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NACSDC Convention:

Divorced, Separated Movenent Continues to Grow

By Martin Toombs

Diecesans who attended convention of the North merican Conference of Separated and Divorced Catholics (NACSDC) July 13-15 at Notre Dame University report that it was a positive experience that showed the continued growth of the movement throughout North America.

Attending the convention were the diocesan coordinator

of the ministry, Sister Kathleen Kircher, two group members from Monroe County, Mary Ellen Zelei and Robert Cobbett, and two from the Elmira group, Katherin Rampulla and Ann Tobash.

And at the convention, Cobbett was elected to a twoyear term as the state's representative to the North American Conference, and Mrs. Tobash was elected to serve as his alternate.

Cobbett noted that he and Mrs. Tobash intend to share the duties of coordinating state activities and representing the state at NACSDC meetings.

Plans called for 350 persons to attend the convention, Sister Kathleen noted, but the organizers happily scrambled for larger quarters when 525 showed up. Many of the unexpected delegates we from dioceses with little or organization, she noted, and those people will be able spread the ministry in the areas.

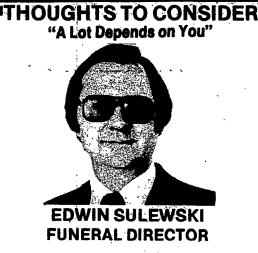
The convention also w the first time the NACSE has had a bishop attend t entire weekend. Bishop Albert H. Ottenweller, bishop of Steubenville, Ohio, also was the keynote speaker.

Cobbett reported that he was "astounded" with the number of people attending this year's convention, and said the convention organizers "put it together beautifully."

Bishop Ottenweller's attendance also was important, he pointed out. "In Rochester we've been spoiled" by the support of Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, Cobbett mentioned. But many other dioceses don't have such support, and they appreciated Bishop Ottenweller's attendance.

Sister Kathleen and Father James Young, the NACSDC chaplain, gave two workshops at the convention, sister noted, one on forming groups, and one on avoiding burn-out of group leaders.

She singled out Father Jack Finnegan's talk on com-passion in the Church and Father Young's talk on



You may have recently suffered the death of your wife or husband and, if most of your friends were other couples, you may find yourself socially isolated now that you are a widow or widower. This is another adjustment you must make to death - and a lot depends on you. You' can continue to have just as many friends and social contacts as you had before - and your relationships can be just as meaningful. You may well find, in fact, that your new friends fill more of your own personal needs than those you shared as a couple.

It is difficult, at first, to seek out new friends - or even to accept friendship when it is offered. But you will be well-rewarded for the effort you make - and as you form new relationships, will soon find your life taking on greater meaning and purpose.

We can furnish suggested reading, and information that can help you in adjustment. Please call.



Will Someone Take on The

On the Right Side

By Father Paul J. Cuddy



