

New Occupants And A New Look At The Pastoral Center

By Teresa A. Parsons

It's been a long summer for diocesan employees at the Pastoral Center. The \$320,000 renovation of the facility, which began June 1, involved demolition and reconstruction of several areas. Some departments were reorganized, some moved into the building at 1150 Buffalo Road, and most offices already there were relocated. Meanwhile the daily routine demands on staff continued inevitably.

For the most part, the August 1st deadline for the second and last major phase of renovation was met, according to Jim Magee, diocesan property manager and coordinator of the project. As of late last week some area partitions had yet to be erected and the front door access ramp for disabled people was receiving finishing

touches. The print shop, formerly a gym, still awaited final mechanical fixtures and the director's return from vacation before equipment is actually moved. But Magee said that any remaining moving should be done by August 23.

Initially, renovation was proposed when some 33,000 square feet of space became available on two floors of the old St. Andrew's Seminary last August as Holy Childhood School moved to new quarters in Henrietta. Meanwhile, Father Peter Bayer, diocesan chancellor, pointed out that the diocese was bearing the costs for offices located elsewhere in Rochester. Quarters at 750 West Main Street, for example, had been available to their occupants rent-free, but the diocese still bore the costs of heating and maintenance.

"The idea was to bring everyone we could in here as long as we had space," he said. "Offices here are those that relate primarily to all 12 counties."

"It seemed more productive to rent this floor area," Father Bayer remarked, adding that the new design is also more functional. Grouping secretaries together in central areas with other divisional personnel around the perimeter is one example, a move which he said allows equipment and facilities to be shared and promotes a better work flow.

The Diocesan Building Commission allocated space within the Pastoral Center by consulting with division directors to determine their needs for the next four or five years. Areas were then assigned based on to each division's size and predicted growth.

Work on the project was concentrated in two phases. From June-July 1st, the first floor and west end of the third floor were reconstructed. A similar renovation of the third floor east and rearrangement of the second floor partitions took place from July-August 1.

Magee and the other members of the Diocesan Building Commission believe the Pastoral Center's looks have also been vastly improved. "When I first came in for my interview," he recalled, "I was really turned off by what it looked like." He also observed that the first and ground floors were vastly underused, and pointed out that the whole complex only included three or four conference areas. There are now nine areas available for such gatherings.

However functional the design, the adjustment has been and continues to be difficult. For example, while the new secretarial centers allow cooperative phone coverage, staff members will need time to become familiar with the workings of all the departments for which they will answer calls.

Sylvia Mancuso, secretary for the Department of Religious Education, credited Magee with great patience and congeniality during the whole renovation process. "He hears it all, but has had a real calming effect,

trying very hard to make things comfortable for us," she said. "He deserves a medal."

Those offices new to the Pastoral Center include: the Ministry for the Disabled and Community Residence Program from 50 Chestnut Street; the Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Housing Foundation and staff from the Department of Justice and Peace from 750 West Main St.; the Permanent Diaconate Office from St. Francis Xavier parish; the Propagation of the Faith Center from East Avenue; and the Hispanic Apostolate. Father James Marvin has a new office in connection with his continuing work as head of the Thanksgiving Appeal, and Father William Laird, who has returned from studies in canon law, now has an office with the Tribunal on the first floor.

Some individuals and programs have also been relocated and reorganized as part of the renewal of the Office of Social Ministry. Maurice Tierney has relocated to the Pastoral Center as diocesan associate director for Catholic Charities (direct human services), as has Mary Heidcamp, associate director for Justice and Peace. Lourdes Perez-Albuera, international justice and peace coordinator at the diocesan level, has likewise moved to the Pastoral Center.

The work of the Human Life Commission, formerly located at 750 W. Main Street, has been assigned to staff at each of the three regional offices of social ministry.

The Office of Human Development, which was headquartered at 750 W. Main, now has a central diocesan office and coordinator at the Pastoral Center, but justice and peace coordinators at each regional office are responsible for allocation of funds in their areas.

While most Pastoral Center offices are available by calling the main switchboard at (716)328-3210, several will have their own outside lines. Those include the Hispanic Apostolate, Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Housing Foundation, and the Propagation of the Faith.

Family, Friends Help Celebrate Father Heindl's 75th Birthday

Several celebrations June 13 through 16 marked the 75th birthday of Father Elmer Heindl. A Mass of Thanksgiving June 13 at St. Charles Borromeo was followed by a dinner at the Crescent Beach restaurant with family, friends and the staff at St. Charles.



At the dinner, Father Heindl was surprised by the many expressions of gratitude and recognition he received. Included were a letter from President and Mrs. Ronald Reagan, a letter from U.S. Sen. Fred Eckert with a flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol in Inauguration day, a blessing from Pope John Paul II, letters from Governor Mario Cuomo and Bishop Matthew H. Clark, and a resolution that was passed in the New York state Senate commending him for his works and accomplishments. He also received a scrapbook from his family, filled with memories from all who attended the party.

On Father Heindl's actual birthday, June 14, St. Charles' schoolchildren celebrated a Flag Day ceremony with Father Heindl and then presented him with balloons and cards from all the children.

In the evening, there was a Flag Day celebration at Highland Park Bowl, at which Father Heindl gave the invocation.

Birthday celebrations concluded on Sunday, June 16, with a parish celebration at the 11 a.m. Mass, with a coffee hour afterward. The parish gave Father Heindl a T-shirt with the words "Forever Young" printed on it.

Father Heindl, who retired from pastorate five years ago, this year celebrated his 50th jubilee as a priest in the Diocese of Rochester.

Father Heindl has been affiliated with the U.S. armed forces for the last 44 years. Shortly after the U.S. entered World War II, he was commissioned as a chaplain in the Army. In July, 1942, he was sent overseas into the midst of hostilities in the Pacific area, serving in the campaign of General Douglas MacArthur from New Guinea to the Philippines. For almost four years in that theatre of operation, he distinguished himself as the outstanding priest in uniform.

For his achievements and deeds of valor, a grateful U.S. government bestowed upon him numerous decorations and citations, including the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Distinguished Service Cross and the Legion of Merit. Whenever he is reminded of his heroism under fire his humble commentary is usually "If they gave me any awards, it was simply because I was doing my job as I saw fit."

He still continues to serve with distinction. After the war ended, he remained on extended active duty until 1948. Then, after returning to Rochester, continued on in the Army Reserves, serving in the 98th Division, both as regimental and divisional chaplain, while at the same time fulfilling his pastoral duties in the parishes to which he was assigned.

He still is serving as chaplain to various veterans' organizations: the VFW, American Legion, 98th Division Retired Officers, 391st Regimental Officers' Association, 37th Division (from WWII days), Catholic, Protestant and Jewish veterans' groups, and chaplain to the Reserve Officers' Association.

Fr. James Courneen Killed In Bolivia

A long-time missionary in Bolivia, Father James P. Courneen of Rochester was killed Sunday, August 4, when his small plane crashed while he was attempting to land near the town of Camiri. Also fatally injured in the crash was Dr. James Bramham, a physician from Tarboro, N.C.

According to Maryknoll authorities in Bolivia, the two men were headed to Camiri from Santa Cruz and came down about 100 yards short of the runway. Bramham had been scheduled to treat patients in Camiri. The doctor had traveled to Bolivia frequently during the past 10 years to volunteer his medical skills working with Father Courneen.

Born in Rochester on Feb. 18, 1919, Father grew up in the Bronx and Long Island areas of New York, graduating from St. Mary Magdalene school and Far Rockaway High School. He earned a bachelor of science degree in business administration from Fordham University in 1940, and entered Maryknoll the same year.

Hispanic Bishop Ordained In Washington Ceremonies

Catholic Church got its first Puerto Rican-born bishop Aug. 4 when Jesuit Father Alvaro Corrada del Rio was ordained an auxiliary bishop at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.

The church, one of the largest in the world, was jammed with a crowd of 5,000 people, who drowned out the choir with a roar of applause and cheers as the bishop-to-be came in the door at the end of a long entrance procession. Many in the congregation waved Puerto Rican flags or held up pictures of the new bishop.

Bishop Corrada, 43, is the first Hispanic to be an auxiliary of the Washington Archdiocese. A member of the New York province of Jesuits, he is also the only bishop from that order serving in the 48 contiguous states.

Archbishop James Hickey of Washington, chief ordaining bishop, presided at the three-and-a-half-hour afternoon ceremony in the shrine. Afterward, the people poured out onto the adjoining campus of The Catholic University of America for a fiesta that went on until sundown.



After ordination in 1945, Father Courneen worked in Maryknoll's Development Department for ten years, serving in St. Louis, New York and Houston. In 1955, he was assigned to Cochabamba, Bolivia, where he spent the next six years. During the period 1961-66, he returned to the U.S. to work in development in New Orleans and Denver, after which he returned to Bolivia.

At the time of his death, Father was pastor of San Juan Bautista parish in Saavedra, Santa Cruz. During his tenure there, he created a Center for Promotion and Health Education to help people feed themselves better, use medical services and develop their community.

Father Courneen is survived by a sister, Mary Clancy of Brooklyn, and a brother, Father Frank Courneen, S.J., of Buffalo, also ordained in 1945. The two priests celebrated their 40th anniversaries of ordination earlier this summer.

A funeral Mass for Father Courneen and Dr. Bramham was celebrated on Wednesday, August 7, at the cathedral in Santa Cruz. Both will be buried in the plaza of the San Juan Bautista parish in Saavedra. A memorial Mass was also celebrated August 7 at the Maryknoll Seminary Chapel, Maryknoll, N.Y., at noon. Father William Boteler, M.M., Superior General of Maryknoll, as principal celebrant.

Fast aid.

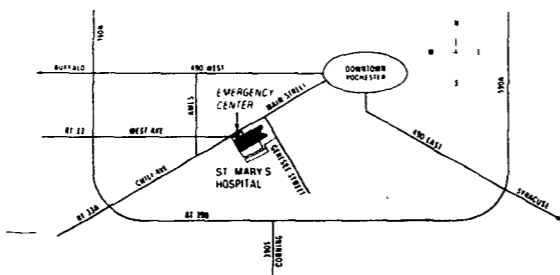
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