

ME Weekend

Scheduled

Nov. 8-9 . . . 14

Mooney Drive

Nets \$2,100

For Refugees . . . 16

Fr. Contegiacomo

Notes 60 Years

As Priest . . . 3



# COURIER-JOURNAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

28 Pages

Wednesday, October 29, 1980

OUR 97th YEAR

25 Cents

## Special Priest-to-Priest Ministry an Aid

Shortage is a national problem, Page 6.

Second in a Series  
By Martin Toombs

The decline in the number of priests to staff the diocese's parishes means not only increased workloads for those available, but a lengthening of the physical distances between priests, which reduces their professional and spiritual support links.

There are 78 pastors in the diocese who have no assistants. For most, as well as many of the chaplains, it means living alone in the parish rectory or chaplain's quarters, although several are joined by non-parochial or retired priests.

Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, head of priests personnel for the diocese, notes that when

### The Priest Shortage And Its Challenge

he was first ordained, he was one of four priests living in the rectory, and there were many opportunities for support from other priests. Now, while priests are not assigned to a single living arrangement for their first three years of priesthood, many will spend several years living alone.

Partially in recognition of that problem, the diocese has launched a Ministry to Priests program, headed by Father James Schwartz.

Father Schwartz expresses

the need for the program by asking "Who is the priest's priest?"

The Ministry to Priests program involves voluntary participation in support groups of priests, which meet monthly, although the priests in the program note that the support extends much beyond the 24-hour meetings.

The effort began following a program for diocesan priests given in December 1978 by Frappist Father Vincent Dwyer of the Center of

Human Development, then based at Notre Dame University, and now at Catholic University.

At present, a few more than 100 diocesan priests are participating in one of the 13 groups meeting each month. The groups have evolved in various ways; one is based on skiing, others are prayer groups, or based on study of Scripture or some other topic.

Ministry to Priests has received a boost from Bishop Clark, who established Father Schwartz' position, and has urged priests to take advantage of opportunities for support and socialization with fellow priests. Bishop Clark and Bishop Hickey also participate in a group.

Father Schwartz explains

that the program actually exists on three levels: one-to-one, in the support groups, and on a diocesan level.

Included are four points of a personal growth plan for priests: general physical health, emotional well-being, prayer life, and continuing education.

Working out of the continuing education department at St. Bernard's, Father Schwartz notes that he travels a great deal, meeting with priests individually and in the groups.

In the discussions, priests raise several concerns, he said, including the depth of relationships, the depth of prayer life, and life planning issues, as they set priorities for

themselves. A problem for some is excessive guilt, he observed, explaining that it comes from a gap "between expectations placed on priests and where you see yourself."

Those priests, who participate in the program are enthusiastic about it. Typically the groups meet for dinner and then have a sharing session in the evening. The following day's program varies more, but will include a study session or recreation, Mass, and time for prayer before breaking up in the afternoon.

Father Peter Clifford, associate at Immaculate Conception, Ithaca, is a member of a group which meets at Keuka College each week. **Continued on Page 6**

### Lutherans, Catholics Plan Service

Bishop Matthew H. Clark and the Rev. John Beeg, dean of the Rochester District of the Lutheran Church of America, will join in a special ecumenical Vesper service Sunday, Nov. 2, at the Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word.

The liturgy will celebrate the 450th anniversary of the Augsburg Confession, the classical statement of Lutheran doctrine drawn by Melancthon and presented to the Emperor Charles V at the Diet of Augsburg in 1530.

Co-officiants for the Vespers will be Father Frank Lioi, rector of St. Bernard's Seminary, and the Rev. Frederick Reissig, pastor of Atonement Lutheran Church.

Sister Barbara Staropoli, SSJ, will be cantor and Ronald Schroder and Robert Dwelley lecturers. Richard Erickson will be organist and will direct the Incarnate Word Choir. The Old St. Mary's Choir, under the direction of Thomas Donahue, also will participate.

The public is invited to the service which will begin at 3 p.m. with words of welcome by Pastor David Hoffman and readings from the Augsburg Confession by Vincent Lejti of the Diocesan Music Commission and Gil Van Norman of Messiah Lutheran Church.

Both Bishop Clark and Dean Beeg will speak.



Photos by Terrance J. Brennan

### Marathon Draws 2,500

More than 2,500 walkers, bikers and joggers participated last Saturday morning in the Catholic Schools Marathon at Genesee Valley Park. The race, scheduled for six miles, was shortened to two miles due to constant rain, but the weather failed to dampen the spirits of many, including Bishop Matthew H. Clark, right, who ran along with everyone else through the course then headed for dry territory under the park's pavilions.



### Bishops Synod Ends in Rome; No Surprises

The fifth World Synod of Bishops ended Saturday, Oct. 25, with a reaffirmation of the Roman Catholic's stand against contraceptives and divorce and denunciation of governments that use "immoral means" to solve their population problems.

The bishops produced an eight-page, 21-point "Message to Christian Families in the Modern World" that outlined the themes of the meeting. They also sent 43 proposals to the pope.

The following story was dispatched before the end of the synod but its predictions were confirmed by the bishops' actions.

By Thomas J. Reese, SJ  
Religious News Service

Rome (RNS) — The synod of Roman Catholic bishops, meeting to discuss the role of the Christian family in the modern world, is moving toward a consensus on most issues as it completes the second stage of its deliberations.

The international parley began at the end of September with most of the bishops giving speeches explaining what they and their episcopal conferences thought the synod should do. The assembly then broke up into 11 language groups of between 15 and 30 bishops to discuss possible recommendations.



The synod decided not to produce a long document but rather to make a series of recommendations to the pope and to send a pastoral message to Catholic families. The final stage of the synod, which is expected to close before the end of the month, will involve hammering out its pastoral message and its recommendations.

What the synod will say on many issues, however, is already clear. It is obvious that the synod will reaffirm "Humanae Vitae," Pope Paul VI's 1968 encyclical which condemned the use of artificial contraception. But the

Continued on Page 2