

Federation of Spirituality Ministers Formed

In the course of less than a year, an organization has been established in the diocese which will have its first fully set up meeting Oct. 15.

The organization is "The Diocese of Rochester Federa-

tion of Renewal Center/Spiritual Direction Personnel," co-chaired by Father Edwin Foley CSSR, and Sister Anita Rourke RC.

The history of the organization was recently recounted by Sister Audrey Synnott

RSM.

"At first glance," she said, "a meeting of prayer center and retreat house personnel convened by the Vicar for Religious is not headline news."

"But when Sister Muriel Curran SSND, called such a meeting last September, a new relationship began among all the various ministries of spirituality."

"Given an inch, the Spirit took a mile: the September meeting set a process in motion that is generating a fresh look at spiritual needs across the diocese."

She said, "A hunger for spiritual growth marks the entire Church of Rochester. There is an increasing demand for one-on-one spiritual direction, days of prayer, and a broad range of experiences."

"How were these needs to be best met?" she asked. "How were ministers in the different areas of spirituality to meet their personal needs for sharing faith and for continuing spiritual and professional growth?"

She said that those key questions, raised at the first meeting, led to monthly meetings from last October through June.

"As the months passed the group became increasingly representative of the entire

range of ministries in spirituality. A variety of needs from different localities across the diocese were set out; a rich diversity of gifts began to be called forth as means to address these needs were discussed."

"A headline-making event was on its way," she exclaimed.

"It took until June for the group to identify itself clearly and to articulate its purpose for wanting to work together in a more visible, consistent manner," she recounted. "By the June 18 meeting, the year's work had come into clear focus. By June had been drawn up and were approved."

She identified the group's three-fold purpose as:

- To meet the needs of persons throughout the diocese who are seeking spiritual direction and prayer development;

- To provide for the development of skills in spiritual direction throughout the diocese;

- To develop a process of internship and supervision for spiritual directors.

She said membership in the federation is open to "all persons engaged full or part-time in the ministry of spirituality and considered 'professional by reason of education and background

or by virtue of their experience in this field and their present practice in it."

Information regarding membership is available from Father Foley, (716) 394-5700;

or Sister Anita, (716) 271-8755.

The secretary of the federation is Sister M. Maureen Flood RSM; the treasurer, Sister Dolores Monahan SSJ.

St. Mary's to Honor Daisy Marquis Jones

St. Mary's Hospital will dedicate its new emergency center in honor of Daisy Marquis Jones, and hold an open house of the facility, 2-4 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 30.

Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey will bless the \$1.2 million facility. In attendance will be Sister Ann William Bradley, chairman of the hospital board; Sister Mary Alice Roach, president of the hospital; Pearl W. Rubin, director of the Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation; and Dr. M. Kasaraneni, medical director of the emergency center.

Daisy Marquis Jones was a local philanthropist. She died in 1971. The foundation she established was a major contributor to the hospital's recent \$40 million modernization project.

The newly equipped emergency area, with an entrance on West Main Street, provides for more space for patient care and treatment. Features include 12 examination areas, including special rooms for pediatrics, orthopedics, gynecology and for treatment of cuts and lacerations. Several of the examination areas are fully equipped with cardiac monitors.

In addition, there is a large trauma room, new admitting, registration and waiting areas and an expanded, enclosed ambulance garage.

SSJs to Host Forum on Life, Death Issues

An open forum on "Life and Death in the Community" will be held 7 p.m., Friday, Sept. 28 at the motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph, 4095 East Ave.

The program is open to the public. A \$3.50 registration fee will be charged.

The forum will address religious and ritual issues; legal and estate issues, and feelings of survivors that occur at the time of death and how those feelings influence judgments.

Speakers are Dave Crawford, president of the Funeral Directors Association; Tom Frantz, representative from the Life and Death Transition Center; Allan Illig, attorney. Further information is available by calling the Western New York Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Center, (716) 275-7758.

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

Teaching Catholic Values

When Bishop Clark came to the diocese five years ago, an older and bolder pastor said, "Bishop, I welcome you. But I want you to know that should there be a difference between you and the Holy Father, I will be with the Pope." The Bishop answered, "I certainly hope I will always be with the Pope."

Our diocese heads pretty well the guidance of the Holy Father. But if we are to give even limited credence to the N.C. Reporter and the Wanderer, this is not true in all dioceses. If eternal vigilance is the price of liberty, I think constant vigilance about religious teaching of our children is the price we must pay to preserve the authentic Catholic faith and practice of our people.

Fifteen years ago there was a great thrust on the part of watering-the-milk religion teachers to mute the specific name "Catholic," and replace it with a vague term, "Christian."

One Sunday after Mass in Rexville I gave the instruction on the Church: one, holy, catholic and apostolic -- and unique. A woman from the Buffalo diocese came bounding in afterward, glowing. "Oh, Father, I am so glad I am here today. In my parish our priests and sisters refuse to use the word 'Catholic'; only 'Christian.' At a parish meeting, with 200 parishioners there, one asked the pastor: 'Why don't you ever say 'Catholic'? You always say 'Christian' -- as if everyone were the same.' He angrily accused the parishioner of being a trouble-maker."

I have wondered if Brian Moore's small novel, "Catholics," is not a warning about the Catholic Church losing its soul and uniqueness by a fusion with an ecumenical hodgepodge of contradictory faiths. "Catholics" was made into a TV movie, showing an ancient abbey in Ireland which had retained tradition in faith and worship, and the mighty conflict portrayed magnificently by Trevor Howard as the Abbot, and Martin Sheen, the representative of Rome and the Amsterdam Ecumenical Council. You can borrow the book from the public library.

Recently our diocesan bureau of Youth Ministry sent a list of survey topics to our priests, "to develop

educational units for use in Youth Ministry." There are 28 proposed topics, including "Who Am I?", "Finding a Christian Life Style," "Trying to Be a Christian," "Other Religions," "Soap Operas."

I thought, "How strange that there is not one mention of the Catholic Church." So I wrote to the Youth Ministry director: "Dear Mr. Fox,

"I have just read your survey topics and am scratching my head, wondering, 'There is no indication that we are Catholics. Catholic non-identity is a problem among so many of our youngsters.' St. Thomas taught that 'the object of the intellect is truth.' I think it is a great harm not to give our youngsters a sound intellectual grasp of 'Why I Am a Catholic' specifically, rather than 'Why I Am a Christian,' vaguely.

"Of the Church, Lumen Gentium (Vat. Council, 1964) declares: 'This is the unique Church of Christ which we avow as one, holy, catholic and apostolic. After His resurrection Our Saviour handed her over to Peter to be shepherd (John 21/17), commissioning him and the other apostles to propagate and govern her. (Mt. 28/17)' It seems to me the word 'unique' should be a clarion for a youth program enthusiastic about Catholicism.

"Most of us admire the new Miss America, Sharlene Wells, for the ardor and conviction she has for her Mormon religion which forms her life. She said, 'I live my values seven days a week. I have always been who I am now; and I will not be changing.' So much of her values are very Catholic, including her ideas regarding purity in sex, fidelity in marriage, temperance, and pro-life for unborn children.

"If your ministry can form Catholic youths in the fashion of the Catholic Church as Sharlene is fashioned by Mormonism, then your ministry will be a rousing success. Why not include Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Father Ritter, Damien the Leper, Dom Bosco, Edel Quinn and others who were formed by Catholic thought and devotion? Our youngsters do need great models.

"Please consider these observations, not as a complaint but as a hope that your program will be authentically Catholic: faithful to Christ and His Church, and to our Holy Father and our Bishop."

Cenacle Sets Retreat

Father John Walchurs will direct a retreat for men and women, Oct. 28-29 at the Cenacle Renewal Center, 693 East Ave.

Father Walchurs, a Jesuit, is one of the most popular retreat leaders on the Cenacle's schedule.

According to spokesperson Shirley Grasso, "His sensitive, compassionate nature is informative and comforting. Even though short, this retreat can result in a profound, new outlook on our lives that will endure."

The offering for the retreat is \$50. Further information and reservations are available from the Cenacle Ministry Office.

In addition, Father Walchurs will lead an evening and a day of renewal. The first program will be 7:30-9:30 p.m., Monday, Oct. 29; the second, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. The offering asked is \$5. Participants for the day-time program are asked to bring a bag lunch.

Reservations are made by calling the Cenacle Ministry Office, (716) 271-8755.

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