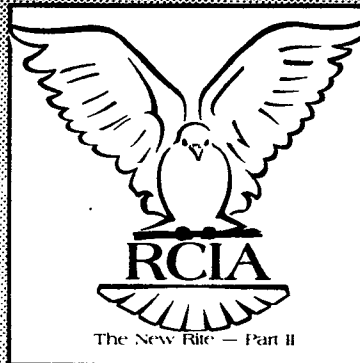




Cherished child

Pressured to have an abortion and forced to leave home, 16-year-old Tina found the support she needed to have the child she now calls a blessing from God. Page 6.



Conversion's power

The people who take part in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults attest that conversion's spiritual power isn't easily confined to schedules and timetables. Page 3.

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DPC seeks role in effecting task force recommendations

By Lee Strong

The Diocesan Pastoral Council at its November 19 meeting sought a more active role in implementing the seven recommendations of the Five Year Financial Planning Task Force.

The DPC's request for involvement followed Father John Mulligan's report on the recommendations, which will guide diocesan planning and restructuring over the next five years.

The meeting — held at St. Pius V Church, Cohocton — also featured an update from Father Paul Tomasso about diocesan efforts to prepare for future patterns of parish leader-

ship as the number of active priests continues to decline. The executive committee of the DPC also announced that the council will not consider the topic of bingo, ruling that the issue should be resolved by individual parishes.

The most active discussion of the day centered on Father Mulligan's presentation about the seven recommendations and the projected cost of \$47 million-plus to implement them.

Father Mulligan, moderator of the pastoral office, noted that in accepting the report from the Diocesan Oversight Task Force in June, 1988, Bishop Matthew H. Clark had agreed with the recommendations in principle, but did

not guarantee that the suggestions would all be enacted exactly as written.

Father Mulligan also pointed out that several of the recommendations had already been implemented or were in process. Among the recommendations "in process" are the creating of the moderator's office, the hiring of Mark Seeberg as development director on July 1, and the recent formation of the Bishop's Education Commission to oversee the restructuring of Catholic schools in the diocese. Other components of the recommendations are being studied by various action teams, he said.

The two most expensive items among the recommendations are a proposed \$37 million retirement fund for women religious and a \$20 million endowment fund for Catholic schools.

Father Mulligan explained that the diocese will provide \$18.5 of the retirement fund, and that the orders to which women religious belong — primarily the Sisters of St. Joseph and the Sisters of Mercy — will raise the other \$18.5 million.

The moderator noted that the retirement fund crisis is a national one. Although a national collection will be held in December to raise money to offset the retirement needs of the various U.S. religious orders, the Diocese of Rochester has opted not to participate in the national campaign in favor of local plans.

Because the Sisters of St. Joseph and the Sisters of Mercy have their motherhouses located in Rochester, and because they have provided 90 percent of services in the diocese by women religious, "we felt that the idea of local control and cultivation (of donors) would do better," Father Mulligan said.

This spring, the diocese will launch a five-year effort to raise its portion of the fund, Father Mulligan reported. He was not specific about how the money would be raised, however.

DPC members expressed surprise at the size of the fund and the amount of fundraising the diocese will have to do. Timothy Mancini, Northeast Region representative, asked how — in light of the difficulty the Thanks Giving Appeal has in making its annual goals — the diocese can expect to raise more than three times as much through another campaign. Other DPC members expressed concern that the religious orders would not be able to raise their portion of the fund.

Father Mulligan reassured council members that the orders had been consulted and felt that they could raise their part of the fund. As for the diocese, Father Mulligan said a number of

methods will be explored to meet its committed share, including cultivating large gifts from wealthy donors. "There will be several areas where we will go to people of means to enlist their support," the priest said.

DPC members also raised concerns about the proposed \$20 million endowment fund for Catholic education. Several members asked how the diocese would be able to conduct two large campaign drives at the same time. Father Mulligan pointed out that the retirement-fund campaign will begin in the spring of 1989, while efforts on behalf of the education fund will not begin until 1990 — after the restructuring of Catholic schools in the diocese has been completed.

When Father Mulligan discussed a recommendation that called for the diocese to hire community organizers and ministers to serve the poor in rural and urban areas, DPC members again questioned how the diocese would fund the programs. One member expressed concern that the diocese, in seeking money from "people of means," would have to cater to the wishes of the wealthy. Several members recalled the TGA campaign of 1985 in which the wealthy were courted as donors, and spoke disparagingly of "wine and cheese parties." They also pointed out that during that year, the TGA failed to meet its goal.

"At no point are we going to sell out to people of means to get their money," Father Mulligan assured the DPC members. At the same time, he said, the diocese must receive large contributions from wealthier donors if it is to raise the money that it needs to support its programs.

Father Mulligan also noted that the new development director, Mark Seeberg, will be hiring a marketing/communications person to help with fundraising. He further pointed out that the Foundation of Diocese of Rochester, created in 1985, will become more actively involved in raising money for diocesan needs and that Seeberg's office will eventually be housed in the foundation.

At this point in the discussion, DPC members raised the issue of stewardship. Ray Delles, representing the Livingston County Region, cited Protestant churches as a model for the Catholic Church, linking the idea of stewardship with the so-called Protestant ethic of hard work and fiscal responsibility.

"It's actually the Christian ethic — what we are expected to do," Delles said. "We want to foster ownership, but with that is responsibility."



Linda Dow Hayes/Courier-Journal

FEISTY FOWL — This inquisitive hen was among 7,000 turkeys awaiting Thanksgiving last week at Barry's Turkey Farm in Webster. Owner Frank Barry raises the birds especially for the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons, and sells them directly from his home store.

Courier-Journal 'Catholic Charities Christmas Fund' commences nineteenth year of assisting diocesan needy

1 Mr. and Mrs. J., ages 72 and 82, are a black couple living in a shack in a rural area. Since they own the shack, they won't move. Electricity and heating costs in the winter are very high because of lack of insulation. She receives about \$220 Social Security and doesn't have Medicaid. Her medications are very expensive. His Social Security is also small, and he receives \$45 a month pension. Because of their high heating costs, they are desperately in need of some extra money for survival.

2 This unwed mother came to the United States from Southeast Asia with her three small children. Raising the children alone, she has no time to attend school where she could learn English. She tries to improve her speaking ability by talking with her friends, watching television and other opportunities. She hopes that someday, when her children are older, she will have a better life and be self-sufficient.

3 Mr. and Mrs. N.O. and their seven children arrived in the United States on July 23, 1984. Because of his limited skills in English, Mr. N.O. got an entry-level job in a factory. He works full-time and as much overtime as possible, but still does not earn enough to support the family. The family income is supplemented by food stamps and Medicaid. Mrs. N.O. stays home taking care of the children, but as the younger ones begin school, she intends to begin school and start working part-time. Two of their oldest children graduated from high school last summer and are now attending Monroe Community College. Mr. and Mrs. N.O. hope that someday their family will be entirely self-supporting.

4 Mr. W.W., a 38-year-old Ethiopian, resettled in the United States in September, 1986. He does not have any formal education. He has been taking English as a Second Language course since he arrived in this country. He is looking for work, but his limited

understanding of English and a back problem make it difficult for him to get a job. He has a young daughter in Ethiopia who depends on his financial support to complete her primary school education.

5 Mrs. R.S., a Cambodian widow whose husband died in Thailand, has been in the United States for two years. She is the mother of six children ranging in age from two-and-a-half to 14 years. Mrs. R.S. speaks no

English and has been unable to obtain employment due to her younger children's medical problems. One child is handicapped, and two others have learning disabilities. Her many responsibilities at times leave Mrs. R.S. feeling trapped. She is doing her best for her children, but needs a great deal of support.

6 Mrs. G. is a 44-year-old woman from an educated family in Vietnam. She lost

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