

Family Task Force Sets Public Hearings, Sept. 28

By Michael Groden

The Family Ministry Task Force, an ecumenical group commissioned by Bishop Matthew H. Clark "to determine directions for the diocese in serving families of the 80s," has scheduled five hearings dealing with family life for Sept. 28.

The hearings will be the first step in a long range program aimed at serving the needs of today's family more efficiently, according to task force chairperson Janet Foy, associate counselor at the Pastoral Counseling Center.

The hearings will take place in different locations in the diocese. They are St. Mary's Church, Auburn, at 1:30 p.m.; St. Augustine's Church, Rochester, 7 p.m.; St. Mary Our Mother Church, Horseheads, 2 p.m.; St. Francis Church, Phelps, 12:15 p.m.; and St. Pius the Tenth Church, Rochester, 1 p.m.

Foy said that the family life program came about as a result of the Call to Action meeting held in Detroit in 1976. The conference raised many questions dealing with family ministry and pointed out the need for change in family work, Foy said.

The American Bishops agreed, and dedicated the 1980s to Family Life and its ministry. Bishop Clark then asked the Office of Family Life to form a task force to study the changing needs of the family and how best to serve them.

The task force decided on a three stage process — Listening, Analysis, Response — to deal with the improvement of Family



Dr. Foy and Staropoli check distances on a map of the area in planning the regional conferences.

ministry, Foy said. The hearings, coupled with a questionnaire, make up stage one.

Foy said that in the past two decades the "traditional family," the family with the father as breadwinner, the mother at home, and most of the children under the age of 18 years, now only makes up some 18 percent of today's households.

Alternate forms have emerged, Foy said, including the single parent household, homes where both parents are working, "reconstituted households" (through remarriage), and homes where the children have left.

Foy said that the Church's family care for the traditional family is very good and that it should continue. The "families in transition," however, clearly need new forms of ministry, and that is what the task force is addressing itself to.

Frank Staropoli, co-director of the Office of Family Life, said that the hearings are aimed at getting opinions on how family ministry should change from the people in the diocese. "We decided that in order to effectively help today's families we should start by hearing from the families themselves," he said.

The task force members "are going into these hearings with an open mind," he said. "We are trying not to bring any personal opinions on what needs to be done, but rather to listen to family members on how they feel."

Following the hearings task force members will begin to analyse the results and use them as a guide for the future.

There will be three task force members at each of the hearings. Hearings for the black and Hispanic communities are also scheduled for October 12.

CYO to Note Youth Day

The Catholic Youth Organization and the diocesan Department of Religious Education, in conjunction with the National Conference of Catholic Charities Convention, will sponsor a number of Youth Day events and workshops from 8:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 20, at Monroe Community College, 1000 East Henrietta Road.

Participants will choose from a selection of more than 20 workshops which will include topics such as college financial aid, clown ministry, the draft, human sexuality, and dance-prayer.

Other events will be a folk group competition with a \$100 award for each of three category winners, continuous showing of films, non-competitive games, community group and organization displays, and an ecumenical song and prayer

service. Advance registration fees are \$3 for youths 21 and under and \$5 for those over

21. Further information is available from the CYO, 50 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604.

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Parish Retreat
 A family retreat, conducted by Father Matthew Reilly, a Dominican from Providence, R.I., will take place at the Church of the Holy Spirit, 1355 Hatch Rd., Webster.
 The retreat, one of several events planned to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the parish, will take place during the week beginning Sept. 21.
 Services will begin at 7:30 p.m. each evening. A special service for children and their parents will begin at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 23. A tureen supper will follow at 6 p.m.

Wilmot Bequest College's Largest

Nazareth College will receive an estimated \$1.5 million in real estate — the largest single bequest in the college's history — from the estate of the late James P. Wilmot.

Sydney R. Rubin, attorney for the estate, said the gift to Nazareth "is for the acquisition of materials for and the improvement and expansion of, the Lorette Wilmot Library." Nazareth receives a 40 percent interest in eight undeveloped parcels of land in various parts of Monroe County and the University of Rochester a 60 percent interest.

Although the land is still being appraised, Rubin said the present market value is between \$3 million and \$4 million. Thus, Nazareth's share would be \$1.5 million.

Nazareth president, Robert A. Kidera, said the gift will enable Nazareth "to make a very good college library into a truly distinctive learning resources center."

"The college plans to establish a permanent endowment fund with the James P. Wilmot bequest," he said. "The income from the endowment will provide an annual gift to the library, continuing in perpetuity Jim's intent of providing annual

Dinner Book Sale
 The Parents' Association of Our Lady of Mercy High School is sponsoring a dinner book drive. Chairpersons for the event are Annette and Bill Biche. The dinner book is put together by "After Dark" Publications and includes coupons for leading area restaurants such as the Maplewood, Spring House, and the Brittany Room.

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