



SALT Talks

More than 30 priests, including three from outside the Rochester diocese, attended the Supervisor and Leadership Training (SALT) conferences last week at Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua. Above, Father Charles Bennett speaks during a meeting of conference veterans. Left, Fathers Thomas Statt and Donald Schwab, both first-year participants, confer. Also among first-year participants was Bishop Matthew H. Clark. This year marks the ninth that the conferences have taken place.

Sister Gaye Lynn Moorhead, RSM

Viewpoint: Sisters Reflect



The Ministry As Advocate For Abused

Advocacy is basically speaking out for something, usually on the behalf of someone. We can advocate for ourselves, but it's generally more effective if others do it for us; as the saying goes, the person who represents herself has a fool for a client. Effectiveness also depends more on how the advocate speaks, rather than on what the advocate says. Sometimes, the most effective advocacy is the least adversarial and the least sensational.

We know this from our day-to-day experience. All of us have suffered the same frustration of wanting to disavow our own viewpoint because someone else has advocated it in a loveless or abusive way. Similarly, we find we're able to tolerate grave differences or to consider the truth of another's viewpoint when it is shared in a way which respects our person and our ideas.

A good example can be found in the courtroom, the arena of classic advocacy. Lay persons frequently are surprised and even a little disillusioned to discover that the attorneys they've observed in vigorous ideological combat in the morning have adjourned for lunch and friendly conversation together. There is a perceived dishonesty or

collusion in such fraternity, and zealous advocacy is deemed compromised by cordiality. The fact, of course, is that, after lunch, the opposition continues as vigorously as before. All that has happened is that the one who allegedly errs has not been confused with her error, and the mutual respect of the advocates for each other and for each other's client creates a climate where truth may ultimately surface without verbal violence wreaking injustice along the way.

This is not to suggest that advocacy must always be gentle to be fair or powerful. Indeed, on some occasions, nothing flows quite as naturally or deservedly as a stream of righteous indignation. But these eruptions by their very nature must be rare to be effective, like the unforgettable moment, once a semester, when the soft-spoken elementary teacher is provoked to incalculable fury and influence.

As an advocate for abused and neglected children, I find the greatest challenge is learning to speak simply, honestly and unequivocally, inviting an acceptance or rejection of my opinion on its merits, rather than on my style of delivery. Even the incontrovertible right of children to be free from harm is subject to debate, when issues such as the form of protection are considered. At those critical times when a powerless child's welfare is at stake, the opponent I'd wish for myself and for my adversary is an advocate who is unafraid to expose or concede the possibility of error, and who can do so without malice or deception. In its richest and most effective expression, advocacy becomes pleading without ingratiation and persuasion without intimidation. It is a difficult balance which I personally have not achieved but am grateful to have witnessed, particularly in the form of dissent and dialogue within our Church and within my religious community, and it is an opportunity for conversion, not only of the listener, but of the advocate, as well.

Sister Gaye Lynn Moorhead, RSM, is an attorney and member of the Rochester Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

St. Jerome's School Schedules Play

The students of St. Jerome's School in East Rochester will present the play, "Sleeping Beauty," on Tuesday and Wednesday, June 2 and 3, in the school auditorium.

All are invited to attend. Tickets are \$2 for adults and \$1 for children under 12, and can be purchased in advance

from the school or at the door.

Julie Shadd will play Sleeping Beauty and Scott Odorisi will portray the Prince. The wicked fairy will be played by Mary Kay Brewer, and the three good fairies will be played by Sarah Lynn Guisto, Lora Stumpf and Eileen Connors.

Bishop Rausch Described as 'Outstanding'

Washington (RNS) — Church leaders have praised Bishop James S. Rausch, the former general secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, who died of a heart attack May 18.

Bishop Rausch, 52, was general secretary of the episcopal conference and of the U.S. Catholic Conference from 1972 to 1977 when he was named to head the Diocese of Phoenix.

Archbishop James Roach, current president of the two conferences, described Bishop Rausch as a "holy man ... completely caught up in the faith ... one of the outstanding leaders" of the American Catholic Church.

Seminar On 'Lazy Eye'

A seminar on amblyopia, lazy eye, will be sponsored by the Eye Conservation Committee of the Health Association from 1 to 5 p.m., Wednesday, May 27, at the Academy of Medicine, 1441 East Ave.

The seminar is planned for both the professional and the

layperson involved with pre-school screening. The program will be interpreted for the deaf and continuing education credits will be available. Registration fee is \$10 and further information is available from Sue Shurtleff, 271-3540 or Dorothy Hartman, 2753446.



Volunteer Action

Amnesty International volunteers Robert Thompson and Marcia Ullman, right, assist interested parishioners at the Newman Oratory Chapel on the campus of Brockport State College on Sunday, May 10. The group invited the participation of all in attendance to take time after Mass to write a letter to officials in the Philippines requesting the release of a young Philippine woman and her nine-month-old child from a prison in that country.

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