

# Newsmen, Bishops Exchange Views

More than 120 representatives of the Catholic press gathered in Rochester last week for the Catholic Press Association East-Midwest Regional Convention. The meeting was hosted by the Courier-Journal. A highlight of the meeting was a discussion the journalists had with a panel of five bishops, the first such discussion in memory for the CPA. As one observer noted of the meeting, "I certainly hope such a discussion will become a standard feature of all our conventions, both regional and national."



Photos by Terrance J. Brennan

Bishop Clark gives reply to a question from the floor.



Joan M. Smith, Courier-Journal Raparound editor, drew a large audience for her session on youth coverage.



Roger Gorman, editor of the Daily Record of Rochester, presented the editorial side as part of a production panel chaired by Gary Ayers, production manager of the Courier-Journal.



Dr. Mario Garcia of the Newhouse School of Public Communications, Syracuse University, speaks on newspaper graphics.

## Catholic Press

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of Syracuse bluntly stated that "the Catholic press is very necessary," and that the medium is needed to "overcome an excessive parochialism" in many dioceses. He said that he views the press as the instrument "to get the story out that changes are coming."

Bishop Howard Hubbard of Albany cited six functions of the Catholic press to stress his conviction that "100 percent coverage" should be a policy of each diocese toward its paper. In effect, such a policy means that each Catholic home subscribes to the local Catholic paper. The functions he sees the Catholic press performing are in the areas of adult education, interpretation of the life of the Church, powerful advocacy for the Catholic position in public debate, public relations, communication and dialogue and intercommunication. He said that the Catholic press is a "vital and indispensable arm of the Church's teaching mission."

Rochester's Bishop Matthew H. Clark cited his own experience of being introduced to the diocese through the Courier-

Journal, and he too endorsed the idea of "100 percent coverage." Bishop Clark, however, rather than describe what he sees as the function of the Catholic press, raised questions he hoped the journalists would ponder. The first of those questions was "How best to collaborate in the face of a diversity of opinion and theological stance? How do you deal with questions which no longer allow for a stance other than the official position?" He directly cited the question of ordination of women to the priesthood. "Do we continue or discontinue dialogue on this?" he asked. "How best do we cope with that problem?"

In that session, the majority of journalists asked the bishops for greater and more vocal support of their efforts. A question was raised whether it would be possible for the national bishops' assemblies to endorse, through a pastoral letter, the work of the Catholic press.

With his customary wit, Bishop Gaughan replied that pastoral letters are not generally viewed as effective means to express the bishops' sentiments. "Even we don't know what the heck we've said," he joked.



Bishop Norbert Gaughan of Greensburg, Pa., who was the principal speaker at the annual dinner meeting.