



Sister Mary Irving, SSND, addresses a group of 37 students of spiritual direction at the Divinity Schools during a program sponsored by the diocesan offices of Vicar for Religious and Continuing Education.

Spiritual Direction Seen Growing among Laity

By John Dash

Something unusual is happening in the Diocese of Rochester. In the course of the past year a number of diocesans, mostly laity, but including religious and clergy, have been sharpening skills in, of all areas, spiritual direction.

Spiritual direction, and seeking it, has long been considered the property of the Cloister and the Cloth.

But last week, 37 people gathered at the Divinity Schools for a 15-hour workshop on spiritual direction, taught by Sister Mary Irving, SSND. Half of those attending were lay people, all but two under the age of 35, not all of them Roman Catholic.

"It is a symptom of our times," said one participant. "People are fed up with the shallowness of modern living, the cultural mores, of getting their sense of worth and value from external criteria."

The speaker, Sister Marlene Vigna, RSM, pastoral assistant at St. John the Evangelist on Humboldt Street, said of the participants, "Most have drunk deeply of life's experiences and are trying to integrate this with their spiritual lives and to help others do the same."

One participant got up at 5 a.m. each day to drive to Rochester from Ithaca for the event.

Another drove in from Geneva.

The development is somewhat of a surprise to the workshop leader too. "There must be a really healthy interchange in this diocese and interest in spiritual growth," Sister Mary said.

Last week's program was the latest open meeting on the topic sponsored by the office of Vicar for Religious and organized by Sister Muriel Curran, SSND.

Sister Muriel noted that three earlier one-day sessions on spiritual direction drew a total of 150.

"Word has really gotten around," she commented.

Sister Mary found last week's group "excitingly rich and diverse." She used the word "seeking" to describe the participants, and said they represented a "real cross section" of religious experience in the area. Enrolled were people from parish RCIA groups, religious orders, the task force on the pastoral letter "Fire in the Thornbush," and Cursillo.

Also present were social justice leaders, one of whom, Giovina Caroscio, commented that providing a source for spiritual direction is seen as a vital component in social action.

And further, Sister Mary noted, there was at least one person present who was responding to a request from parishioners outside the set that usually takes charge of parish affairs. "We're here too," they were quoted as saying, "we want our spiritual needs taken care of too."

A session last week saw the participants discussing a transcript of a conversation between a spiritual director and a woman religious. The assembly had been asked to "notice" specific points in the transaction between the two, and to describe initial "feelings" about what they noticed.

A constant observation was that the spiritual director seemed to approach the "directee" with a program external to her needs.

And a major part of the discussion was devoted to the feelings of anger expressed by the woman religious.

Pro-Lifers Told: Fight Not Over

Orlando (NC) -- Rep. Henry Hyde (R-Ill.), author of the Hyde amendment which restricted the use of federal funds for abortions, told delegates to the National Right to Life Committee convention that they should continue their efforts despite recent successes gained by the opposition.

"It is very premature to say that the fight is over. Our opposition shouldn't gloat," he said.

Hyde added that even though the "courts are against us as well as the American Medical Association and the bar association, they know that we are out there. Our cause is the defense of the preborn."

Hyde said pro-lifers are often depicted by the opposition as being unsophisticated, with organizations staffed by "little old ladies in tennis shoes and wild-eyed priests."

Another problem, according to Hyde, is media coverage. "We have come a long way in 10 years," he said, "What other movement has the overwhelming majority of the media against them?"

Men and women representing groups within the committee, politicians, religious workers, and other pro-lifers attended the convention July 7-9.

Hyde's comments were echoed by Jean Doyle, new president of the National Right to Life Committee. She said recent Supreme Court

and Senate actions upholding legal abortions were "milestones rather than millstones."

GENEVA ON THE LAKE

A beautiful vacation resort

SUNDAY NIGHT PACKAGE from \$44 (With gourmet buffet and continental breakfast) Per person Dbl. Occup

A WEEK AT THE LAKE from \$258

Includes complementary bottle of NYS wine, fresh flowers and fruit on arrival, continental breakfast each morning, wine & cheese with music Friday night, gourmet buffet with music and candlelight Sunday evening.

Italian Renaissance Villa, the jewel of the Finger Lakes. Enjoy the tranquility of this European Vacation Resort — terrace, formal gardens, pool, sailing, Golf & fine restaurants nearby. Awarded AAA ♦♦♦♦ rating

LEONARDO DA VINCI CONFERENCE SUITE Ideal Executive Retreat.

Call Collect (315) 789-7190

Rt. 14S., Geneva, N.Y. 14456

Think Ahead to HOLIDAY TRAVEL

Space is limited — Reserve Now — NOW — for • Fall-Winter Vacations • School Breaks, etc.

CALL FOR LOWEST FARES!!!

SCHOOL BREAK

Feb. 19-26

A Bird's-Eye View of the Carribean from the Beautiful New *Song of America*

We have reserved cabins. Call now. Group space. Best Rates. If you would like to be on our mailing list, please call or send form below:

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____ Zip _____
NO CHARGE! • NO OBLIGATION!

Jean Brown Travel

2510 Chili Avenue

426-1892

GREENWAY FARM MARKET

435 WESTFALL RD. • 244-4371

We raise our own fresh produce just for you.

Now picking fresh **RASBERRIES**

Fresh Home Grown
Cherries and Currants
Our own Home Grown
Tomatoes

Daily Fresh Picked Corn

Fruit Baskets Always Freshly Made Cut Flowers And House Plants

Finest Quality at Reasonable Prices

Open Daily 10 AM to 7 PM
Thurs. and Fri. 10 AM to 8 PM

SINCE 1850

Palmer

Fish 'N' Seafood

CLAMBAKE SPECIAL

Fresh Maine Mahogany Clams

10-Dozen Bag *only* **\$16.99**

Similar to hardshell littleneck clams but at substantial savings. Delicious steamed or prepared casino style.

SAVE 50¢/lb.

Fresh Flounder Fillet

only **\$2.49/lb.**

Similar in taste and appearance to fresh sole fillet but at super savings. Delicious baked, sauteed, or lightly broiled.

REPEAT OF A SELL OUT!

Fresh Whole or Half Red Salmon

only **\$3.99/lb.**

Flown in fresh from the Pacific. 4- to 6-pound average. Whole head off. Supply limited.

All offers good through Saturday, July 23, 1983

Perinton Hills Mall
Routes 31 and 250 • 223-5900
Genesee Regional Market
900 Jefferson Road • 424-3210