

The Divisions

Bishop's Office

The Bishop's Office includes four departments: Administration; the Tribunal, the Consultative Bodies, and the Urban Ministry Office.

Bishop Clark's administrative team assists him with the details involved in serving as pastor to some 400,000 Catholics in the 12-county diocese. A priest and a lay secretary work with Bishop Clark, coordinating his correspondence and calendar.

The priest-secretary serves as diocesan information officer, liaison with Regional Coordinators, diocesan consultative bodies. Prepares and directs all sacramental celebrations over which the bishop presides.

The Tribunal is the Church Law Court, part of diocesan government. The Tribunal examines marriages that have failed, to determine whether the relationship was indeed a marriage as understood by the Church.

The number of cases processed has increased rapidly since more efficient procedures were granted by Rome to U.S. Tribunals, and since a new understanding of marriage was given by the Vatican Council.

The executive secretary of the Diocesan Pastoral Council and the bishop's priest-secretary provide liaison and staff services to the Pastoral Council, Priests' Council and Sisters' Council. The three consultative groups examine issues and programs, making recommendations to the bishop.

The bishop's concern for urban problems in the city of Rochester is expressed through the Urban Ministry Office. In addition to planning assistance, the office provides funding for programs in religious education, Catholic school education, ministry to youth and to the black and Hispanic populations of the city.

Social Ministry Division

"The story of the Diocese of Rochester is the story of people sharing faith, praising God, and rejoicing with one another. It is the story of 160 parishes and many diverse institutions. It is the story of chaplains in jail, in prison, or in psychiatric hospitals. It is the story of skilled response to the needs of troubled families. Every Christian has his or her special talents, skills, riches, time, and love to share with others according to the Spirit of God. The work of Social Ministry is building this earth until, freely, it is ruled by the spirit of justice and love. It demonstrates special preference for those with the fewest options according to the example of Jesus Christ."

—Father Charles Mulligan
Division Director

The Social Ministry Division underwent a re-organization during the past year, and now includes three departments and a regional office.

The Department of Individual and Family Development consists of Catholic Charities and its agencies. Several aid youth: Kinship Group Homes and St. Joseph's Villa house and counsel troubled youth; the Catholic Family Center aids families and youth with problem pregnancies; and Camp Stella Maris and the Catholic Youth Organization provide recreational opportunities to the youth of the diocese.

Also in the department, the Office of Family Life is dedicated to education and the promotion of family life, with an awareness of those facing family traumas caused by separation, divorce and death. The Genesee and Charles Settlement Houses provide varied services to their neighborhoods. The DePaul Mental Health Center provides counseling and evaluation services. St. Ann's Home/The Heritage provide a supportive, caring community to the elderly infirm.

The Department of Institutional Ministries provides education and assistance to the priests and lay chaplains working in the hospitals, jails, prisons, and institutions of the diocese.

The Department of Justice and Peace includes the Office of Human Development, which provides advocacy and educational opportunities on justice issues. The International Justice and Peace Commission studies international issues, and during the past year has established a "sister-diocese" relationship with the Diocese of Tabasco, Mexico. The Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Housing Foundation operates in a partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester, and helps families obtain adequate housing. The Human Life Commission provides education on the need for protection of life from conception until death. And the Campaign for Human Development raises funds through its annual collection which are distributed locally and nationally to self-help groups which provide services in their localities.

The regional Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry, which was established July 1, 1980, organizes the services of the three departments in the five Southern Tier counties. The change has made personal counseling available in the area, and a new impetus toward provision of more services locally.

Special Ministry Division

"The men and women who staff Special Ministries are servants of the heart and voice of the Church — listening and conversing in prayerful dialogue with people for whom the Church cares most deeply, and to whom she must speak her 'yes' most immediately and directly."

—Father Gerald Appelby
Division Director

The Office of Liturgy is the resource center for liturgical celebration, education and planning in the diocese. Efforts are especially directed toward parish liturgy committees and liturgical ministers, including local assistance and diocesan educational programs.

Campus Ministry provides parish services on the 18 college campuses in the diocese, which have more than 90,000 students. Both full- and part-time chaplains respond to the needs of each campus and its total academic community.

The Spanish Apostolate raises a distinct voice on behalf of the Hispanic community in the diocese. It actively advocates the integration of the Hispanic peoples and their cultures, while opposing an assimilation that would result in the loss of the Spanish heritage.

The Office of Black Ministries is committed to developing programs which reflect, as much as possible, the needs of the communities it serves. Among its various efforts, during the past year it has sponsored programs to increase awareness of the Klu Klux Klan.

The Office of Ecumenism maintains and coordinates the diocesan commitment to the Genesee Ecumenical Ministries. The office also has been establishing parish contacts to promote ecumenical efforts, and provides workshops to aid those involved in ecumenical efforts on a parish level.

The Hermanas Misioneras Guadalupeanas del Espirito Santo, a missionary order of sisters from Mexico, have been a presence in the diocese for 10 years. They have served in parish ministries and programs among the Spanish-speaking residents of the diocese.

DIGNITY builds religious community for homosexual men and women who feel alienated from God and Church. It provides spiritual, social and educational services to members and friends. It also works with INTEGRITY, its Episcopal counterpart. A liaison from DIGNITY provides the group's perspective to the division.

Education Division

"The Division of Education serves the Diocese of Rochester through the Departments of Religious Education and General Education. Recognition that Catholic education is a lifelong process of deepening our relationship with God through knowledge and understanding of the Word, participation and unity through worship and extension of these gifts through service is the overarching goal of the division."

—Sister Roberta Tierney, SSND
Division Director

The General Education Department offers service and direction to the 76 elementary schools and nine secondary schools in the diocese. The schools are first and foremost Catholic schools with a unique mission within the Church; secondarily, they are institutions of academic excellence responsible for preparing young people to meet their future as value-oriented citizens.

Ongoing professional development is offered through in-service programs for teachers and administrators. Schools also are visited by supervisory personnel, and aided in such programs as the school self-study.

The Religious Education Department serves every age and status of people in the diocese. The strength of the personnel serving on parish and regional level is most important to the impact of programs. Opportunities for continuing education are offered through the CERT and Teacher Training programs.

Also through the department, young people participate in retreat opportunities offered in the Genesis, Seminar and Antioch programs.

The Continuing Education Department recently became part of the division. The department offers opportunities for training and updating of all pastoral staff. In addition to courses offered at the Hogan Center and in other locations, educational opportunities outside the diocese and for persons other than full-time pastoral workers are being made available.

Personnel and Staff Development

The recruitment, training and assignment of persons directly involved in parish ministry is the responsibility of the Division of Personnel Staffing and Development. Included are priests, deacons, religious, pastoral assistants and some lay persons. Most of the work in the division is done by volunteers.

—Bishop Dennis W. Hickey
Division Director

The Priests Personnel Board deals with matters relating to all aspects of priestly life, including assignment, evaluation, continuing education, disability and retirement planning. Six elected, unsalaried priests serve on the board, with Bishop Hickey as executive secretary.

The Ministry to Priests Program responds to the Church's call for priestly renewal. The program deals on a one-to-one basis, in support groups, and through diocesan programs. Currently more than 100 priests participate in one of 13 support groups which meet monthly.

During the past year, a full-time priest has taken over duties as head of the Vocations Department. He is working with a group of priests and the congregations of women religious to coordinate and strengthen efforts to attract more persons to the priesthood and religious life.

St. Bernard's Seminary and Becket Hall are placed under the division for budgetary purposes. During the past year, an agreement for the sale of the Becket Hall building and the re-location of the program to a building on the St. John Fisher campus was completed, with the program opening in its new quarters in September.

The Permanent Diaconate program prepares men to serve as deacons in the ministries of the Word, Sacrament and Liturgy with emphasis in the areas of justice and charity.

The program entails meeting one weekend a month at St. Bernard's. Currently three classes are involved in the four-year program, with the first class' ordination scheduled to take place in the spring of 1982.

The Pastoral Assistants' Committee (PAC) is concerned with the recruitment, certification and placement of Pastoral Assistants (PA's) in parish ministry. The PAC is composed of lay persons, women religious, and priests, all volunteers, chaired by Bishop Hickey. More than 35 Pastoral Assistants are currently working in parishes.

Support Ministries

"The Division of Support Ministries, as its name implies, comprises those departments that serve other departments, the diocese, parishes and regions. When the division was established, we were entrusted to provide support, information and technical expertise for furthering God's Kingdom here on earth."

—Father William Flynn
Division Director

The Department of Pastoral Planning and Management was formed during this year by merging the Pastoral Planning and Finance departments. The office administers financial, accounting and budget functions and programs, provides stewardship of assets, appraises long-term and short-term goals in the light of available finances, and provides consultation services to parishes.

The office's planning services are designed to encourage participation at parish and diocesan levels, and include parish census data, goal planning, research assistance and data processing.

The Diocesan Development Office is responsible for programs to insure the financial health and growth of the diocese. The guiding principle is that diocesan growth depends upon growth at the parish level. The office supports parish financial planners, supplying statistical analyses. The office also assists parishes participating in the Stewardship Program.

The Diocesan Missions Office coordinates all mission activity in the diocese. Its goal is to awaken interest in worldwide evangelization. The local office represents the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the Society of St. Peter the Apostle, and the Holy Childhood Association. The office also serves as the bishop's contact with the Rochester missionaries in South America and Alabama.

The Printing Department produces letters, bulletins, brochures and booklets for the diocesan offices, and does printing jobs for parishes and organizations.

The Mailing Department handles all outgoing mail at the Pastoral Center.

The Maintenance Department takes care of diocesan buildings. It also provides services to parishes seeking ways to reduce expenses.

The Courier-Journal publishes the weekly newspaper of the diocese, disseminating information about diocesan and parish happenings. In addition to its coverage of local, national and international news of interest to diocesans, it also has targeted groups for special coverage through its monthly "Spanish Page," its high school coverage in "Raparound," and regional coverage through its Southern Tier Office.