

DSC Hears Chairman Of Bishops Advisory Unit

By John Dash

The Diocesan Sisters Council last week got a glimpse at the workings of a unique body in the plethora of committees and councils in the two national organizations of U.S. bishops. That body is the U.S. Bishops Advisory Council, an organization which can lay claim to being the voice for the sensibilities of American Catholics across the board.

John Crowe, a Rochester attorney and chairman of the advisory council, told the sisters that the council is an outgrowth of a desire by Cardinal John Dearden to establish a national pastoral council, much on the order of diocesan pastoral councils.

The diversity of the American Catholic experience, however, made that dream impossible, Crowe said. But the idea does live on in the advisory council, a 60-member body of laity, religious, clerics and bishops, whose task is to deliberate on the agendas of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the United States Catholic Conference, and to advise the executive committees of those groups on the sentiments of the American people.

"It's a tremendous privilege for me to be there," Crowe exclaimed.

Crowe was introduced to the sisters by Sister Marlene Vigna, who described him as being "concerned with

changing the 'model' of the Church."

Crowe agreed with the description, acknowledged that "the Church is not a democracy," and expressed his enthusiasm for the stress on shared responsibility and collegiality which sprang from the Second Vatican Council.

He outlined for the sisters a brief history of attempts to organize the U.S. bishops, beginning with charitable work projects in World War I down through the present structure of the USCC and the NCCB.

He described the difference between the two bodies. "The USCC is social in nature and the NCCB is ecclesial in nature," he said. Such national organizations were called for by the Second Vatican Council, he said, and denote a departure from an earlier style of ecclesiastical structure in which the individual bishop was responsible to the Holy Father, alone for government of a diocese.

The advisory council, he said, deliberates in secret. The press is not admitted and the members are forbidden from discussing items on their agenda.

The reason for the secrecy, he said, is principally because "we know what the bishops will be talking about even before they do." Another reason for the quiet is that advice given on certain items

may not be taken by the bishops.

Crowe said, however, that the Detroit Call to Action of a few years ago, was in large measure a result of advisory council work, and the recent publication of "Thrust in Lay Ministry" was a project of the advisory council.

The sisters' social concerns committee will send a letter to the six bishops in southern states who recently issued a statement defending the rights of workers in J.P. Stevens textile mills to organize in unions. The sisters' letter will indicate council "approval and support" of the bishops' action.

The council, by a unanimous vote, will add its name to an advertisement supporting a boycott of Nestle products. The sisters also agreed to donate \$25 from their treasury to defray costs of the ad.

The sisters heard a report from the Intercongregational Council on the development of a crisis center for women religious under stress. According to Sister Marie Therese Alaimo, Sister Mollie Brown, a psychologist, will spearhead the effort to establish Spirit House in Rochester. The intercongregational council hopes that the center will be operative by January 1981, Sister Marie Therese said.

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

Irreverence Diminishes Our Values

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Jn. 21:1-19. (R1) Acts 5:27-32, 40-41. (R2) Rv. 5:11-14.

In Vienna there is a museum in which there is a piano. It is said to have been Beethoven's. A young girl touring the museum quickly ran over and started playing a few bars of rock on that piano. Then she turned to the surprised attendant and asked, "What have other pianists thought of this instrument?"

The attendant informed her that Paderewski had looked over the piano once.

"Oh," effused the girl, "he must have played something beautiful on it."

"On the contrary," said the attendant, "Mr. Paderewski did not feel worthy of even touching it."

Today, society's Richter scale would register a strong reading of irreverence. Once America was a land of respect and reverence. It seems we have lost this

Catherine of Siena Talks Set

Sister Kathleen Keating, SSI, will talk on St. Catherine of Siena and Church Women of Today, at Nazareth College on Wednesday, April 30, starting at 7:30 p.m. Sister Kathleen is a past president of the National Association of Women Religious and is now president of the Sisters of St.

precious gift of our forefathers. For decades now, highly paid, best-selling writers have been chipping away at the foundations of society. Nothing seems sacred to the writer or the playwright — marriage, the child, parenthood, the Church, even God. One of the latest witless attempts at irreverence was the movie "Life of Brian." The movie and the response to it — adolescent-minded of all ages flocked to it — is one more evidence of the wild growth of sacrilege, blasphemy, cynicism and profanation.

That is why I think it is a happy fact that the Book of Revelation happens to be the second reading for this Easter season. When one cuts through the symbolism of the book and decodes it, he cannot but be struck by two things: the strong images of Christ and the reverence accorded Him by the saints and angels in heaven.

With unabashed awe, John records a vision of Jesus Christ and the reverence accorded Him by the countless hosts of heaven. Tens of thousands cried out: "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to

Joseph, Holyoke, Mass.

The speech is co-sponsored by the Rochester Regional Task Force on Women in the Church, Campus Ministry and Nazareth College. Donations will be accepted at the door.

Relaxation Workshop Offered

Elmira — Relaxation techniques will be the subject of a workshop sponsored by the Divorced, Separated and Widowed Ministry Saturday, April 19 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Patrick's School. Robert Cobbett of Webster, who is a member of the Webster divorced, separated group, and is the state delegate to the North American Conference of Separated and Divorced Catholics, will lead the session.

Organizers wish to point out the change from the usual meeting night. Separated, divorced, or widowed persons

of all faiths are invited. Participants are asked to wear comfortable clothing.

receive... honor and glory and praise."

How tragic this loss of a sense of reverence for God, His Son, His Church, religion and the great Christian values! Who is the loser but ourselves? God does not need our respect but we need to be people of respect for our own sakes. As a fence protects a field from passersby, so reverence shields the values that make life-worth living.

The first petition in the Lord's Prayer is "Hallowed be thy name." Jesus taught us to pray for reverence before we pray for daily bread, the coming of the Kingdom or the forgiveness of sin — for peace on earth depends on glory to God in the highest.

The one who condemns religion by profane writing or language has generally nothing to say or little imagination, to say the least. Such a one assumes there is nothing in the universe he cannot understand or control if need be.

Strong persons may err in being willful. But the irreverent person errs by not catching the significance of the only things in life which have any significance.

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Sister Michael Named Director Of Federation

Rochester's Sister Michael Lappetito has been installed as the executive director of the Federation of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. Sister Michael succeeds Sister Mary Silverius Shields of Bethesda, Md.

The Federation is the organization of the major superiors of all the congregations and provinces of the Sisters of Mercy in the new world. In the U.S. alone there are more than 10,000 Sisters of Mercy.

As executive director, Sister Michael will implement decisions of the federation's

executive committee. Her major responsibility will be to coordinate the Justice Desk, recently established by the federation, to obtain a three-year commitment by all congregations of Sisters of Mercy to research and act on an issue of justice.

She also is charged with overseeing the annual three-week live-in program for Mercy novices.

When she begins her work, in June, Sister Michael will move from her present station at St. Andrew's Parish.



SISTER MICHAEL

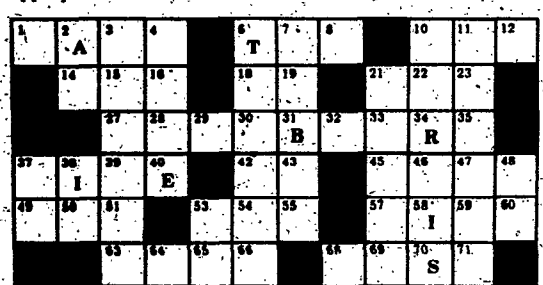
Sister Michael is presently completing work on a masters degree in Social Ethics/Pastoral Ministry at Rochester Colgate Divinity School.

Sunday Scripture Quiz

I. Gospel Reading:

John 21:1-19 — Peter, do you love me? Yes, Lord. Feed my lambs.

Below is a key passage from Sunday's Gospel reading. You can determine what this passage is by finding the answers to the questions below the puzzle and then putting the letters in their appropriate box. The first one is done for you.



- Jesus was here: T I B E R I A S
6 58 31 40 34 38 2 70
- Live in water: 63 47 27 42
- Belief: 68 29 64 4 22
- Body well-being: 71 11 49 60 18 7
- Found on beaches: 45 33 65 39
- Used with rowboat: 54 46 30 37

Based on scripture readings for Sunday, April 20, 1980, C Cycle.

Following are key passages from Sunday's scripture readings. Fill in the missing words.

II. First Reading:

Acts 5:27-32, 40-41 — Peter is now brave enough to stand up for Christ.

Phrase: To this, _____ and the _____ replied: "Better for us to _____ God than _____! The God of our _____ has raised up _____ whom you put to _____ hanging him on a _____."

- Contains stones: 3 12 14 50 43 53
- High ledge: 1 59 69 15 18
- Also: 28 19 32
- To fix: 21 8 10 35
- Doesn't work: 48 55 66
- Married: 57 23 51

III. Second Reading:

Revelation 5:11-14 — Worthy is Christ the lamb to receive love and praise.

Phrase: I, _____ had a _____ and I heard the _____ of many _____ who surrounded the _____ and the living _____ and the elders. They were countless in _____, thousands and _____ of thousands.

Answers on Page 17

Passage I words: Tiberias, faith, oars, cliff, dud, fish, wed, stoney, tend, too, sand, health.
Passage II words: Jesus, men, Peter, tree, apostles, obey, death, fathers.
Passage III words: John, throne, creatures, angels, tens, voices, number, vision.

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