

DPC Offers Guidance On Diocesan Budget

By Martin Toombs

Geneva — The Diocesan Pastoral Council approved a guidance letter designed to influence the diocesan budget for the coming year, and including a request to Bishop Matthew H. Clark at its meeting Saturday at St. Francis DeSales School.

Prepared by the Ministerial Review Committee, the guidance letter offers suggestions to Bishop Clark for budget preparation. It emphasizes program needs in the areas of women, family, the permanent diaconate, and voices concerns over other matters impacting on the diocese and parishes.

The letter included a comment that a statement "on the right and necessity of women in all areas of Church ministry" is needed. Sister Ann Miller offered a strengthening of the statement. After further amendment offered by Father Otto Vogt, a statement was approved by a vote of 33-4 reading: "The DPC recommends that the bishop, in consultation with a representative group of women and men, make a clear, developed statement on the right and necessity of women in all areas of Church ministry and the openness of the whole Church to this. This lead by the bishop should set the tone to be followed at the parish level."

Members asked clarifications of other sections of the letter of the MRC members present, and then

approved its recommendation to Bishop Clark.

The DPC also heard a report from Sister Mary Wintish, episcopal director of Urban Ministry, about the Rochester program which the DPC has discussed in the past.

Sister Mary listed the 29 parishes affected by the Urban Ministry program, and emphasized the increasing cooperation among the parishes, especially Holy Redeemer-St. Michael's, and St. Monica's-St. Augustine's.

The city parishes are continuing to look at building use, she reported, noting an effort to secure a leasing arrangement for the convent and school at Holy Redeemer which would decrease the parish's financial burden.

She also noted cases where parishes within Rochester have aided each other, as well as aid which has come from parishes outside the city. She lauded the city parishes' attitudes on the donations, noting that they don't compete for the funds, and will give them up to a parish in greater financial need.

The DPC also discussed a proposal offered by its Teaching Mission Committee, presented by Mrs. Leona Hickey. The proposal called for establishment of a task force to design a method for strengthening parish education committees, and to set up a diocesan Board of Education.

The discussion bogged down in procedural questions, as speakers noted that the proposal called for design of a Board of Education although establishment of such a board hasn't been approved. While some members argued against the proposal's wording, others argued for the concepts involved. After a break for lunch and Mass, the item was withdrawn and set for re-presentation at the March meeting.

The DPC also approved a resolution springing from a talk given by Mrs. Virginia Marshall at its November meeting on the need for education of parish staffs on the needs of the handicapped.

Sister Ann Miller offered a motion for Mrs. Marshall's proposed Workshop on the Handicapped to be sent to Joseph Kelley, director of the diocesan Continuing Education, to Father Richard Kinsky, superintendent of schools, and Father Lewis Brown, director of Religious Education, with the request that they examine how their departments have responded to the challenge presented by the handicapped. The motion was approved unanimously.

The DPC also conducted a small-group discussion on the national bishops' pastoral "On Racism," and heard reports from its committees and members. Inevitably, the increasing cost of heating church buildings was raised, as the meeting was conducted in a room which had a temperature hovering around 60 degrees.

Region Slates Evangelization Celebration

A Celebration of Evangelization has been set by the Northeast Regional Conference for 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 28, at St. Rita's Parish Hall, 1009 Maple Dr., Webster.

According to Mrs. Carolyn,

the event "is an effort to explain to and interest people in evangelization."

The program will feature a talk by Sister Mary Ann Binsack, a member of the Task Force on Evangelization of the Diocesan Pastoral Council. There also will be workshops and displays of

different kinds of evangelization.

Mrs. Schulte said that reservations are not required and the event is open to any interested person. Further information is available by contacting her, (716) 271-8755, days; (716) 271-0656 evenings or weekends.

Cold Weather Help Offered

The American Red Cross will hold a Winter Survival Seminar at 1:30 and again at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 5 at the 50 Prince St. headquarters.

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Viewpoint: Sisters Reflect

Questions On Adult Ed.

In an imaginary journey over the rooftops of our diocese's educational institutions and with the help of our temporary x-ray vision, we will behold thousands of adults experiencing instruction in a course of studies, an athletic skill or a practical hobby. Having identified a personal need, they have decided to take the necessary steps to accept the challenge of adult education.

The American Catholic Church has focused on the need and importance of adult education with such detailed documents as "To Teach As Jesus Did" (1972) and the recently published "National Catechetical Directory" (1979). Local parishes and regions have collected survey data and provided a variety of options for the people of God. Diocesan Pastoral Offices and organizations add their resources of personnel and membership into the program potential. "Old words" — evangelization, community, faith-sharing, catechumenate, family education — newly re-introduced into our consciousness prod us to find new approaches for the

adult reflective-learning experience. Our deep concern for effective, enriched and energized adult faith is the more urgent because we know intuitively and through research that the faith life of the young in our community is significantly formed by the words, actions and attitudes of the adult community, especially parents and family.

But central to assisting one another to confront our need to deepen our knowledge of our faith (for me at least) is to deal with a statement by Abraham Heschel in "The Prophets": "The principle to be kept in mind is to know what we see rather than to see what we know." Most of us "know" at a surface level the many basic truths of our faith, but the historical, scriptural, theological and pastoral layers of understanding still await our intellectual and affective efforts. This motivation needs to be stimulated by those whose lives preach and teach enthusiastically the truth that one becomes more fully human as he/she draws more deeply into the mystery of God's love and humankind's response to that wondrous gift.

Religious education for children and adults happens

all over our diocese. Perhaps we need to ascertain whether our structures, programs, goals, budgets, ministerial personnel and schedules support our real or idealized response to Christ's mission.

...Have we considered looking into family educational experiences (intergenerational, neighborhood, ecumenical, interparish)?

...Have we considered searching out and accompanying back the "communal Catholic," those alienated persons, the handicapped, the searchers for faith, the unchurched?

...Have we worked at the pre-evangelizing level of getting to know one another in informal settings, thus building up trust and love?

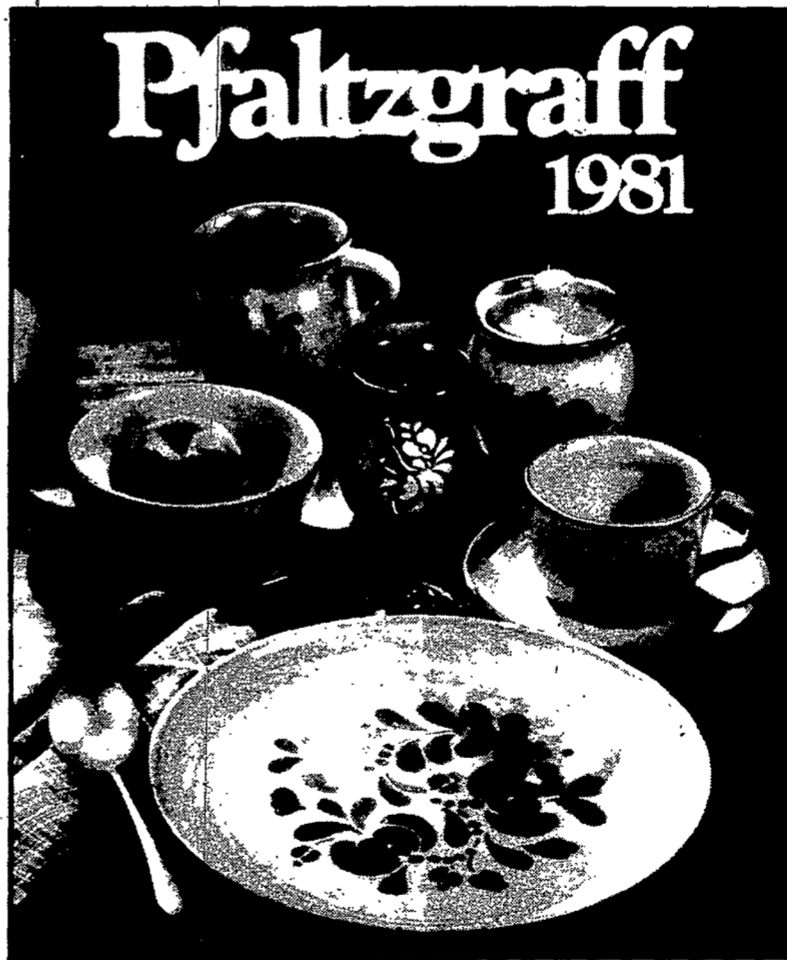
...Have we explored the use of a variety of media, meeting places other than church buildings, formats that are challenging to an adult's need to be self-directed?

...Have we studied how integrally our worship life and liturgical celebrations are connected with our educational endeavors?

...Have we prayed — individually and together — and fasted the same number of hours that we have talked and planned?

The National Catechetical Directory states: "Because of its importance and because all other forms of catechesis are oriented in some way to it, the catechesis of adults must have high priority at all levels of the Church." There remain two questions — does it? and if not, what are we going to do about it?

NEW!

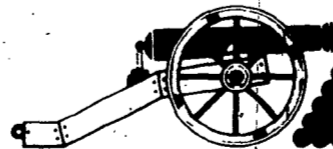


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