

At Diocesan Sisters Council

Diocese to Air TV Programs

By John Dash

The diocese will soon sponsor a series of television programs dealing with Catholic life.

Sister Roberta Tierney, a member of the Catholic Communications Committee, told the Diocesan Sisters Council last week that Bishop Matthew H. Clark has approved the project which her committee developed.

She explained that the CCC is an ad hoc group formed to explore ways in which monies from the last two national collections for communications should best be spent.

The committee presented the bishop with the idea that the diocese subscribe to "National Catholic Magazine," a series of 48 television "stories" for use in a format similar to the widely syndicated "PM Magazine" of Westinghouse Broadcasting.

The proposed program would feature these stories as well as locally produced items.

Sister Roberta said that the committee is now accepting bids from television stations. The committee, she said, anticipates the programs will be broadcast in the 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. time slot.

As part of the council's response to Bishop Clark's request that they pursue the question of ministries and personnel in the diocese, the sisters also heard a presentation by Sister Mary Wintish, diocesan director of Urban Ministry.

Sister Wintish said that while the scope of her responsibility may seem limited, 28 parishes, "what ever we do in the city does

have implications for the whole diocese."

She said that the primary purpose of her office is to "facilitate people getting together and planning together."

"It is imperative that we do shared programming and planning on the use of personnel."

She warned the sisters that if there is no inter-parish cooperation, "I personally believe one parish after another will have to close."

Sister Wintish cited a number of statistics to demonstrate the challenges which the future will bring to Church ministry. She said that by 1985, more than half the Catholic population of Rochester will be Hispanic. Between 1985 and 1990, she said, Hispanics will become the largest minority group in the nation.

"We must become bilingual," she told the council.

She said that Rochester is second only to Washington, D.C. in its daily commuter population. She also pointed out that the disparity between the average income of the city dweller and the average income of the suburbanite is in the Rochester area the largest of any city of its magnitude in the nation.

She also made a strong plea to the council to explore ministry to the deaf-mute community in the Rochester area.

This minority, she said, has already grown to such a point,

because of the presence of two nationally acclaimed institutions for the deaf and mute, that service to that community is mandated and understaffed. She said that there is only one priest serving the needs of that community at present.

The sisters, in turn, discussed the questions of women religious in ministry, citing their particular experiences throughout the diocese.

Sister Scholastica made a strong point for ministry in rural areas, encouraging increased personnel in that field.

Sister Eileen Broad opined that a number of women religious could serve dual ministries, especially those in teaching. During the summers, she said, they could be working in other areas.

Sister Broad also encouraged that the DSC sponsor a program of teaching Spanish to the sisters of the diocese.

Sister Remigia observed, "We don't have any black religious here," concluding that, if possible, the council invite speakers to address the question of black vocations.

Sister Barbara Moore, president, opened the meeting by noting that it is "a critical year for the council." She told the sisters that she has met, and will continue to meet with a number of groups throughout the diocese to gain insight and information.

She is also encouraging the council this year to link with other groups, especially women's groups.

A motion was presented to the forum that the DSC join the Committee of Women in Religion, a group comprised

of Church Women United, The Rochester Regional Task Force on Women in the Church, the Women's Interfaith Coalition, the Women's Ordination Conference, the Organization of Women Ministers, and the Women's Center for Theological Education. In addition the council also approved joining in the sponsorship of speakers on the subject of women in church.

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DSC Pens Letter To Entire Diocese

By John Dash

Seizing the occasion of tenth anniversary, the Diocesan Sisters Council has issued a "pastoral letter" to the entire diocese, in which the council renews "our pledge to you that we will continue to search for justice and truth and that all of our deliberations and actions will reflect the Gospel mandate to care for the very least of our brothers and sisters."

According to Sister Barbara Moore, RSM, president of the council, copies are being sent to "all priests, the Diocesan Pastoral Council, all religious houses, all parish councils and staffs, hospitals and schools."

It is the first time in the history of the council that such an epistle has been published.

The letter states: "We have experienced many successes in the past ten years and many disappointing failures but through it all realize that the unity, the friendship and love among us as individual Sisters and as Congregations is a powerful witness. It is a witness to the harmony and unity that is possible in the midst of the great and beautiful diversity within our Church."

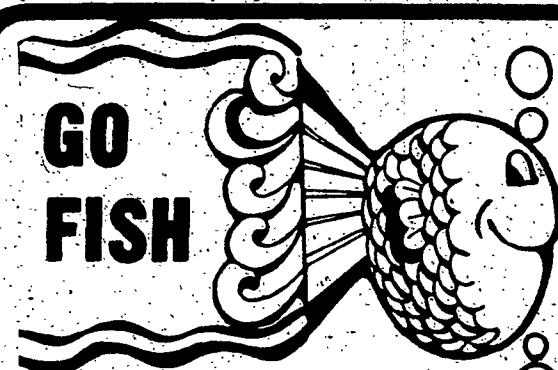
"Our desire to serve the Church," the letter states, "the Body of Christ, motivates our tender affection for all of the Lord's people no matter what their age, class, background, race, religion or sex may be

no matter how marginal they may feel or have become."

The council pledges to Bishop Matthew H. Clark "cooperation with all the consultative bodies and to work with those who seek to deepen our lives of faith and to assist in the unfolding of the Kingdom of God within our diocese." To the bishop, the sisters also "renew our commitment of service to the Church of Rochester and to the expressions of purpose that are ours."

"As we collaborate with our bishop," the sisters state, "the combined wisdom and experience of our history with that of all our brothers and sisters on the Diocesan Pastoral Council and our brother priests speaking through the Priests Council can only deepen and enhance the life of the Church of Rochester. And so, it is truly a privileged moment when our advice is sought and when we can share our dreams and vision for the Church we love. We view it as a holy time when we can cooperate in the decisions that not only affect our own lives but the life of the diocese."

The first actual gathering of what became the Diocesan Sisters Council was held in September, 1970. Prior to that, at the invitation of Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, former bishop of Rochester, sisters had spent the summer organizing that initial meeting.



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