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DPC principals Mrs. Defendorf and Dengler present gifts during the installation Mass.

DPC Changes Reins, Hears Bishop on War and Peace

The Diocesan Pastoral Council, meeting last Saturday at St. Thomas More School, installed new members, seated a new executive committee, heard a proposal for beefing up youth representation on the council, discussed the recent U.S. bishops' pastoral letter on war and peace, and heard Bishop Matthew H. Clark's challenge for help in his three-year program of parish renewal in the diocese.

The council is a consultative body which serves at Bishop Clark's pleasure. Its membership is drawn from all walks of life and every corner of the diocese.

Twice during its meeting, the council heard from Bishop

Clark, the first time following a presentation on the pastoral letter, "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response," given by Lourdes Perez-Albuerne, chairperson of the diocesan International Justice and Peace commission.

The bishop said that in his involvement with writing the pastoral, "I have had a certain change of heart in the way I have looked at this question." He presented the council his own attitudes toward war as they have changed over the years, from his childhood during World War II, through the present day.

"War," he said, initially,

"was the thing that had brought such a delight to my life:" from patriotic songs to orange pop.

Later, as European maps were published in the papers showing placement of armaments, he recalls being scared that war should break out again. But, he said, it was a remote concern, "that I never thought that much about even through Korea and Vietnam. I don't think I had it deeply in my heart that war was all that critical to me."

But the development of the pastoral has changed all that, he said.

"Now the letter challenges the deepest most un-

Continued on Page 4



SHIRLEY TOOLE

School's Out for DPC Grads

After five years, several faithful delegates to the Diocesan Pastoral Council could look forward to the last Saturday as a day off.

For two of them, however, that was not quite the case. The two, Sister Ann Habershaw and Mrs. Shirley Toole, were in their customary places. Mrs. Toole served one last time as chairperson of the consultative body, and Sister Ann as vice chairperson.

However, the day marked the first time in five years that Rose Reichart of Auburn could really enjoy the first June Saturday as her own free time. She went to the hairdresser, and afterwards began sewing a prom dress for her daughter.

Mrs. Reichart, who works part-time for the credit union at Auburn Prison, and part time for her husband, gave up her sole free day of the week to DPC matters.

Last week she cited the development of Bishop Matthew H. Clark's pastoral letter on women in the Church, "The Fire in the Thornbush," as the most significant event to which the DPC contributed during her term of membership.

The extraordinary length of her term was due to the transition between bishops, a time when DPC members were asked to extend their terms for an additional year.

Asked if she found an internal development during her term of office, she said not. "I don't see that much of a change between when I first went on the council and now. At times I really thought I was wasting my time. But I had made a commitment, and I felt I should continue my commitment."

On the positive side, however, she pointed to a future development she hopes occurs, that of a greater understanding between the city and the rest of the diocese.

"I think what's coming is that Rochester and the rest of

us are getting to know each other better. They're realizing that Rochester's problems are different from our problems and vice versa. I think that's the most significant thing," she said.

A very different perspective was provided by Father Elmer Heindl who has relinquished DPC membership and taken on Priests Council membership.

He said that he sees the diocesan consultative bodies as "gradually beginning to develop a feeling of cooperation," among themselves. "I see the DPC, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, developing the feeling that no one body can do the whole job. Each has its specific concerns and sensitivity. In the beginning we were thinking we had to take control of the whole Church."

He added that he feels the council is developing a sense of patience. "We're working slower, we're not aiming for goals that have to happen tomorrow."

"And we're more open to

accept the concepts and opinions of others and not feel threatened by them — that's the most pleasing to me," he said.

Sister Ann Miller, principal at the Corning Catholic Schools, no longer finds her Saturdays divided. Last Saturday, she only went to one day-long meeting, rather than split her attendance between two. Sister Ann is a member of the Sisters of Mercy Central Administration; and it was that body which occupied her attention.

Of her five years on the DPC, Sister Anne said that she was uncertain she could "pick out one issue" which would illustrate DPC development over the years.

"But, over the past five years, I've seen a great growth on the part of the pastoral council to assume a role of leadership — to reach out to issues, instead of reacting to them when they are brought to the council," she said.

She is also pleased with the council's "accepting the

challenge of evangelization. I think it was the DPC which saw the evangelization effort as a worthwhile endeavor," she said, noting the Harvest a Hundredfold celebration of evangelization to be staged this Saturday.

Sister Anne further pointed to the DPC's role in establishing the diocesan Board of Education, and the DPC's role in broadening that body's scope from Catholic schools to Catholic education in general.

"I will miss the DPC, and I will be sorry not to be there with them," she said last Friday.

"I almost wish I were going with you," she told a reporter, "to see the installation and to meet with the regional coordinators."

"And in a real sense, I will also miss Shirley Toole's last speech."

Sister Ann Habershaw commented last week that over the years the council has evolved into a "group that really works together. At-

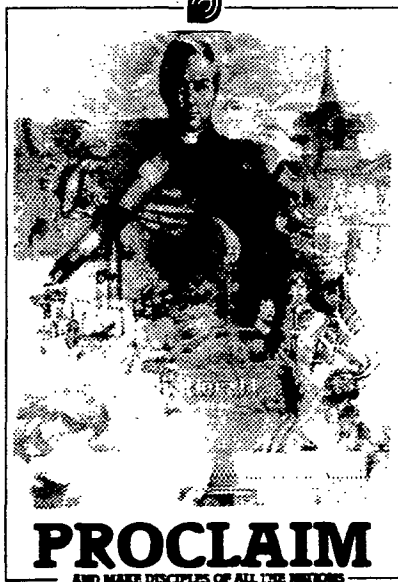
Continued on Page 4

Bishops' Pastoral In Next Week's Paper

The Courier-Journal next week will publish the entire pastoral of the National Conference of Catholics Bishops on war and peace, "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response."

In addition, any individual or organization desiring more copies may do so by filling out a special order form which is printed on Page 9 of this issue.

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...Special Pullout Section
This Issue



New members of the Diocesan Pastoral Council's executive committee are, from left, Robert O'Gara; Sara McLaughlin; Gerry Driscoll, chairman; Pat Defendorf, vice chairman; John Dengler; and John Brophy.