

Black clergy

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include African-American elements, but they are reluctant to press the issue.

"To use gospel music would be offensive to some sisters," she said.

In addition to feeling as if they are the fringe of some religious orders, many black sisters also experience burnout from the demands placed on their time, Sister Taylor said. One African-American woman religious in a diocese often holds multiple roles as a parish leader, social advocate, consultant, community worker and speaker, because there are few or no other such women to hold these positions, she said.

She elaborated by noting that, in addition to regularly traveling on weekends to do workshops and speeches, she serves as assistant to the mayor of Oakland, Calif., on job training and unemployment. She concluded that the con-

ference encouraged women religious like herself to take time to get away from their numerous roles to nurture their own lives.

Although many of the conference participants bemoaned what they saw as the persistence of both personal and institutional racism in the church, many participants also spoke eagerly about their own ministries and the uplifting atmosphere the conference provided.

"I think the conference was excellent," said Deacon Jim Boyd of Buffalo. "It's something that the people ... need to see, that there are a tremendous amount of African-American leaders in the church."

Brother Martin dePorres Smith, CSSR, of Baltimore, was honored at the conference for his 35 years of service, and he noted the increased numbers of black Catholics in all ministerial positions.

"Before I entered, I only saw one black priest and two black nuns," the Virginia native and former Baptist said.

He added that the presence of so many black seminarians at the conference was inspiring.

"I feel that I can give them the encouragement I didn't have," he said.

One such young seminarian was Caleb Buchanan, who grew up in a Brooklyn parish. Watching both black and white Catholic priests work wonders among his neighbors planted the seed of his vocation, recalled the newly elected president of the seminarians' association.

"Alcoholics went into extended years of recovery," Buchanan remembered. "Young, unwed mothers in distress had a place to go."

He added that young people took avenues to educations that were mapped out by priests who steered them toward scholarships and financial aid.

"I was caught up with the dynamic power of priests leading people and transforming their life in society," Buchanan said.

Rochester offers passes to seniors for events

ROCHESTER — Discount pass cards are being offered to senior citizens over the age of 60 for several recreation events being sponsored by the City of Rochester.

This pass is open to city residents only, and is good for one year beginning Sept. 1, 1994. It will be available after Aug. 15 at a cost of \$5. Cards can be purchased at any city recreation centers between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., at the city Parks and Recreation Department administration offices at 400 Dewey Ave., or in Room 222-B of City Hall, at 30 Church St.

For further details, senior citizens may contact their nearest recreation center or call 716/428-6755.

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16 Miscellaneous

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