

DPC Concern: Funding Diocesan Offices

By Martin Toombs

Ithaca — The establishment and funding of diocesan offices was a recurring issue at Saturday's Diocesan Pastoral Council meeting at Immaculate Conception Parish.

The DPC discussed a proposal for an office of evangelization, re-establishment of an Office of Pastoral Ministry, and the work and budget of the office of ecumenism.

Fear of duplication of services and the cost of operating the offices were features of the discussion. The diocesan office of evangelization, proposed by St. Ambrose Parish, Rochester, would be responsible for coordinating evangelization efforts in the diocese and in assisting parish efforts.

Wendy and David O'Keefe of St. Ambrose explained the proposal, noting their parish's view that such an office could take on tasks beyond the scope of the current all-volunteer DPC Evangelization Task Force.

Sister Ann Miller of Corning noted her support of evangelization efforts, but she wondered if instead of a separate office, the effort

could be made by a re-established Office of Pastoral Ministry. She made a motion calling on the DPC Executive Committee to study that possibility.

Her motion was approved 28 to 1 with 3 abstentions.

Later, Sister Ann Habershaw of Rochester offered motions from a committee she chaired which examined departmental evaluations presented at the February DPC meeting.

Approved with one objection was a motion calling on Bishop Matthew H. Clark to consider re-establishing the

Office of Pastoral Ministry, which he abolished. That office, headed by Father Douglas Hoffman, supported the activities of parish councils, regions and the DPC.

When it was closed, its duties were distributed among various diocesan departments.

Bishop Clark asked that the assumptions backing the request be sent to him along with the recommendation.

He also wondered if responsibility for evangelization and pastoral structures should be given to one office.

Margery Numburg, diocesan ecumenism director; Bernard Tomasso, chairman of that office's advisory committee; and Father Robert Schrader gave a presentation of the workshops the office is presenting around the diocese.

Jack Brophy of Rochester questioned whether the \$30,000 being spent this year could be continued in light of those increasing needs being harmed by federal budget cuts.

He suggested slowing ecumenical efforts to save money.

Robert O'Gara of Owego said dealing with such problems would be easier in an ecumenical context; and Father Schrader noted just such an effort, the Southwest Ecumenical Ministries Food Cupboard in Rochester.

Later in the meeting, Bishop Clark supported ecumenical efforts, saying they are not an optional activity for the Church.

Two other motions coming from the departmental evaluation were also approved. One called for development of a long-range diocesan personnel plan to

anticipate needs for special training, and the other for the diocesan planning office to prepare a self-evaluation checklist to help parish staff know when to call on the office for assistance.

In other action, the DPC heard a presentation from Msgr. Gerard Krieg on the guidelines for regional activity, heard a report on Bishop Clark's trip to Tabasco, Mexico, and approved sending Bishop Clark a recommendation to continue the policy of supporting students from parishes without Catholic schools for their attendance at neighboring parish schools.

Parish Named

The downtown parish for the deaf has been officially named St. Mary's Church of the Deaf, Bishop Matthew H. Clark announced last week. Father Thomas Erdle is the pastor. The community workshops at Old St. Mary's Church.

Mercy Renewal Is Planned

The Alumnae Association of Our Lady of Mercy High School is sponsoring a Day of Reflection from 9:15 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 3, at the Motherhouse, 1437 Blossom Road. The theme is "Women of Mercy in the 80s," and the day will include talks, discussions, sharing, reading, and a liturgy celebrated by Father Charles Mulligan. Guest speaker will be Sister Margaret Mary Mattie of the Mercy House of Prayer Center.

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