



Recently elected officers of the Diocesan Sisters Council are (from left): Sisters Susan Schantz, president; Margaret Comin, member-at-large; Mary Denis Hurley, secretary-treasurer; and Wanda Henke, vice president. Absent from photo was Sister Mary Smith, SSND, member-at-large.

## DSC Agenda

Diocesan Sisters Council  
Saturday, Nov. 12, 1983  
St. Francis DeSales Parish, Geneva

11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. — General Reports:  
DSC Committees  
Committee on Priests-Sisters Relationships (Sister Margaret Brennan, SSJ; Father Joseph Jankowiak, Father Gerald Connor, Sister Mariel Curran, SSND)  
Executive Committee; Priests Council; Vicars for Religious, Diocesan Pastoral Council.  
Financial report and budget decisions  
12:15-12:45 p.m. — Report on Conference on Laity and Mission, JoAnn Weber  
12:45-1:15 p.m. — Lunch (brown bag)  
1:15-2:45 p.m. — Discussion of council Peacemaking Agenda; evaluation of preparations for and activities during October Action  
2:45-3 p.m. — Evaluation of meeting and recommendations

(The general public is invited to any or all parts of the meeting.)

## Diocesan Offices Hold Peace Meetings

Community forums on "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response," co-sponsored by the Office of Religious Education, the Office of Continuing Education, and the Bishop's Committee on Implementation of the Peace Pastoral, are scheduled for the week of Nov. 13.

From 7:15 to 10 p.m., on Tuesday, Nov. 15, St. Charles Borromeo Church, Elmira Heights, will host the forum in the church hall, 130 Oakwood Avenue, and on Wednesday, Nov. 16, St. Ambrose Parish, Rochester, will host the forum in the school gym, 31 Empire Blvd.

The forums are designed to provide background and information about the United States Bishops' pastoral letter on peace and to explore the contents, issues and implications of The Challenge of Peace. Panel members will present theological foundations of the document, the

modern principles of war and peace, and the specific challenges of the document.

Presentors in Elmira will be from the Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry. Virginia Stanton will be the moderator. In Rochester, presentors will be Deacon Kenneth Scarciotta, director of Continuing Education, and Mary Heidkamp, director of the Department of Justice and Peace. Sessions are free and open to the public. Parishes wishing to sponsor similar programs may contact the Office of Religious Education.

### Deadline

Parish correspondents are reminded that items for At Your Parish must be typed and in the Courier-Journal offices before noon on Thursday preceding Wednesday publication. The address is 114 S. Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607.

# St. Mary's Church of Deaf To Launch Census Project

St. Mary's Church of the Deaf, the unique parish housed at Old St. Mary's Church, will launch a census Nov. 13 to contact all deaf Catholics in the greater Rochester area, and eventually the diocese.

According to Margot Van Etten, pastoral assistant, the census is not intended to draw deaf persons to St. Mary's, but to aid the Church in assessing needs of deaf worshippers with a view to helping them.

It is estimated, she said, that there are as many as 5,000 profoundly deaf persons in the greater Rochester area, "and a great number with significant bilateral loss."

Figuring that a mere 10 percent of deaf persons here are Roman Catholic, the number of deaf persons who have a right to Church atten-

tion to their needs is significantly more than are currently recognized.

Worshippers at St. Mary's, for instance, she said, only number 30-40 a Sunday, though the parish maintains a mailing list of 300 names.

It is known, she said, that Rochester has the highest per capita deaf population in the country, principally because of the presence of the National Technical Institute of the Deaf and the Rochester School for the Deaf.

The census will be taken by members of St. Mary's Church of the Deaf; the parish staff, including Father Thomas Erdle, pastor, and Mrs. June Fox; and "some friends of the parish, namely pastoral ministers who sign."

The parish is seeking answers to a number of questions, Mrs. Van Etten said, among them:

● Who and where are the Catholic deaf?

● What draws them to the church they attend (whether St. Mary's, a church with interpreted services, or a "regular" church)?

● What services would they like?

● What services are currently being provided for deaf children of hearing parents in parish and religious education programs?

● What can be done for children of parents who do not wish to enroll their children in the diocesan program for deaf children, so they may receive appropriate education

● How many parents of deaf children be aided?

● How many deaf persons are in nursing homes and other institutions, and how can their needs, both spiritual and otherwise, be met?

In sum, the census seeks to

"see precisely what needs exist and how they may be met," Mrs. Van Etten said.

Mrs. Van Etten encouraged any deaf Catholics, their friends or their family members, to contact her during the course of the census.

Mrs. Van Etten may be reached calling (716) 546-6364; or through TTY (716) 546-3218.



### Here's How!

Marge DiSalvio displays a painting during a lecture emphasizing composition and design with personal interpretation. Well known among local artists, Ms. DiSalvio will address the Chili Art Group workshop, 7:30 p.m., Nov. 10, at the Chili Community Center, 4400 Buffalo Road, N. Chili.

## Tough Love To Be Topic

Elmira — The monthly alcoholism seminar will take place at 12:15 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 17 in the doctors meeting room at St. Joseph's Hospital. Susan Lipke of the Chemung Chapter Chapter of Tough Love will explain the organization's philosophy. Bruce and Barbara Wallace of the Stueben County chapter will be on the panel.

Further information is available from the Stars Office (607)733-5519



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**THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER**

**EDWIN SULEWSKI**  
FUNERAL DIRECTOR  
How do I help the elderly at the time of a funeral?  
Death of a loved one is painful. There is a tendency to believe that the elderly adjust more easily because they "should" anticipate the loss. Having more time to prepare does not guarantee that grieving will be easier. The elderly may have fewer resources such as friends, money or good health. Losing a partner or long time friend may mean living life alone at a time when a person may be least able to be independent. Support from family and friends at this time is most important. Being over protective or taking away a person's independence by making decisions for them is not desirable and may be harmful. Help the elderly begin their adjustment by attending the funeral and offering specific help.

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