

Sister Ordered To Quit Post

Detroit (NC) — Sister Agnes Mary Mansour, who heads Michigan's Department of Social Services, has been ordered by Archbishop Edmund C. Szoka of Detroit to quit her post because she

has refused to oppose state funding of abortion.

Archbishop Szoka, in a statement read at a Feb. 23 news conference, said he had "waited patiently" for Sister Mansour "to declare her active opposition to Medicaid payments for abortion ever since she was appointed to the position last December.

"This declaration has not been made by Sister Mansour and therefore I must now state, without any qualification, my objection and opposition to her appointment as director of social services. I also call for her resignation from that office without delay," the statement declared.

"It is now the responsibility of her religious superiors to require Sister Mansour's compliance with the laws of the Church," the archbishop continued. "Her acceptance and retention of public office, whether by election or by appointment, requires the approval of both her religious superiors and the local bishop. She does not have my approval."

As of Feb. 25, Sister Mansour remained on the job and her order, the Sisters of Mercy in Detroit, said that she "is not being dismissed from the religious community," that she "is a sister in good standing" and that "the provincial administrative team is taking the arch-



BISHOP SZOKA

bishop's statement under advisement."

The order said that it would have no further remarks and was still discussing the matter.

A one-time congressional candidate, Sister Mansour has said she personally opposes abortion but does not want to prevent qualified women who receive state Medicaid funds from obtaining abortions.

'Acceptance' To Be Topic

Angela Gallo, director of the diocesan Council to the Divorced, Separated and Widowed Catholics, will speak on "Acceptance" at the 7:30 p.m., Sunday, March 6, meeting of the St. Charles Divorced Catholics Group in the St. Charles School hall, 3003 Dewey Ave.

The topic will deal with adjusting to a new life and handling one's feelings following a divorce or separation. Admission is free and further information is available from 225-9102.

Diocese Reveals New Insurance Plan

A new Group Life Insurance Plan for lay employees of the diocese working at least 20 hours a week will be implemented as of April 1.

The plan has two parts. As of April 1, non-contributory Group Life Insurance and Accidental Death and Dismemberment equal to 150 percent of an employee's earnings will be provided by the employer to all eligible employees — regular part-time and full-time personnel working 20 hours or more a week.

The cost to the employer will be 24 cents per \$1,000 per month of coverage.

For example: for a lay employee making \$12,000 per year, the cost of providing non-contributory insurance will be about \$4.32 a month or \$51.84 a year and gives the employee \$18,000 coverage. Accidental Death doubles this amount and the common carrier provision of Accidental Death could triple the amount.

The second part of the plan is contributory on the part of the employee. It will be available up to 100 percent of annual earnings at the rate of 23 cents per \$1,000 per month. This is an employee-

paid benefit with no cost to the employer and is supplemental to the non-contributory portion of the plan.

For example: for any lay employee making \$12,000 a year, the cost is 23 cents per \$1,000 a month or \$2.76 a

month or \$33.12 a year. It will provide the employee with \$12,000 in coverage. The employer pays nothing for this portion of the plan. Accidental Death doubles this amount and the common carrier provision of Accidental Death could triple the amount.



SISTER MANSOUR

Mothers Seminar

A "Seminar for Mothers of Teens and Pre-Teens" will be presented March 25-27 at the Cenacle Renewal Center, 693 East Ave. According to Cenacle spokesperson Mrs. Rosemarie Schaeffer, the program "will explore ways to improve relationships and communications with your teens and pre-teens." Leading the special version of Parents of Teens Seminar will be the developers, Ron and Judy Platten. Further details and reservations are obtained by contacting the Cenacle Ministry Office, (716) 271-8755.

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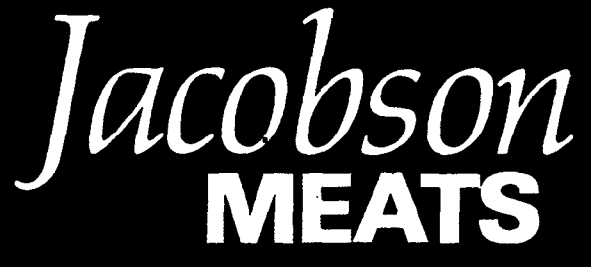
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