

DPC to collect viewpoints about ministers in diocese

By Teresa A. Parsons

What is expected of priests in the Diocese of Rochester? That the question Bishop Matthew H. Clark has asked members of the Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) to answer by collecting the views of their constituents throughout the diocese.

His request was presented by executive committee Chairwoman Pat Defendorf at a DPC meeting Saturday, November 23, at St. John of Rochester Church in Fairport. The bishop's question was expanded by the DPC into a survey that asks for people's expectations of religious, deacons, professional lay ministers and lay persons as well as priests.

Defendorf said the request came from the bishop's concern over the shortage of vocations to the priesthood and religious life. The Diocesan Vocation Team has reported that many parents discourage their children from considering or pursuing such vocations. Consequently, the survey is an attempt to determine whether this parental attitude is related to perceptions of Church personnel.

"We want you to do this, but we won't tell you how," Defendorf told DPC representatives, urging them to collect responses in whatever ways are suited to the geography and demographics of their regions. Results will be reported at the next DPC meeting in January.

During the "bishop's forum" portion of the meeting, Bishop Clark reported on the

status of the diocesan mission in Tabasco, Mexico, which is being evaluated, as planned, after three years. Father Paul J. Ryan, who headed the last mission team, returned to Mexico in November to study at a language school in Cuernavaca, Bishop Clark said.

The bishop also discussed the recent bishops' meeting in Washington, D.C., and the progress of this year's Thanks Giving Appeal, which he termed "promising."

During the morning session, Judy Kollar, director of the diocesan Department of Continuing Education, presented an overview of educational opportunities for people in ministry. Her suggestions included classes offered by the 14 Rochester-area colleges, as well as diocesan departmental programs; offerings by religious congregations such as the Sisters of Mercy, Sisters of St. Joseph and the Sisters of the Cenacle; and programs sponsored by such ecumenical organizations as Genesee Ecumenical Ministries.

"This has been Adult Learning Week, so if you haven't done it yet, you have till midnight to stretch your mind," Kollar concluded.

During the afternoon, Deacon Claude Lester, diocesan director of parish services, updated the council on the revised Needs Assessment process. Because more than 70

parishes asked to take part in the year-long planning program, it was reorganized into three cycles.

The 11 parishes chosen for needs assessment's first cycle have already begun writing mission statements, Lester reported. Each parish has a process coordinator who attends a series of diocesan-sponsored training sessions, then coordinates the program at the parish level. Needs assessment's two remaining cycles are scheduled to begin in April, 1986, and September, 1986.

Also at Saturday's meeting, a southeast region representative, Shirley Montie, was elected to the council's executive committee, replacing Brother John Walsh, who resigned several months ago.

A member of Blessed Sacrament Parish, Montie has served on parish council, liturgy committee, and as a member of a core team for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Her term expires in June, 1986, when a new executive committee will be elected.

Black woman named vice chancellor for Archdiocese of New York

By Tracy Early

New York (NC) — Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York has named a black woman as a vice chancellor of the New York Archdiocese four weeks after promising to do so.

She is Dolores Bernadette Grier, a longtime employee of the archdiocese who has worked since 1981 in the social development department of Catholic Charities.

Born in Harlem to parents who came from the South, she converted to Catholicism as a teen-ager. She holds a master's degree in social work from Fordham University.

She was designated vice chancellor for community relations.

"She has a clear understanding of church teaching," Cardinal O'Connor said in an-

nouncing the appointment Oct. 7. "In any kind of forum or debate she remains calm, balanced and straightforward on church teaching, and she's able to articulate even the most complicated positions."

At a Sept. 9 symposium in Harlem on the pastoral letter issued a year earlier by the nation's 10 black bishops, Cardinal O'Connor said he hoped to appoint more blacks to archdiocesan posts and to begin with the appointment of a black woman as vice chancellor.

Women, mostly nuns, have been appointed to the post of chancellor or vice chancellor in several dioceses. But Miss Grier is the first woman appointed to this office in the New York Archdiocese, and possibly the first black woman in the nation.

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