

DPC Budget Matters Hold Spotlight

By Martin Toombs

Waterloo — The Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) spent the greater part of its meeting Saturday working on a guidance letter to be used in preparing the diocesan budget for the next fiscal year.

The letter, prepared by the Ministerial Review Committee, received nearly three hours of discussion.

Also during the meeting, Bishop Matthew H. Clark thanked the council for the proposals on women in the Church and evangelization approved in November and sent to him. He told the members he was looking closely at them, preparing his response.

He also asked for members' prayers for the meetings he has scheduled with the diocese's priests next month. He explained that half the diocese's priests will assemble at Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua the afternoon of

Feb. 13, and stay for a day, and the other half will be there beginning Feb. 14.

The meetings are the "fruits of meetings I had with the priests during the summer," Bishop Clark said, when he listened to the priests. Now, he said, he'll be sharing "from my part on pastoral initiatives we may take."

The MRC's guidance letter included budget information on the current and past fiscal year, and comments on the diocesan departments' performance based on reports made to the committee. Committee chairman Richard Wardell noted that the committee is charged with examining ministry, and not just budgets.

The DPC members asked for clarifications on several items in the 15-page document, and discussed the problems caused the committee by department reports that were missing or too vague to be useful.

Wardell discounted the concern of some members on the problem, noting that it was a new process, and it would take time for everyone to realize the importance of what was being asked.

In the guidance letter, the MRC raised questions on the expenditures in some departments. One such comment was on the financial return from the Stewardship program. Father James Marvin, St. Ambrose, Rochester, pastor, responded that at least in his parish the program has been a financial success, reporting an increase of \$2,000 a week in collections over a three-year period through the program.

The last three pages of the letter included the committee's recommendations, and the DPC approved several wording

changes in that section.

The 23 recommendations concerned department operation, and such items as the continuing deficit operation of the Fund Development office, and the difficulty the Office of Human Development has had hiring a director.

Council members spent the most time debating a statement on the Education Division calling for a clear policy "for General Education in regard to the paper 'The State of the Schools' presented in July by Sister Roberta to Bishop Clark."

Members debated whether the council should approve a recommendation concerning a paper they hadn't seen. First a motion to delete the recommendation from the letter, and then two wording changes, were defeated. Father John Mulligan, expressing the view that they would be unable to approve a wording, moved to table the recommendation, which was approved 21 to 7 with 4 abstentions. Discussion continued concerning the effect of tabling, and then a motion to take it off the table was made and also defeated, 23 to 9 with 4 abstentions.

The discussion indicated support for a policy statement concerning the diocese's schools, but none of the proposed wordings was able to gain majority support.

The motion approving the entire guidance letter as amended was then approved 34 to 1 with 3 abstentions.

In other action, the council heard reports from its committees, from the other consultative bodies, on the activities in the regions and in the groups represented by the appointed members.

Council Discusses Pastors, Vocations

By Michael Groden

The diocesan Priests Council heard reports last week on the most recent Priests Council of New York (PCNY) meeting and adopted a resolution which provides for the Priests Spirituality Committee to be joined with the Priestly Life and Ministry Committee.

Father Louis Hohman, council president, reported on a presentation given by Father Philip Murnion of New York City at the January meeting of the PCNY. Father Murnion conducted a study, sponsored by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB), involving over 300 parishes throughout the United States.

The purpose of the study was to find out what needs today's parishes have as well as what changes could be made to improve parish operation, Father Hohman

said.

The study also included a parish survey and the results strongly suggested that the success or failure of a parish depend primarily on the pastor.

Father Hohman said the survey showed that in spite of the increased sharing of responsibilities in the modern parish the effectiveness of the pastor still determines how the parish operates.

When a parish succeeds, the report showed, the pastor was strong in leadership qualities which included the ability to set parish goals and have staff work toward them; the ability to solve disputes within the parish; the ability to delegate authority effectively and the ability to communicate with parishioners and staff.

During the afternoon session council members

heard a brief introduction of Engaged Encounter given by Father Leo Klem, CSB. Father Klem, briefly outlined the program to council members and urged them to recommend the program to couples planning marriage.

Bishop Matthew Clark also addressed the council in the afternoon and shared an open forum with council members after his remarks.

Bishop Clark described his meeting with Bishop Rafael Garcia y Gonzalez, bishop of the diocese of Tabasco, Mexico. Bishop Clark described the meeting as very cordial. He brought Bishop Garcia's "greetings and love to the priests of the Rochester diocese."

The bishop also said that the possibility of a priest

exchange between the two dioceses was discussed and told the council he would keep that in mind.

The Rochester diocese has supplied personnel and funding to Tabasco through the annual Operation Breadbox program.

The bishop also addressed himself to vocations. He said that re-establishing the position of Vocations Director for the diocese "is always on his mind," and that perhaps "we should move in that direction."

The bishop ended his remarks by asking the priests

to think of ways to communicate the need for more vocations, both to the priesthood and religious life,

to their young parishioners.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Feb. 5.

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Ivory Statuette

This early 14th century ivory sculpture of Mary, enhanced with a dark brown patina, has been purchased by the Metropolitan Museum of Art and will be exhibited in the Late Gothic Hall at The Cloisters in New York, the museum's branch for medieval art. The new ivory is the finest of a few surviving English Gothic statuettes of Mary.

CDA Sponsors Essay Contest

New York (RNS) — The best essay dealing with unknown or little known local Roman Catholic history will win a \$1,000 prize offered by the Catholic Daughters of Americas. The author of the winning essay will receive the award at the CDA's 38th biennial convention in Baltimore during July.

Manuscripts must not be less than 1,000 words or more than 5,000. The contest is open to clergy, religious, lay persons, members and non-members of the CDA.

Rules may be obtained from Mrs. Lila Dilis, 2309 Huntleigh Drive, Oklahoma City, Okla., 73210. Manuscripts must be sent to Mrs. Dilis by April 1.

90 Will Help

Seneca Falls — Father Michael Conboy, pastor of St. Patrick's Church, reporting on a meeting for the area's Southeast Asian Refugee Resettlement Program, said this week that "By meeting's end, nearly 90 people had committed themselves to the project and the many different aspects of it." He also stated, "There was a very open and honest conversation about the many problems we will be faced with and the people responded with a very positive attitude."

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