

# Response to draft does not surprise bishop

Bishop Matthew H. Clark said he was not surprised by the recent move by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) calling for the U.S. bishops to drop their proposed pastoral letter on women, saying the bishops are not ready to do the "kind of critical analysis" of church policies that is needed.

"The LCWR has taken a similar position since the beginning of the process," noted Bishop Clark, a member of the committee that wrote the pastorals, and who — for several years — served as a liaison to the organization. "The theme of the statement, the basic context of it, are fairly familiar. Those themes have been raised up pretty

consistently by other groups."

The executive committee of the LCWR — a national organization of some 800 women who head Catholic religious communities — called the second draft of the pastoral an improvement over the first, but in the three-page statement issued Aug. 9, said that "a pastoral letter on women should not be issued by the American bishops at this time."

An adequate examination of "patriarchy" in the proposed pastoral would require the bishops to "raise serious questions about the manner in which the church is institutionalized and would be self-condemnatory," the statement said.

The statement came on the heels of a report issued in late July by the Washington-based Center of Concern, an independent Catholic study center, that urged the bishops to scrap the document on women's concerns.

In May Archbishop Rembert G. Weakland of Milwaukee, citing what he saw as credibility problems raised in part by the draft's treatment of the issue of women's ordination, also suggested that the bishops refrain from publishing the pastoral letter.

Bishop Clark acknowledged that some of the objections raised by the LCWR have validity.

"I think that the LCWR is right that on some issues it (our thinking) is not fully mature," Bishop Clark said. He added, however, that as part of the process of discussion and growth, the pastoral letter "would allow us as a nation and as a Catholic community to gather together around one focal point."

Bishop Clark described the pastoral letter as, "merely a step in the journey," and said that statements such as the one issued by the LCWR contribute to the long-range process of writing the letter and looking at discrimination against women.

The second draft of the pastoral letter, **Continued on page 11**

## Canandaigua parish gets \$160,000 grant from state

By Lee Strong  
Staff writer

CANANDAIGUA — The State of New York has awarded to St. Mary's Parish a \$160,000 grant for repairs and renovations to buildings on the church property.

The grant, awarded under the State Environmental Quality Bond Act of 1986, was announced Wednesday, Aug. 15, at a press conference in Rochester. The bulk of the money will be used to pay for restoration work on the parish's historic 166-year-old convent.

The parish must now match the grant amount, either through cash, additional grants, or "in-kind" contributions of materials and labor.

Once work on the convent is completed, the building will include meeting rooms for community groups, offices for parish ministries and a residence for parish priests and visiting clergy.

"Everyone I've spoken with is just thrilled with the project," said Susan Miller, who wrote the grant proposal as a member of the committee formed in August, 1989, to develop proposals to save the convent. "St. Mary's is really fortunate to receive (the grant)."

Miller noted that the convent — particularly its meeting rooms — will benefit the entire community.

"That kind of space is at a premium in Canandaigua," she said.

The announcement of the grant culminates a yearlong effort by parishioners and members of the Canandaigua community to preserve the convent and to retain it as parish property.

The convent, which was built in 1834, previously had been put up for sale because the parish did not have enough money to undertake the repairs needed. In addition, the number of Sisters of St. Joseph living in the convent had become too small to justify keeping the building open.

Last summer, however, protests prevented the sale of the convent to a developer who wanted to convert the building into office space. Those protests led to the formation of Miller's committee.

The committee had submitted an earlier grant proposal to the state, but that request was turned down this spring. With suggestions from state officials, committee members then rewrote the proposal and resubmitted it. The revised proposal led to the grant.

"I did not clarify enough the urgency for developing this building (in the original proposal)," Miller said. She revised the application to emphasize the urgent need for the money, noting that under the terms of the agreement with the developer, if the



File photo

St. Mary's Parish in Canandaigua received a \$160,000 state grant for repairs and renovations to buildings on the church property.

parish were unable to begin restoration efforts on the convent by August of this year, the building would go back on the market.

"When you're applying for a grant, obviously emphasizing preservation, renovation, before it goes over to commercial use, then that becomes an urgent situation," Miller said.

Joan Geise, a member of the committee, observed, "I think you can imagine we're pretty happy."

Geise said the committee members will be meeting with state officials in September to learn the specific requirements of the grant.

Committee members are already in the process of trying to secure matching funds, Geise reported. Currently, they are looking at 10-15 small grants. She pointed out that they also expect broad support for the

project.

"When we originally stated the plan, we asked if people would be willing to contribute money or time," Geise said, "and we got a good response."

Father Walter L. Wainwright, who became the parish's pastor in June of this year, said he expects the effort to repair the convent will be community-wide. "The building is an historical building, and Canandaigua is high on the list of places that tries to preserve historical buildings," he said.

The priest pointed out that the grant would be used primarily for exterior work on the convent.

The interior renovations will require additional money. "That work will be done when we can, as we can," Father Wainwright said.

## Quad appointments announced

ROCHESTER — Bishop Matthew H. Clark has appointed the following people to serve on the quadrant boards governing Monroe County's Catholic schools.

**Northwest Quadrant: Pastor representatives** — Fathers John Rosse and Thomas Wheeland; **Principal representatives** — Sister Diane Dennis and Barbara Williams; **Catechetical representatives** — Mary Linder and Annette Wilkin, both of Rochester.

**Southwest Quadrant: Pastor representatives** — Fathers Michael Bausch and Alexander Bradshaw; **Principal representatives** — Sister Elaine Englert and Sister Anne Pfrang; No catechetical representatives were announced.

**Southeast Quadrant: Pastor representatives** — Fathers Frederick Bush and James Moynihan; **Principal representatives** — Mary Caffrey and Sister Eileen Daly, SSJ; **Catechetical representatives** — Marilyn Smith of Fairport and Catherine Zsamboky of Victor.

The new representatives join the representatives of parishes throughout each quadrant on boards that began operating in July. The quadrant boards are responsible for the following activities:

- Selecting school principals from among the candidates recommended by the superintendent of schools in consultation with the school's on-site pastor.
- Ensuring that school facilities and are used efficiently and effectively.
- Implementing diocesan financing

policies and procedures for budgets, tuition, subsidies and marketing plans.

- Ensuring that the quadrants conform with diocesan policies and regulations.

In place since July, 1989, the northeast quadrant board will assist the new boards by sharing the northeast's minutes and experiences, diocesan officials have stated.

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