

DPC Considers Tabasco Mission Proposal

By John Dash

The Diocesan Pastoral Council last week put on hold its consideration of a proposal that the diocese establish a continuous four-year missionary presence in the Diocese of Tabasco, Mexico, its "sister diocese."

Following a presentation by Lourdes Perez-Albuerne of the diocesan International Justice and Peace Commission, the agency which has particular interest in the Tabasco-Rochester relationship, the council raised a number of questions before finally moving to table the proposal.

For the past several years, Rochester has sent individuals to a six-week program of summertime mission activity in Tabasco.

The current proposal is an extension of that program.

Prior to the council's discussion, Bishop Matthew H. Clark had asked the body for suggestions on refining the proposal, and to indicate to him whether the diocese should initiate the process to establish the team.

Concerns raised during the discussion ranged from questions of the effectiveness and appropriateness of the summer mission program to questions of developing and instilling a theology of mission in those involved in the mission project.

The proposal calls for maintaining the summer project, but also establishing a four-member team of missionaries who would work

at least one year, but preferably four, on two or three rancherias within one parish.

The council, in moving to table a move supporting the proposal, indicated that it wanted more time to study the project, and also time to discuss directly with Bishop Rafael Garcia Gonzalez, Bishop of Tabasco.

The bishop will be in Rochester in the next few days.

The major portion of council's day was given over to a consideration of the report by the Ministerial Review Committee, the DPC group which evaluates the work of Pastoral Office departments and agencies.

The committee report, which runs to 31 pages, details not only the ac-

complishments of the diocesan service groups, unit by unit, but also provides the council with certain concerns and needs of those units.

Following clarification by Father Peter Bayer on several points raised as concerns and needs, the council commissioned the MRC to further refine its report.

Also at this time, a motion was unanimously accepted that the DPC leadership keep a running chart of the disposition of its recommendations to Bishop Clark.

Bishop Clark led a discussion of the question of vocations in the diocese, a discussion continued from the last DPC meeting.

He described the establishment of a special commission of which he is a part and which met for the first time recently in Pittsburgh. The commission is chaired by Bishop John A. Marshall of Burlington, Vt. The commission, Bishop Clark said, will study the question of priestly vocations and seminary training. Although he described the question as "a very sensitive issue," he said that the commission's work is expected to "bear very positive fruit."

In response to questions from the floor, Bishop Clark stressed his appreciation for the common vocation of each baptized Christian, but also stressed the need to maintain a hierarchy of ministerial roles. Several times from the

floor, appreciation was made for both the bishop's recent pastoral letter on women in the Church and for the Family Ministry Task Force Report — both instruments, he agreed, had much in them pertaining to the question of nurturing vocations.

The DPC also heard reports on the Family Ministry Task Force, now scheduled to open hearings on its report; on the Parish Project; from each of its regions; and from other consultative bodies and from the diocese.

During the last, Father Louis Vasile said that the diocese had hired a communications consultant, Ron Robotaile.



Two volunteers from St. Joseph's, Penfield, talk to patients in the geriatric section at the Rochester Psychiatric Center.



Psychiatric Center. Left, Betsy Inglis; right, Betty Schwab.

LILAC... Reaching Out To the Institutionalized

Story and Photos by Terrance J. Brennan

When St. Joseph's Parish in Penfield decided to become involved in a diocese-sponsored outreach program to the institutionalized in Spring 1982, officials were hoping to attract maybe 40 volunteers. No one expected the 150 that signed up.

The program is LILAC, Life in Institutions — Loving and Caring. It is co-sponsored by Catholic Charities and the office of Sister Clare Roland, diocesan director of Institutional Ministries.

"The response has been overwhelming," Sister Clare said. "It's an opportunity for Christian response to the needs of our disabled brothers and sisters now living in institutions."

Since the initiation of the program at St. Joseph's, other steps have been taken across the diocese. According to William Privett, associate director of Catholic Charities, the program is being studied at Guardian Angels; St. Thomas More; St. Mary's, Geneseo; Holy Angels, Nunda, and also two Protestant churches in Dansville. At Guardian Angels, 75 couples have signed up for the program that will involve visiting the Monroe Developmental Center.

The group from St. Joseph's visits patients at the Rochester Psychiatric Center for one to one-and-a-half hours every six to eight weeks.

"The object of the day is a light-hearted mingling among the patients," Privett said. "It's up to the volunteer to go with the flow of whether these people really feel like communicating or having company."

The program at St. Joseph's began last Spring with discussions among members of the parish Human Development Committee. From there, Father Thomas

Hector, chaplain at RPC, was invited to speak at all the Masses one Sunday in October. Tables were set up in the school for those interested in volunteering to sign up. One month and 150-plus signatures later, orientation workshops were being held in the school hall by staff members of the psychiatric center.

Since then, four groups of volunteers have entered the center, meeting with medical and geriatric patients.

During a recent visit to the female geriatric section at RPC, the volunteers were instructed by Peggy Whiteford, a staff member: "Most of the ladies you will meet are very down to earth. Don't worry. If they don't want company, they'll let you know. If you say the wrong thing, one way or another, they'll let you know."

"It was tough at first because I didn't know what to expect of them," said Debbie Wiesner, a volunteer from St. Joseph's. It was her second visit.

"You ask yourself 'What can I say? How can I stimulate these people?' Just drawing them out to break the ice so that they can walk around and not feel inhibited around you — that's the key," Mrs. Wiesner said.

"What we're ultimately trying to do is develop the contact to perhaps bring these people home for dinner, to church for Mass, etc. etc.," Privett said. "Then, if and when that person re-enters the community, there will be that contact that will help the patient readjust."

"For most of these volunteers, it's a new experience," said Father Daniel Condon, associate pastor at St. Joseph's. "We have to get them beyond the idea that mental patients are violent... to go into the center to show these people that they are not forgotten."

Msgr. Cocuzzi Appointed Pastor; To Remain Diaconal Director

Msgr. George A. Cocuzzi has been named pastor of St. Francis Xavier parish in Rochester, it was announced by Bishop Matthew H. Clark. The appointment becomes effective today (Jan. 26).

Msgr. Cocuzzi is the director of the diocesan Permanent Diaconate Program and will continue to serve in that post, which he has filled since Feb. 6, 1978.

Msgr. Cocuzzi's additional appointment as pastor will enable him to integrate a wide experience of actual ministry with the more theoretical aspects of the pastoral studies program pursued by diaconal candidates and their wives. The various services provided to the diverse populations of the area by the Church through diocesan agencies, interparochial efforts and ecumenical endeavors will introduce the deacon candidates and their wives to those ministries which are at the heart of the diaconate: justice, charity, Gospel stewardship and empowerment of others in apostolic works.

This cooperative venture will better enable the deacons and their wives to minister to the people of God in the assignment they will undertake after ordination in their assignments throughout the diocese.

Msgr. Cocuzzi has served as vicar for Urban Ministry, having worked for the National Center of Urban Ethnic Affairs in Washington, D.C.



MSGR. COCUZZI


He was born in 1924 and ordained June 11, 1949. After two years as assistant pastor of St. Jerome's Church in East Rochester, he went to the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome where, three years later, he was granted a doctorate in Canon Law.

For the 12 ensuing years, he served as notary, vice chancellor and then chancellor of the diocese.

In 1966 he was named pastor of Holy Family Church in Rochester and that year Pope Paul VI named him a domestic prelate with the title of right reverend monsignor.

Msgr. Cocuzzi has taught at Nazareth College and has served on various diocesan boards and commissions. He also served a double term as president of the Priests Council.

Diocesan Appointments



Bishop Matthew H. Clark appoints:

Msgr. George A. Cocuzzi, to pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish, Rochester, in addition to his duties as director of the Permanent Diaconate Program.

Father Daniel L. Karl, to associate pastor of St. Michael's, Penn Yan, and St. Andrew's, Dundee, from Holy Trinity, Webster.

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