware of what they are and where they are going."

Details of the self-

evaluation, according to Sister Susan Altpeter, pastoral assistant at Holy Redeemer, have not yet been put into their final form.

Dr. Webb, however, said that the goal of the program was to look at the individual ministry of the pastoral assistant, and to form a redefinition of the collective ministries.

The intensity of the sessions, she said, was such that "They accomplished more than even they had planned."

The Church 1979

By Father Andrew Greeley

A Ridiculous Game

I have argued before in this column that a young person would be ill-advised to write for the so-called "Catholic market" as it presently exists because the low promotion budgets of most Catholic books doom them to the mercies of the reviewers in one or two publications. The reviewers in such journals can be counted on to be a) incompetent, b) patronizing and supercilious and c) more interested in parading their own egos than reporting on the book under review.

So you can work a long time on a book, invest an enormous amount of personal energy and have it shredded by a goon who doesn't know what he's talking about (like the clown from a matrimonial tribunal to whom the National Catholic Reporter turned over a book on sociology and who complained that there were too many tables ...). Young writers can find better things to do with their time than play that game.

I now have documentary evidence of what goes on in the minds of such reviewers, evidence which I think is chilling proof of the mediocrity and amateurism that still haunts the Catholic "intelligentsia." A self-professed "friend" wrote me recently that he had a review

copy of my book, "The Making of the Popes 1978," and that it was "outstanding, fascinating, brilliant." However, he quickly added that he would have to find flaws in it about which to be critical, and "reservations in some respects."

Then the explanation of why he was doing this: "There is no other way to commend your work to a readership (which includes the U.S. Catholic establishment) which is in good part suspicious of you or downright hostile."

I always thought that if asked to review a friend's book you either praise it or refuse the review. But leave that aside as shanty Irish loyalty. Every book has flaws, so if a reviewer wants to find them he can easily do so. But to argue that one must find them in order to ingratiate oneself with readers who will otherwise be hostile to the author is pathetically and intellectually unprofessional. First of all, it won't work, because the hostile readers will fixate on the flaws (and won't read the book anyway). Secondly, and more important, the reviewer's job is to report on the book, not pander to the real or imagined hostilities of his readers. To anticipate the suspicions of the mealy-mouthed flattery of their prejudices is rank amateurism, though it passes for integrity in the Catholic reviewing game.

I'm not sure what will happen to "The Making of the Popes." I have more reservations about its success than does the publisher, despite its being

selected by the Book-of-the-Month Club and excerpted in Playboy (the latter decision over which I had no control, by the way, otherwise it would not have been made). But at least it won't be done in by the goons who review for "America" and The National Catholic Reporter.

This same "friend" reviewing the book for another publication notes that I am the most hated priest in America among fellow priests. I am prepared to concede the point, though I'm not sure on whom it is a reflection. However, it apparently does not occur to him that it is totally irrelevant to the book and to the readers of the secular journal for whom he is writing what my popularity rating is with the clergy.

Here is the core of the problem: In the miasmic world of the remnants of the Catholic intelligentsia, reviewers and book review editors don't think that a book ought to be judged on its own merits or even that a book ought to be reviewed. Rather they see their mission as mandating opinions on the personality of the writer and a review of that personality (real or ink-blot-created). In such a mushy, soft environment, ideas don't matter, persons do. And since the reward system is so limited unless the person happens to be of a fashionable minority or a woman, the person is going to end up being hated.

It's all quite sick and no young writer should expose himself or herself to such sickness. I'm getting out of it and my only regret is that I did not do it long ago.

In the meantime with friends like that, who needs enemies?

An economy with lots of energy turns on jobs for people like Tim Young.

Twenty year old Tim Young is beginning his career as an electronics technician in the lab of Harris RF's new headquarters building in Rochester. Harris, a fast-growing manufacturer of communications and information handling equipment, recruited Tim from Monroe Community College and assigned him to their Electronic Systems Division in Melbourne, Florida.

"But after 4 months, I wanted to return to the Rochester area," says Tim, "so I was really happy when this job came along." Without abundant power, the local economy couldn't grow at a pace to make room for skilled young people like Tim, just entering the job market. Every year, RG&E responds to the needs of local industries like Harris RF with more electricity to make expansion possible.

Harris RF needed additional electrical capacity for their new building, and RG&E invested in additional facilities to deliver it.

The building, which will eventually house about 500 administrative and engineering personnel, also frees space in older buildings for improving and expanding production capabilities to create even more new jobs for the people of this area. It's a story with a happy beginning for Tim Young.

By anticipating and providing for the increased power needs of a growing economy, RG&E is doing its part in keeping the future looking good for us all.

RG&E
Shedding light on some subjects that need it.

