



Special
Report

The Divisions

The Bishop's Office



Photo by Terrance Brennan

Kay Jeffery and Father Charles Latus of the bishop's administrative staff.

Administration

The Bishop's administrative team plays a critical role in assisting the Bishop with the countless details involved in serving as Pastor to some 400,000 Catholics in these 12 counties.

A priest and lay secretary work with Bishop Clark to coordinate his correspondence and calendar. The work includes arranging a year-long Confirmation Program, making all meeting arrangements for the Bishop, typing, and maintaining complete files and official diocesan records. The Bishop's Office responds to hundreds of written and telephoned requests each week.

The priest secretary serves as information officer, the Bishop's contact with the news media. In addition, he prepares and directs all sacramental celebrations over which the Bishop presides.

The Bishop's Administration also provides the living needs of Bishop Clark and both of the retired bishops.

The function of his team is to serve as a channel of communication and to free the Bishop as much as possible for direct pastoral presence in parishes and institutions throughout the diocese.

Total Income -0-

Total Expenses \$128,263

The Tribunal

The Tribunal is the Church's Law Court, part of the government of the diocese. It is responsible directly to the Bishop.

Jesus said, "What God has joined, let no man put asunder." In these days when divorce is so common, and when the Holy Father is restating clearly the Church's teaching on the indissolubility of marriage, the Tribunal serves a necessary function. It is the Tribunal's task to examine marriages that have failed to determine whether the relationship was indeed marriage as understood by the Church.

It is commonly recognized by Tribunals around the world that many people who entered marriage in good faith and attempted to live marriage for many years were in reality not able to begin to live out the intimate partnership of life and love that Vatican Council II described as marriage. When this is the case, the

Tribunal declares with authority that the partners are free to enter marriage since the previous marriage is recognized as invalid.

The number of cases processed in the United States has increased rapidly since more efficient procedures were granted by Rome to U.S. Tribunals, and since a new understanding of marriage was given by the Fathers of the Vatican Council.

Education is a very important function of the Tribunal. The staff spends a great deal of time in speaking with groups of priests and pastoral assistants, as well as with individual priests, sisters, deacons and

Pastoral Ministry

The function of this office is to bring about shared responsibility in the diocese. Over the past year, office staff and volunteers have provided a diocesan-wide Parish Council Congress, 20 orientation sessions and 17 planning workshops, offering parish councils opportunities to learn about their mission, to plan for the parish and to deal with difficulties and conflicts that arise when responsibilities are shared.

Also during the past year, diocesan regions have been studied for their strengths and weaknesses, and renewal of these structures has been begun. Ten regional coordinators — priests — have been working with the Pastoral Ministry office on increasing the pastoral effectiveness of these groupings. Approximately 15 percent of the office budget is returned to the regions for their expenses.

The office provides staff for the Diocesan Pastoral Council. An executive secretary coordinates bi-monthly meetings, the annual Convocation and the processing of reports, proposals and minutes, with the assistance of the office secretary.

The Priests' Council and the Diocesan Sisters' Council also receive supportive services, including administration of their budgets and processing and distribution of their proposals, minutes, etc.

The office, directed by a priest, is a central point for the reception and dissemination of news from the various levels of "shared responsibility" — parishes, regions, consultative bodies, Pastoral Center Divisions. The director's role is that of liaison among the groups, and counsel to them and to the Ordinary on ways of promoting open accountability.

Total Income \$3,628

Total Expense \$60,789

others involved in the care of souls. They have addressed Divorced and Separated Groups, also. Marriage preparation talks have been an important part of the work in the past year.

The Tribunal charges a fee for its services, but anyone who is unable to pay is excused from the fee. Money collected does not cover expenses, but the Tribunal has remained within budget limits in both projected income and expenses.

Total Income \$54,398

Total Operating Expense \$65,601

Urban Ministry

The Bishop's special concern for urban problems is expressed through the Urban Ministry office and its director. During the year they have coordinated several projects, described in part below.

Money has been allocated to 15 of 28 city parishes for ministry to Blacks and Hispanics, for youth ministry, religious education, school support and personnel enrichment.

St. Augustine's and St. Monica's parishes are working together on youth ministry and religious education.

In a regional effort, nine parishes and interested individuals are helping St. Bridget's with needed repairs to the church building. The following Southeast Region churches gave money: Blessed Sacrament, Good Shepherd, Guardian Angels, Queen of Peace, St. Boniface, St. John the Evangelist, St. Joseph, St. Louis and the Monroe Community Hospital Catholic community. The people of St. Bridget's held money-raisers that produced nearly \$1,000.

(An Urban Ministry report notes also that there is "a concerted effort by Urban Parish Staff, neighborhood groups and agencies to respond to the proposed plan for a Multipurpose Center for delivery of human care services" — a proposal resulting from a study made by Monroe County, Rochester and the United Community Chest.)

Total Income -0-

Total Expense \$162,836

Next Week: Division of Social Ministry

REG
29.95

1.95

L UNIT
11.95

- De-
is lost
5 yr.

DT
ONING
RD. N.
0
gency