

Obits/et cetera

Dialogue

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charist.
"Communion is a basic belief for a Christian," Jaschek observed. "But in hearing the differences among Christians, it helped me to understand what communion is and to find strong parallels with Judaism that I wasn't aware of."

"That discussion was lively," Kelly acknowledged. "It showed our Jewish brothers that there are differences in the Christian community to help them better understand the diversity of opinions among Christians in regards to the Eucharist."

This fall's first two sessions have concentrated on Edith Stein, using the current GeVa production of a play about her life as a catalyst. Stein was born Jewish, later converted, became a Carmelite nun, and died in the gas chambers at Auschwitz. In 1987, she was beatified — a decision by the Church that has upset Jewish people.

Among the issues raised in the discussions

of Stein have been her conversion, the Church's decision to declare her blessed, and the construction of a Carmelite monastery at Auschwitz. According to Kelly, Stein's choice of vocation drew particular attention. "What's fascinating is to see how misunderstood her vocation is to Jewish people," Kelly observed. "It's even confusing to Protestant people."

Members of the dialogue group attended the panel discussion about *Edith Stein* on Sunday, November 13. They also plan to discuss the play and related issues at their December 5 meeting. In the spring, the group will turn to other topics — or perhaps more questions written on slips of paper.

In light of the successful group at St. Mary's, dialogue committee members are hoping to form similar groups in other parts of the community, Jaschek observed. "Dialogue, whenever it takes place, is a good idea," he said.

Jaschek remains disappointed about one aspect of the noontime discussions at St. Mary's. "Our frustration is that while eating a brown-bag lunch for just one hour, you only just get started," he said.

Sr. Dorothy Keenan, SSJ, teacher

A Mass of Christian Burial for Sister St. Dorothy Keenan, SSJ, who died at the Sisters of St. Joseph Convent Infirmary on Thursday, October 6, 1988, was celebrated October 10 in the motherhouse chapel. Monsignor Robert J. Cunningham of the Buffalo diocese celebrated the Mass, assisted by Monsignor William H. Shannon.

A native of Rochester, Sister Keenan entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1917 from Blessed Sacrament Parish. She earned a baccalaureate degree from the College of St. Elizabeth, Convent Station, N.J., and a master's degree from Canisius College in Buffalo.

Sister Keenan taught history and Latin at Nazareth Academy for 45 years. She was head of the academy's foreign language department

from 1955 to 1967.

Colleagues recall Sister Keenan as an exceptional teacher, greatly loved by her students. Whether she taught history, Latin, or Christian living, she was teaching students to think and to make wise choices for their futures. Students regarded Sister Keenan as a confidante as well as a teacher.

Ill health forced her to retire in 1970. She spent three years of that retirement at Nazareth Academy Convent, moving to St. Joseph Convent Infirmary in 1973.

She is survived by her brother-in-law, Morgan Hausel, of Lighthouse Point, Fla., and by several nieces and nephews. Sister Keenan was buried in the sisters' section of Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Reflective workshop planned to feature acclaimed author

Acclaimed author Joseph Girzone will be in Rochester November 18 and 19 to conduct a two-day workshop, which will be sponsored by the Spirituality Institute of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester.

The session on Friday, Nov. 18, will run from 7:30-9:30 p.m., and the Saturday, Nov. 19, session will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Both sessions will be held in the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, 4095 East Ave., Rochester.

The workshop will introduce a new approach to understanding Christianity and a new way to spirituality through understanding the authority of the Church and personal freedom.

Girzone is a priest of the Albany diocese, whose best known book is his most recent publication, *Joshua*, (1983) which has sold more than 100,000,000 copies.

The cost of the two-day workshop is \$10. Participants should bring a bag lunch on Saturday. Call (716)586-1000, ext. 70, for information.

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Council

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The soon-to-be-formed Vicar's Council for Religious will be that new form and will represent all the religious of the diocese. According to Sister Banick, the body will serve as an advisory group to the vicar rather than as an independent consultative body. "The vicar for religious office has expanded because of the issues that have come up such as retirement and housing," she noted. "I will call on this council for their expertise."

Forming a council to represent the concerns of all religious in the diocese was a direction Sister Curran had been encouraging, Sister Banick said, noting that the former vicar had been in contact with some of the men's religious orders, and had fostered greater collaboration among men and women religious.

The process by which Sister Banick was chosen as the vicar illustrates this sense of cooperation. Before Sister Curran was appointed vicar in 1981, the Sisters Council rewrote the job description for the vicar's office, screened candidates and recommended Sister Curran. A religious brother was drafted to serve with council members on the screening committee. In contrast, the committee that chose Sister Banick included a religious brother who volunteered to participate, along with a Basilian priest, a diocesan priest and members of three congregations of women religious.

By working together over the past few years, religious women and men have increasingly recognized their common vision of the Church, according to Sister Banick. "Because the orders extend beyond the diocese, they have a global awareness that has a lot to do with social justice," she observed. "Both men and women's orders have a social consciousness — that's why I think it's so important that we draw together now."

Through the various issue positions it took, the Sisters Council had lain the ground work for such efforts to increase awareness of social justice issues, according to Sister Barbara Moore, RSM.

"I think the Sisters Council took some strong stands on the role of women in the Church and called the diocese to some very strong stands on justice," observed Sister Moore, who was the council's president during the late 1970s and early 1980s. "I think we probably were the conscience (of the diocese) on very important issues."

Sister Moore speculated that one factor leading to the dissolution of the council was that more sisters had begun living outside of convents and working in various non-traditional ministries. These sisters began to face issues that affected them in their individual ministries and aligned them more closely with the lay people with whom they worked. Meanwhile, the vicar's office and the Intercongregational Council were taking over issues more strictly associated with religious life.

"Times have changed," Sister Moore remarked. "We're working in a much more collaborative fashion. I think it's a good thing to look at our structures and redo them."

Sister Rutty echoed that sentiment. "Yes," she remarked, "(the DSC) was something that was needed at a certain time in our diocese, and it did important work. But there's growth, and it's time to move on."

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