



During a Youth Day workshop on the Draft, panelists John Dash, Thomas Cotterill and William Schmitz explore the question of its desirability.

Convention

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statement on "The Status of American Indians." The statement pledges that the "NCCC has an advocacy role to support the moral obligation of the U.S. Government to recognize, respect, and observe" provisions of treaties it has signed with Indians. The statement also pledges to support "the participation of American Indian peoples in the decision-making process at the federal, state and local levels; the strengthening of tribal governments... and the encouragement of peoples of American Indian descent

now living in both urban and rural areas to have government support in the structuring of programs to meet their specific needs in education, health and economic development."

So many young adults registered at the door for an adjunct meeting to the convention, that it is nearly impossible to get an accurate tally of attendance at Youth Day, the joint project of the diocesan Department of Religious Education and the Catholic Youth Organization.

The meeting, at Monroe Community College last Saturday, had 400 pre-registrants; but by 10 a.m. that number had swelled by "hundreds more," one observer said.

The day featured workshops on a variety of subjects of concern to young adults.

The assembly was considered so successful by CYO Board President William Schmitz that he mused, "I'm wondering if this might not be a good thing to have yearly."



Steven Webster, coordinator of the Western Monroe Office of the Catholic Family Center, leads a workshop on "Handling Hassles in the Family."

Keynote

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Charity of the United States, "to take a tough new look at the Church."

"The Church has tremendous potential for human development, for human freedom, for increased resources and for millions of co-workers," he said.

The keynote speaker for the four-day conference said that the struggle to answer the needs of the poor has, for the past 50 years, been at the federal level. "Now it's at the neighborhood and international levels. Our Church is present at both levels and can make a difference."

Citing the theme of the conference, "Convening Christians: Confronting Challenges," the bishop traced the history of the social ministry of the parish from the 19th through this century.

In the early days, he said,

it was the parish which successfully enabled immigrants to move into the mainstream of American life. With the advent of the move to suburbia, much of this was lost.

He challenged the group to work for his "vision and hope," that every parish in America will have a program of social ministry as well-understood and integrated into its life as liturgy and religious education.

When that is done, he said, "then Christians will have been convened."

On the question of confronting challenges, Bishop McCarthy said, "If we had a Church where all the leadership accepted and acted on the social theology of the Church, where our structures reflected that theology, then we really could confront those challenges."

He enumerated them as:

"To take a tough look at ourselves," and to identify "convening" with empowerment. "The people know they are losing control," he said. "Empowerment will reestablish mediative institutions."

"To take a tough new look at the Church. You have the potential to help it develop," he told his audience.

"To see where the struggle is," which he identified as at the neighborhood, federal and international levels. "We must struggle on all three levels," he said.

"When convening means empowerment, vision, and faith and unity, when the challenges are seen to be as much within ourselves as forces arrayed against us, then will the latest battle in the war for human freedom be joined. Let us go forward together," Bishop McCarthy concluded.

Many Reasons Offered For Seminary Studies

Seminarians are a mixed lot these days as witness a lunch-table conversation last week at St. Bernard's Seminary, the 86-year-old institution on Lake Avenue.

For most of its history, the school prepared young men for ordination. Today, at least for part-time student Mary Beth Mancini, it is providing an education she will be able to use in her eventual work as an educational design consultant for parishes.

For Mark Denninger, on the other hand, "the real gut answer" to the question why he is studying at St. Bernard's is "my response to the love God has for me."

Denninger is in his first year of studies at St. Bernard's and keeps himself "open to the possibility of the call" to the ordained priesthood.

Rounding out last week's conversation was Peter Schmitt, due for ordination to the diaconate in early October. Schmitt said that the school had given him a "broad background in three areas: Scripture, the Tradition of the Church and Dogma, and Pastoral Education." He lauded the curriculum, which he said provides "the union of the three, the balance of the components."

Mrs. Mancini, now in her second year of studies, observed that "the integration of the three are vital to what I want to do," which, she explained, is to work with families in stress, within the structure of the Church.

She said that she had investigated other schools, and on the suggestion of her husband, Timothy, had interviewed at St. Bernard's. That interview, she said, convinced her that the program offered was "exactly right."

Dance-Prayer

A 24-hour prayer experience, "Prayer, Presence and Worship through Movement and Dance," will be presented at the Cenacle Renewal Center, Oct. 17-18. Father Robert Ver Eecke, SJ, will conduct the program which will be signed for the deaf. Further information is available by calling the Cenacle Ministry Office, (716) 271-8755.

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DENNINGER



MANCINI

The school, and its college counterpart, Becket Hall, will benefit from a collection, authorized by Bishop Matthew H. Clark, to be taken up this weekend throughout the diocese. Last year, more than \$148,000 was realized in the seminary collection.

In addition to its theological degree programs, the school also serves as the home for the diocesan permanent diaconate program, offers continuing education for priests and sisters, and provides workshops and seminars for interested lay men and women.



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