Constitutions

Continued from Page 3

vague group called 'semi-cloistered'

When we looked at our roots, we saw we were apostolic. We still give retreats - we had a clearly defined ministry from the beginning - but it can be outside the cenacle (retreat house), whereas before everything was done in the cenacle?

The constitution itself has symbolic meaning to the members of the order, Sister Heanue added. "It was the first time since the first constitution when we had a full say (in the order's structure and government)," she said. "We can really claim this constitution — every word in this we've written?"

For some orders, however, the rewriting process has been more difficult. In looking at their roots, for example, the Holy Cross Religious — consisting of both priests and brothers - realized that if the order was to be true to the spirit of their founder, Basil Anthony Moreau, it would have to be restructured, according to Brother Edward Boyer, CSC.

Moreau, Brother Boyer said, intended that the priests and brothers within the order be treated as equals. The old constitution did not allow brothers to be superior general of the order or of the provinces. Recognizing that this rule was contrary to Moreau's wishes, the order revised the constitution to allow brothers to assume these positions. The constitution was

submitted to CRIS following the order's 1986 chapter, and the order's members are waiting to receive a response.

The constitution originally proposed by the Franciscan Order of Friars Minor contained a similar provision endorsing equality between priests and brothers. But in 1987, CRIS instructed the friars to revise the document, declaring that brothers could not hold governing offices in an order that included priests.

Brother Boyer speculated that the Holy Cross constitution might encounter the same problem. "If Rome does not approve that part of our constitution, then we would like to pursue the opportunity to dialogue about that," he said.

CRIS also required the Basilian Fathers to make substantial revisions to their proposed constitution before it was approved, noted Father Norm Tanck, CSB, the order's local superior. In the mid 1970s, the order wrote a very general constitution called The Basic Document, which, in its original form, consisted largely of quotations from scripture, Father Tanck said.

CRIS required the order to develop rules and a clearer statement of the order's government. By the time the order's constitution was finally approved three years ago, it consisted of three documents: The Basilian Way of Life (the revised version of The Basic Document), The Basilian Customs, and The Basilian Government.

After hearing such stories, the Sisters of St.

assifieds

Joseph anticipated a far more difficult time in gaining approval of their constitution than they actually had, Sister LeValley noted. When CRIS's approval arrived the sisters were both surprised and relieved.

Sister Rosalma Hayes, SSJ, who participated in drafting the document, said the approval brought a sense of relief to the entire congregation.

"We finally have our thoughts down in print, now we can go on," she said. "We've expressed them, now we can be about our ministry, about

CANA to hold prayer witness at army depot in Romulus

our living?

statement.

Church?

obedience is planned.

Catholics Against Nuclear Arms (CANA) will hold a Good Friday prayer witness at the Seneca Army Depot on Friday, April 1, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. The group will meet at St. Joseph's House of Hospitality on South Ave., Rochester at 12:30 p.m. for car pooling. Service will begin at the Troop Gate on Route 96A.

The service will follow the format of the liturgy for Good Friday with readings, prayers and a sharing of bread and wine. All are welcome. No other demonstrating or civil dis-

Having an approved constitution has given

the order a surer sense of itself and the en-

couragement to continue the process of self-

examination and renewal, Sister LeValley said.

Currently, the order is studying the nature of

its charism and is developing a mission

sea legs in this era," Sister LeValley concluded.

"It's something Vatican II did for the whole

The constitution has given the order "new

Call (716)586-1000, ext. 55, for information.

Francis de Sales society offers support for spiritual growth

Adult Catholics searching for a way to deepen their spiritual lives may be interested in learning more about the Society of St. Francis de Sales. The Rochester chapter of the society, which was started by Father William Marceau, CSB, is now in its fifth year.

The society provides encouragement and support through monthly liturgy and gatherings for those who want to live more devout

lives. The group follows the message of the Gospels as well as the teachings of St. Francis de Sales.

A worldwide society with headquarters in France, the society has several groups throughout the United States.

An invitation for new members is now being made. Call (716)663-7309 or 482-3636 for information.

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