



About 400 attended the Charismatic Renewal program.

Ralph Martin Speaks At Day of Renewal

Ralph Martin, an internationally-known leader in the Charismatic Renewal, spoke at a Day of Renewal sponsored by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Office Feb. 7 at Mercy High School.

An enthusiastic crowd of about 400 attended the program which consisted of three presentations and a liturgy celebrated by Father Jim Connolly, SJ, coordinator.

Martin is a member of the Word of God, an ecumenical Christian community in Ann Arbor, Mich., and is former director of the International Communications Office for Charismatic Renewal in Brussels, Belgium. He has met with Pope John Paul II on two occasions.

His first teaching em-

phasized the uniqueness and necessity of Jesus Christ for salvation in the midst of tendencies, even in the Church, to downplay the role of Jesus for the sake of relationships with those who do not believe in Jesus.

In the second talk, Martin pointed out the dangers to moral living caused by teachers in the Church who present a confused picture to the people of God. It is clear scripturally that many things are sinful but there is a dangerous tendency among some moral theologians, Martin believes, to excuse and explain away things such as abortion and homosexuality. In addition, all the discussion and controversy, even in the secular press, leaves people generally confused as to what is right and wrong — and that confusion is not from God, Martin said.



RALPH MARTIN

Finally, he shared about the Second Coming of Christ from a Catholic perspective. We must believe in the Second Coming and Martin said that we should pay attention to all the disasters in the world today as a possible sign that the end may be nearer than we think.

To sum up his talk, we are all called to make a deeper commitment to the Lord and the Church. Tapes of the talks are available from Life in the Spirit Ministries, 154 N. Greece Rd., Hilton, N.Y. 14468.

Arab Chapter Plans Meeting

Former U.S. Sen. James Abourezek will speak at the charter meeting of the Rochester-Geneva Chapter, American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee at 6 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 21, at the Third Presbyterian Church, East Avenue and Meigs Street.

The chapter will work against human rights violations as well as widespread discriminatory stereotyping of Arabs and Arab-Americans.

An Arabic dinner will be served. Tickets, \$8 each, are available from Mitch Kaidy, 921 Crittenden Rd., 424-4746.

Deaths



Sister Marie Louise Blaakman with Inner-City children in the mid-60s.

Sr. Marie L. Blaakman, RSM

Sister Marie Louise Blaakman, RSM, died of cancer in the Mercy Motherhouse Infirmary on Sunday, Feb. 8. She was 39.

One of 12 children, Sister Marie Louise was born in Eindhoven, Netherlands. She entered the Mercy congregation in 1960 and made her final vows in 1968.

Sister Marie Louise taught grammar school at St. Louis, Pittsford; St. John's, Clyde; St. John's, Perinton; Holy Family, Auburn; and Mount Carmel and St. John's in Rochester.

She was principal of Mount Carmel and served as assistant director of Andrew Center, Barberty Terrace, a foster care home conducted by the Sisters of Mercy.

Sister Marie Louise is survived by her parents, Constant and Maria Blaakman; her brothers Roger, Marcel, Art, Frank, John, Emiel, Stan and Guido; and sisters Mary Jo Spicer, Ross Marie Bourke, and Ann Marie Wilcosz.

In a memorial card handed

Centering on Service



Pastoral Assistants

"A Pastoral Assistant is a welcome addition to the staff of a parish, or a cluster of parishes, or even of ecumenically clustered parishes. As a new expression of Gospel-based concern, the position calls for a ministry of nurture and witness to a community overburdened with problems and unmet needs."

— Guidelines for the Pastoral Assistants Diocese of Rochester
It was in the late 1960s, following the Second Vatican Council that the role of Pastoral Assistant began to evolve. The Council greatly changed the style of ministry in parishes and the inclusion of a Pastoral Assistant enabled broader ministry to develop. In the early 1970s, through the efforts of Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, Father Sebastian Falcone and members of a task force, guidelines were developed which include rationale for the ministry and hiring norms.

The Pastoral Assistants Committee is responsible to the Director of Personnel. Unlike other diocesan departments, the administrative arm of Pastoral Assistants is a volunteer group that meets regularly with Bishop Hickey, Diocesan Director of Personnel. The members of the committee are Bishop Hickey, Father Falcone, Sister Marie Joseph Crowley, RSM; Sister Elizabeth Anne LeValley, SSJ; Sister Mary Louise Whalen, SSND; Sister Agnes Catherine Battersby, SSJ; Sister Patricia Norton, RSM; Sister Mary Louise Heffernan, SSJ; John Schmidt, and Father Ted Metzger. The committee is responsible for implementing the guidelines, publishing all openings and appointing the Certification Committee to interview candidates.

Presently, 38 parishes in the diocese engage a Pastoral Assistant. Although at present all of these are women religious, the ministry is open to both men and women. Each Pastoral Assistant offers a specific range of service which is pastoral in scope, personal as to commitment and charism, and professional in quality.

Pastoral Ministry is seen as an enabling ministry; that is to say, one which functions to coordinate the ministries within the church. The Pastoral Assistant strengthens and broadens ministry through the range of services he/she is called to minister. These include home visitation within the parish; hospital and nursing home visitation; ministry to family, elderly, middle-aged, youth, unchurched, alienated; counselling; participation in parish council and parish committees; marriage and baptismal preparation; working with the bereaved. These are but a few possibilities through which the role of Pastoral Assistant enhances ministry within parishes.

The Pastoral Assistants Committee encourages parishes to consider creating the role of Pastoral Assistant. In rural areas, we encourage cooperation between parishes. Pastoral Assistants are willing to speak with parish staffs and/or parish councils explaining how their role has developed in their respective parishes.

In ever-changing times, it is the hope of Pastoral Assistants that their ministry will continue to be faith-filled, creative, professional and enabling, bringing everyone to a deeper sense of community and oneness in Christ.

Deadline

The deadline for submitting news to the Courier-Journal is noon on Thursday preceding the following Wednesday's publication.

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