

WOC Sees Increased Interest from Bishops

By John Dash

Almost one third of the nation's bishops have indicated their interest in taking part in a workshop on women's issues during their November meeting this year, a staff member of the

Women's Ordination Conference said last week. Sister Fidelis McDonough, staff member at the national WOC office in New York City, and organizer of the workshop, said that while only 30 bishops will actually take part, more than 80

members of the national body have responded "affirmatively" to an invitation sent out by the WOC office.

In Rochester to address a local WOC convention, Sister Fidelis described the relationship between the USCC and WOC as "cordial," and said further that a number of bishops, when contacted individually, demonstrate great interest in WOC's concerns.

Indeed, she said, "they are convinced," when individual bishops are presented with the cause of women's ordination.

In an effort to "move out into the grassroots" area, WOC is encouraging local conventions this year, rather than a single, centralized gathering, she said.

The conventions are slated throughout this year, and are demonstrating the wide variety of concerns women have on their relationship with the church.

"Women want different things," she told the group, and said that plurality is evidence "the Holy Spirit is so present in this movement."

And, she said, "the movement is not just women talking, but women in prayer together — the quiet determination to be in prayer together."

A "woman-church is emerging," she said, "to be of benefit to the whole church."

ME Weekend In Auburn

Auburn — A Marriage Encounter weekend is scheduled March 18-20 at the Casawasco Conference Center.

Reservations and further information are available from John and Alice Neno, 1959 Mecklenberg Road, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850; telephone (607) 272-8436.

Sister Jean Rodman is pastoral assistant at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Churchville.



Imagining The Future Church

By Sister Jean Rodman

"A world speeding toward the 21st Century poses questions... it has ever been the task of the Church to let the questions of the day challenge and deepen her understanding of her heritage. It is this kind of dialogue between believers and their culture... which, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, keeps us growing toward the full stature of Christ... I pray that we may be able to build up the love and unity of our local Church, promote deeper faith in individuals and in the community, and preach the gospel with fresh vigor." (4, 5, 6)

Recently, Sidney J. Harris mused in his Democrat and Chronicle column on the classic bar scene in "Star Wars" where weird-looking representatives from all over the universe gather in the smoke-hazed and noisy saloon. These creatures from the far distant future are strange to us in appearance only. Despite the eyes protruding from the ends of trunks and duplicate heads on flower-stem necks, we clearly recognize their racism, suspiciousness, aggression, and provincialism as our own. Harris points out how difficult it is for us even to imagine that our descendants might be "only slowly in the process of becoming human;" that even when we invent people of the future we cannot conceive of their being on a "higher ethical plane" than we are.

Shall we imagine for a minute the Church of that 21st Century toward which we are speeding? Is the Diocesan Sisters Council still discussing the tensions between priests and sisters? Is "Who has the authority, us or them?" still a prime question of parish councils? Are priests still shaking their heads over the burn-out afflicting the few workers in the parish and the reluctance that afflicts the rest? And even if, in your fantasy, the DSC minutes are taken by a robot, the council meets via

teleconference, and the shaking head is female, can you imagine that the Church will have grown a little more toward that full stature of Christ?

Reflecting on the questions of our day which affect women leads us to reflect on our own position and the position of our Church along the path to maturity. We discover our semi-human and semi-Christian selves in a people who are semi-Church. We discover our need for hope that our bishop's prayer for love, unity, faith and vigor can be a reality for our future.

Hope has two lovely daughters, Courage and Anger. St. Augustine tells us. We need to make a home for this trinity of women in our Church so that we resist what must not be, work for what should be, and imagine what can be our future. Surrounded by whatever weird creatures our smoky ecclesial future holds, Christians will, we hope, raise a toast to the incomplete people of long ago in '83.

Family Mass

The Bishop Kearney High School annual Family Mass will be 10 a.m., Sunday, March 20, in the school

cafeteria. Father Charles Manning will be the principal celebrant. After the Mass a continental breakfast will be served.

'Elijah' Scheduled March 27

A dramatic performance of Felix Mendelssohn's composition of the Old Testament story of the prophet Elijah's struggle against adversity and opposition is scheduled March 27 by the Perinton Community Chorus and Orchestra.

Singing the title role will be bass William Briggs of Rochester. The soprano role of the angel will be sung by Barbara Staropoli, SSJ, a widely known music educator and a faculty member at Nazareth College.

They will be accompanied by an experienced cast, a 90-member chorus and a 35-member orchestra, all under the leadership of Virginia Hogan, SSJ.

The concert will be at 4 p.m., Sunday, March 27, at the Minerva DeLand School Auditorium, Hulburt Road, Fairport.

St. Charles D/S Group Plans Meeting

"Alpha Thinking" will be the topic of Edith Saiké when she addresses the St. Charles Divorced/Separated Group at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, March 20, at the St. Charles School Hall, 3003 Dewey Ave.

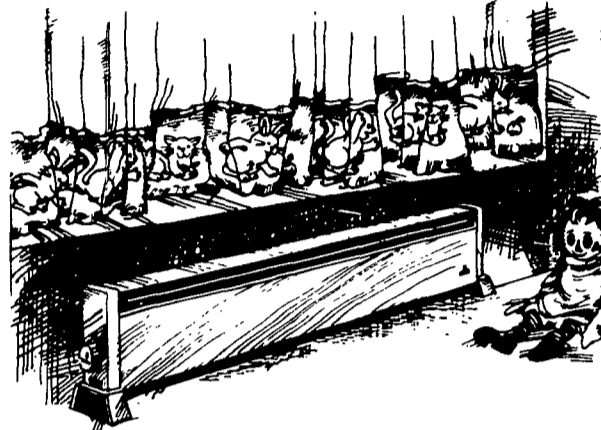
Admission is free and refreshments will be available. For further information, the telephone number is 225-9102.

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ST. PATRICK IN THE THIRD WORLD?



Ireland was once a mission country, a young Church. St. Patrick helped change that, of course, and he did it eventually with the help of priests drawn from the newly baptized Irish people.

It wasn't long before priests from this "mission" country went out as missionaries themselves.

This process continues today, in Africa, Asia, Oceania, and wherever there are young Churches striving to grow and—despite their own needs—to send out missionaries.

You can help today's "St. Patricks" of the Third World through your support of the Propagation of the Faith. Pray that their efforts may be rewarded as his have been. And make a sacrifice, as an outward sign of your partnership in mission with them.

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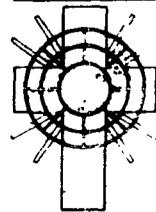
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Sund. Jn. 8:1- (R2) Phi Secor arrived: concept: unique: he had history. of histo events future) of the c the liber Thus h the futu the past ACCO Isaiah ii of his p the Bab looking Exodus. liberatic "See. I new."

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