

Teachings

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parish administration; parish social ministry; liturgy; preaching; the church's role as an employer; the church's ministry to adolescents; and the church's catechetical efforts.

The following is a sampling of what the workshops and their participants offered during the day:

- In a workshop entitled "Preaching the Just Word," Father Robert J. Kennedy, assistant professor of liturgical studies at St. Bernard's, told his listeners: "Our message does not introduce ideologies or partisan solutions, but the prophetic message of the Gospel."

"Preachers can not remain silent on cru-

cial or controversial issues of our day without betraying the Gospel," Father Kennedy asserted, urging participants to use Scripture readings to relate comments on such issues as the recent war in the Persian Gulf.

- Patrick Fox, director of the Diocesan Department of Youth Ministry, explained that youth ministers and catechists working with teenagers need to closely examine the service projects the adolescents undertake.

For example, if all the students learn from confirmation class is that they must perform a certain amount of service hours per week to get confirmed, then they've missed the point of volunteering on behalf of others, Fox said. Service should effect much deeper change than that, he remarked.

To illustrate his point, Fox recalled how

one of his confirmation students chose to deliberately spend time with his stepfather rather than do work for a stranger as his service project. The student disliked his stepfather, but worked at developing a relationship with him over the course of time leading up to his confirmation.

When confirmed, the boy's father congratulated Fox "for what I had done," the ministry director laughed, recalling how the boy's father glowed with gratitude at the change in his stepson's treatment of him.

- During a workshop asking "Can a Parish Be Just?," Joe Fenlon, business manager at St. Michael's Parish in Rochester, told participants how his parish has been financially supported in part by a wealthier, white-dominated parish in the diocese for the past few years.

In gratitude for the parish's support, parishioners from the Hispanic-dominated St. Michael's Parish used to picnic yearly with the suburban parishioners, he said. But after a few years, the picnic seemed an empty exercise in cordial, but forced friendliness between the two culturally divergent parishes, Fenlon noted, adding that the parishioners would often segregate themselves by parish at the picnic.

"We sort of asked that it brought to a head," Fenlon said of the two parishes' relationship. After St. Michael's sought an "active cultural exchange" with their wealthier brethren, the two parishes opened up a low-cost clothing store operated on Saturday mornings in the St. Michael's basement.

"We've had their confirmation classes come down," Fenlon said, expressing

satisfaction that "two parishes are working together."

- "The bottom line of love is a basic acceptance of people as equals ... and an acceptance of going that extra mile to show love," asserted Father Thomas Mull, consultant to the diocesan Office of Liturgy, during an interview with the *Catholic Courier* about how social justice can be applied to liturgies.

Parishes should strive to deliberately include lay men and women, children, senior citizens and disabled people in the Mass, for example, Father Mull said.

"Do you have men and women involved in liturgy as lectors, eucharistic ministers, as greeters?" are some of the questions a parish should ask itself. Parishes should install ramps and make other provisions for the handicapped in their churches, while renovating the interior to make the space more inviting to lay participation, he said.

Although the church is celebrating 100 years of social teaching this May, that social teaching — in reality — has been with it since Christ walked the earth almost 2,000 years ago, many observers commented. That social teaching is grounded in the fact that Christians see each person as reflecting the Creator — and hence, as God's mirror, each person is worthy of the treatment one would accord God.

"There's only one Gospel, and it's a social Gospel," asserted Ron Krietemeyer, director of Social Justice in the archdiocese of St. Paul, Minn., during his keynote speech to the Ministry Day conference. "I never heard a reading on Sunday morning that doesn't have some social dimension," he added.

Prisoners

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something different. It makes me feel good all over."

Inmate Joe Trapp also agreed that volunteers such as Washburn bring a sense of family to the prison. "Where are real families aren't here, this is our family," Trapp said, adding, "(Brian) radiates when he walks in. He makes us all feel young again."

Sister Conheady noted that Washburn is one of only a few youths who are involved in the program, and his presence has made a difference.

"It keeps families alive in their lives, as well as youth and enthusiasm," the senior chaplain noted.

Although Washburn said his friends don't understand his desire to visit Groveland, he said he will continue his biweekly trips throughout his high school years.

"My friends think I am crazy. They think to get up at 6 a.m. and drive an hour to see prisoners is ridiculous," he said, noting that the appreciation of the inmates is enough to keep him coming back.

Montero expressed his gratitude for Washburn and the other volunteers by saying, "This is definitely the high point of my week. After 13 years, this is now my adopted family."

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