

# DSC Revises Communication Process

By John Dash

Communications, both internal and with constituents not present at meetings, was the chief concern of the Diocesan Sisters Council, in session last Saturday at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

The council agreed on definitions of three different fora, to be established within council sessions, in which sisters may voice their concerns. The sisters also agreed on a method for council representatives to disseminate information, and to get in-

formation back from constituents.

On the latter, Sister Ruth Agnes Kesselring opined that the method would likely cause a thorough evaluation of the role of the representative. Sister Mary Jean Smith seconded the opinion, saying that she foresees such an evaluation in later council meetings.

On the first, the sisters agreed to incorporate into each agenda an open forum, a forum for reaction to agenda items and a forum with the bishop.

The open forum, which will begin each session, will give the opportunity for both council members and observers to identify some concern not expressed on the agenda. Speakers at the forum are limited to two minutes.

With prior notice given the president of the council, observers also will have a forum to address agenda items at the time they are discussed by council members.

In the third forum, with the bishop, observers also are welcome to express their views.

The method for communicating with constituents was devised by Sisters Anne Urquhart, John Bosco, Marie Clare, Joseph Gilmory and Doretta Rhoads. Basically, it involves identifying specific groups of women religious with their representative. The representative is commissioned to bring certain items to the constituents, and is in turn expected to return to council meetings with

constituents' views.

The first item to go through the new communications set-up will be the question of supporting the boycott of products made by the J.P. Stevens Co. The boycott is meant as a demonstration of agreement that the workers in Stevens plants have a right to better their working conditions through unionization.

As yet the DSC has taken no formal action on the proposal, although it has heard presentations on the subject.

Finally, after months of deliberation and re-write, the sisters unanimously agreed on a draft of the by-laws to their constitution. That draft will become council legislation in September.

Among other agenda items, the sisters heard a report on the New York State Catholic Committee's public policy committee, and had a forum with Bishop Matthew H. Clark.

## Dutch Bishops

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trary, the course of the debates points to a really candid exposition by all hands. One local observer said, "Don't say the Dutch bishops caved in... just say that it was an idea whose time had come." If the synod decisions stick, the gathering will be correctly hailed as the most brilliantly successful case of collegiality since Vatican II.

It is too soon to know just what reaction the Dutch Catholics will give to this new situation. After 15 years of "horizontalism," it will be hard to return to the old "verticalism." Among the most discomfited are the small group of all-out experimentalists. They received special attention at the synod. "About the critical groups" — so runs the synodal declaration — "the members of the synod, not overlooking that these number in their midst priests and religious, note that these circles exercise sometimes too much pressure on the life of the church."

The bishops, it added, intend to keep contact with these groups in the hope of playing a moderating role and to keep informed at first hand. But they blew the whistle on aggressiveness in these terms: "They (the bishops) likewise intend to denounce their departures from the faith and discipline of the church, so that true communion be made manifest."

## MacNutt Asks to Be Laicized

Chicago (RNS) — Father Francis S. MacNutt, OP, a leading faith healer within the Catholic charismatic movement, is seeking to leave the priesthood to marry.

Reports that the 54-year-old Dominican priest, who has conducted healing services all over the world, took preliminary steps to leave were confirmed by Peter Foote, spokesman for the Chicago archdiocese.

"At the moment the

situation is one in which his superiors hope to persuade him to remain in the priesthood," Foote said.

The whereabouts of Father MacNutt were not known.

## CDA Meets

The Catholic Daughters of America Court Our Lady of the Cenacle will hold its monthly meeting at St. Philip Neri hall on Clifford Avenue, beginning at 8 p.m. on Feb. 19.



## Catholic Veterans

Ralph Edwards, past county commander of the Catholic War Veterans of Monroe County, left, and John Eletto, second vice commander of the New York Department, right, present Sam Colantoni a plaque honoring him as Catholic War Veteran of the Year. The event took place at a banquet honoring outgoing officers of the group. Colantoni also was elected county commander for 1980.

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