

# DPC prepares for elections

Parish council presidents and pastors around the diocese will receive a letter this week, reminding them that elections to the Diocesan Pastoral Council are just around the corner. The letter asks that these pastoral leaders nominate candidates to replace the DPC representatives whose three-year terms expire in June.

Comprised of lay people, and male and female religious, the DPC consults with Bishop Matthew H. Clark about issues in the diocesan, national and worldwide Church.

The council consists of both elected and appointed representatives. Representatives appointed by Bishop Matthew H. Clark include: youth members — two from high school and two from college; one brother; one deacon; and five to 10 other representatives of minorities or special ministry groups.

Three people are elected to represent each of the diocese's 11 regions. At least two of the three must be lay people. Married couples cannot be elected to fill a single slot.

Also elected are three priests, one a member of the Diocesan Priests' Council, and three sisters, one a member of the Diocesan Sisters' Council. The terms of elected representatives from each region are staggered so that no more than one-third of the council's membership turns over each year.

Names and application forms from the nominees should be submitted to the coordinator of each region by the beginning of March, according to Martha Jodoin, DPC executive secretary. Elections will then take place during March.

DPC representatives must be Roman Catholics in the Diocese of Rochester who are concerned about the mission of the Church and committed to serve that mission. They are asked to serve by attending bimonthly meetings on Saturdays from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (approximately seven per year) at different locations in the diocese.

"These people meet, discuss, vote and challenge each other to study and reflect on the Church and its ministries, then ... make recommendations to the bishop for forging the future of the Church in our diocese,"

wrote former DPC executive secretary Judith Kollar.

Through such standing committees as the Ministerial Review Committee and the Task Force on the Laity, members study the needs and resources of the diocesan Church.

During their last meeting — Saturday, Jan. 18, at St. Anne's Christian Formation Center — DPC members looked at a variety of ministries.

As a followup to a request from Bishop Matthew H. Clark at the last meeting in November, representatives discussed the responses they have gathered to the question "What do I see as the role of the priest?" Written responses were collected for Bishop Clark, who was not present.

After reviewing diocesan divisions from January to June, 1985, the Ministerial Review Committee compiled a report which was presented to the DPC by Ron Keller.

Ministry to the aging was the topic of a presentation by Sister Anne Maloy, R.S.M., director of the Mercy Center with the Aging. She described the services the center offers, including a six-part family education series on aging, counseling and referrals for individuals and consulting services to individual churches as well as groups of churches looking for ways to the needs of their aging populations.

In response to the recent extraordinary Synod of Bishops directive to re-examine Vatican II, the DPC's Task Force on the Laity presented a statement of purpose which focuses on Lumen Gentium, the Vatican Council II's Dogmatic Constitution on the Church. In the task force statement, it stressed the mandate and capacity of individuals appointed by baptism to be messengers of the word, witnesses to the truth and representatives of the grace of Christ in the world.

The Task Force on Pastoral Structures and Services also reported that it is meeting as directed by Bishop Clark.

DPC members passed a motion to invite a Thanks Giving Appeal representative to a future meeting to describe the appeal's implementation.

The council's next meeting is Saturday, March 22.



## Along the Way Bishop Matthew H. Clark

It's hard to believe that we are fast approaching another Lent. Yet, next Wednesday we enter that special time of grace when we prepare ourselves to celebrate the mystery of our life in the risen Christ. It is a time of conversion and renewal, and a period of special preparation for those preparing for baptism at the Easter Vigil.

There is a wide variety of ways in which we can remind ourselves of the special nature of this time and express in our daily living the deeper convictions of our own spirit. Let me suggest some ways we can do this. If any appeal to you, you can try them out. If they don't, they may suggest some lenten observances more appropriate to your own circumstances.

In any case, all of us need to remember that whatever practices we may choose, more important are the dispositions of heart from which they spring and to which they lead. The test of them is the measure in which they open our hearts to God and to our neighbors.

1) **Prayer** — I recommend that you choose some way of daily prayer that will draw you into the spirit of this season. Since we have a special theme of reconciliation this year, let me suggest that you focus on the central relationships of your life. What are the ways in which they expand your capacity to love and open you to greater freedom and peace? Are you as generous as you might be in expressing your thanksgiving for this gift by sharing it with others? Do you recognize any healing or strengthening that you might bring to these relationships? Are you willing to

pray for the purity of heart we need to take the initiative in such instances?

2) **Fasting** — In an age when we are reminded that responsible eating is a boon to the body, let me suggest that it is also a great freedom for the soul. We call it fasting in our tradition, and generally it means consuming just enough to sustain us in our work and other duties, and letting it go at that. If you want a rule of thumb, try one full meal a day and consume no more than that at your other two meals combined. If you feel some urging for food after that, let the urging be a call to prayer for those who need struggle literally every day for enough food to sustain life.

3) **Almsgiving** — It is an honored practice in our tradition to give not only from our abundance but from our sustenance to those in greater need than we are. Such possibilities as Operation Breadbox are wonderful ways of doing this in solidarity with others. You may have many other ways available to you. Some may want to help a person through a difficult pregnancy; others may wish to finance a poor child's education. The amount doesn't matter. If it's offered with love and pinches us a bit, it will make our spirits more available to God's transforming power in us.

4) Let me offer a final suggestion for your consideration. It is this: devote one half of the time you spend watching television each week to prayer, reading and service to others.

I'll try as best I can to be with you in all of the above.  
Peace to all.

# Shuttle explosion leaves Concord teacher's parish 'stunned, praying'

By Stephanie Overman  
NC News Service

The explosion of the space shuttle Challenger left members of St. Peter's Parish in Concord, N.H., "stunned and praying" for one of their own — Christa McAuliffe, a parishioner and former religious education teacher.

Vincentian Father Chester R. Mrowka, pastor at St. Peter's, said the community of about 30,000 had rallied around Mrs. McAuliffe, a teacher at Concord High School who was to have been the first ordinary citizen in space.

But her flight ended in tragedy only about a minute after it began when the shuttle exploded after takeoff Jan. 28.

"We were so proud of her, we had so much hope in her — the whole community, but especially the staff and children at the school," he said, adding that the explosion left the community "stunned and praying."

He described his church as "off the beaten track" but said "some people are drifting in to make a visit, to say a prayer."

Hundreds of students at Concord High School had gathered in the cafeteria to watch the flight on a television set. They cheered at liftoff but when the shuttle exploded moments later there was silence and tears. A teacher quickly turned the set off and students were sent home.

Many of those Concord High students



Concord High School students pray at St. Peter's Church in Concord during a memorial service for Christa McAuliffe, who had taught social studies at the school. (NC/UPI photo)

attended a memorial Mass at St. Peter's to remember Mrs. McAuliffe.

Father Mrowka said that Mrs. McAuliffe had taught eighth grade religion class last year at the parish but that because of her preparations for the shuttle flight she had not been able to teach this year.

The McAuliffe family, including Mrs. McAuliffe's husband, Steven, and children, Scott and Caroline, had been parishioners since 1978, Father Mrowka said. Caroline had been baptized at the church.

Father William J. O'Connor, pastor of St. Jeremiah Parish in Framingham, Mass., where Mrs. McAuliffe's parents are parish-

ioners, said a few hours after the explosion that a Mass was scheduled for that evening.

"Christa was confirmed here, married here," Father O'Connor said, adding that she had been back to the parish about two months before for a family baptism.

Her parents, Edward and Grace Corrigan, are both "great workers" for the parish, according to Father O'Connor. He said Mrs. Corrigan is a member of the parish council and head of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Mrs. McAuliffe, a social studies teacher, had been selected last July from among more than 11,000 teacher applicants.



This photograph of the shuttle explosion has haunted the nation as we attempt to deal with the shock of last week's tragedy.

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