

**NACSDC Convention:**

**Divorced, Separated Movement Continues to Grow**

By Martin Toombs

Diocesan members who attended the convention of the North American Conference of 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 two-year 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 were from dioceses with little or no organization, she noted, and those people will be able to spread the ministry in their areas.

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

Mrs. Tobash and Mrs. Rampulla had breakfast with Bishop Ottenweller one morning during the convention, which Mrs. Rampulla called a highlight of the convention for her. She noted that she was "very impressed with him."

Mrs. Rampulla cited the workshops for praise, especially noting one conducted by Father Kenneth Metz on "Healing of Memories." He "paved the way, and then he prayed with us," she noted; "I don't think anyone in that room went away untouched."

She also praised Sister Paula Ripple's talk on friendship, and a meaningful reconciliation service.

**3 Win Grants From St. Mary's**

Three young women pursuing careers in health have been awarded \$500 scholarships by the Women's Board of St. Mary's Hospital.

The scholarships, presented annually to women who are in some way affiliated with the hospital and who are pursuing health careers, will go to Elba Bonnes of Spencerport, Marie Lynd of Penfield, and Kathryn Anne Feldman of Pittsford.

Ms. Bonnes, a secretary

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 compassion in the Church and Father Young's talk on singleness for praise.

Father Finnegan, a canon lawyer from Boston, noted that since Vatican II, the Church's compassion is "returning from exile," and has now been extended to the divorced.

Father Young explained that he now sees as a major function of the divorced and separated groups helping divorced persons to live single lives. He said that establishing a celibate, single life after divorce is important for a person to recover from the trauma of divorce. When the divorced person achieves autonomy as a single person, he explained, he or she is then better able to decide whether or not to remarry.

with Family Health Associates, attends Monroe Community College and is studying to become a nurse.

Ms. Lynd, whose mother Mrs. T. Murray Lynd is a Seton member, will study to become a physician at the University of Rochester.

Ms. Feldman, whose mother Mrs. William Feldman is a Seton member, is a student at D'Youville College where she is studying to become a nurse.

**On the Right Side**

By Father Paul J. Cuddy

**Will Someone Take on The Radio Apostolate?**

A letter to Father Lewis Brown, Religious Education director:

It is rare that coordination synchronizes as well as it did on a recent June day. Before



heading for Hornell to do taping for our Legion of Mary radio program, Magnify the Lord, I tidied up the office and sent out the latest Abp. Sheen — Seven Burdens of Life. Have you heard it? Very good. Send me a check for \$24.50 and I will fire off a set to you. Then off to Becket Hall where a priests retreat was on. Had lunch there with Fr. Dick Tormey. He has been sharing our Magnify the Lord talks with Father Pat O'Malley and me. He is superlative. I suggested that he take over the program, working with Kevin Doran, our program director. For years Fr. T. was the diocesan radio man for Rochester WHAM. He has lost none of his verve and nerve, and he has an excellent voice which is inspiring on the radio.

Did you know that our program is broadcast from Corning, Newark, Auburn, Dundee, Seneca Falls, Hornell; also from Halletsburg, Ky., and Dubuque, Ia. Dubuque is 85 percent Catholic and we get more response by mail from there than from anywhere else. K.D. and wife Mary Margaret Gibbs took me to the Ponce for dinner: Cornish hen stuffed with wild rice. They are in accord with Father Tormey's involvement in communications. He is fertile with ideas as well as experience in the communications field.

Earlier I had phoned Fr. Walt Carron in Geneseo. "I want to go to the Piffard Trappists early in the morning. Could I stay with you over night?" (Piffard is only two miles from Geneseo.) "Welcome. When can I expect you?" "About 10:30 p.m." At eight in the morning my feet were under the breakfast table as tiny Vivian Clinton set a cook's

classic: toasted Monks bread, two poached eggs, jam and a pot of coffee. At 8:30, Trappist Father Ambrose welcomed me to the Abbey.

My soul exults in the liturgy of the Trappists, though I harbor a grudge against them because the only Latin they use is the Salve Regina at Sunday vespers. This, despite Rome's Instruction on Music in the Liturgy. Have you read it? "Pastors of souls should take care that besides the vernacular the faithful may also be able to say or sing together in Latin those parts of the Ordinary of the Mass which pertain to them..." (Const. on Liturgy: art. 54). The Piffard community has just published a booklet, mostly pictures of monks. It pictures monks at prayer, in the bakery, on the fields, at chapter, etc. A fortyish priest chuckled: "There isn't a smile on a monk in the whole booklet." It does give the impression that there is little joy at Piffard, which is far from the fact...

I left the Abbey and got back to Webster by 10:30 a.m., just in time to celebrate Mass at our local Maplewood Nursing Home. In the afternoon mail was a paper from Father Peter Bayer, our diocesan computer man, who sent me statistics I had requested. They pertain to our diocesan priests, and would interest most diocesans. Retired priests, 66; retired at St. Ann's Home and Infirmary, 16; living in rectories or in their own homes, 50; retired but doing active work, 31. Average yearly deaths, 6; average yearly ordinations, 6; number of active priests in the diocese, 302. I suppose with Fathers Newcomb, Feeney and Msgr. Cuffney retired, that will make 299 priests on active duty, and 69 retired.

Like John the Baptist, I wish to decrease in this Radio Apostolate and have you and Father Tormey and whoever else can and will, to increase: to organize, promote and strengthen the communicating of the Word. Bishop Clark has a special talent. Perhaps you could enlist his interest.

**Mercy Chapter To Be Resumed**

The Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy of the Rochester Diocese will resume general chapter sessions Aug. 1-11. Previous sessions were held in March and May.

The August sessions will concern the vows of poverty and celibacy. In addition to the general assemblies, there will be small group discussions and convent gatherings.

"The overall focus of this 1979 Chapter of Affairs is the spiritual renewal of religious vocation through in-depth renewed understandings and practice of the four vows of poverty, celibacy, obedience and service," according to a release from the Motherhouse.

**THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER**  
"A Lot Depends on You"



**EDWIN SULEWSKI**  
FUNERAL DIRECTOR

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.

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