

Diocesan Activity Report-NFP

Seton Hall University

South Orange, New Jersey 07079

(201) 761-9647

February 1988

Most Rev. James T. McHugh, *Director*; Rev. Philip D. Kraus, S.J., *Assistant Director*
Kathleen Carr, *Administrative Assistant*; Theresa Notare, *Editor, Newsletter*

DDP FOR NFP DIRECTOR ORDAINED AUXILIARY BISHOP OF NEWARK:

On Mon. Jan. 25 DDP director Msgr. James Thomas McHugh and Msgr. John Mortimer Smith were ordained auxiliary bishops of Newark. The rite took place within the Eucharistic celebration as family, friends, and concelebrants prayed together for the two bishops-elect.

The ordination was a spiritually moving ceremony. It consisted of three parts: the call to order; the imposition of hands and consecration prayer; and the presentation of the implements of the office. Throughout the rite the Ordinandi and the congregation were reminded of the nature of the bishop in the Church. As the Gospels were handed to the bishops-elect they were commissioned to "preach the Word of God with unfailing patience and sound teaching." When given their episcopal rings they were reminded "as Christ took the Church as his bride" they too must be "faithful and love the Church." And, when presented with the pastoral staff, they were told to "watch over the flock to which they had been appointed as shepherds.

Among the bishops present were Cardinals O'Connor of New York, and Law of Boston, as well as Papal Nuncio Pio Laghi. The principal consecrator was Archbishop Theodore McCarrick. He was assisted by retired Archbishop Peter L. Gerety of Newark and Bishop Walter Curtis of Bridgeport, CT.

For more on the ordination see page three.

SCHOOL-BASED CLINICS:

In a recent interview with Our Sunday Visitor, Bishop James T. McHugh discussed the growing presence of school-based clinics and the U.S. bishops' efforts to combat them [cf., "Statement on School-Based Clinics", Origins, 17 (1987)]

School-based clinics are contemporary society's solution to the escalating numbers of teenage pregnancies. They are primarily designed to distribute contraceptives, counsel clients on sexual issues, and provide referrals for abortion counseling. Bishop McHugh noted this implies certain social and moral presuppositions. On the one hand, they give a clear message to teens that it is "ok" to be sexually active as long as one is "responsible". And, on the other hand, they assume that parents will take no role in teaching their children about human sexuality.

In order to prevent this, Bishop McHugh strongly recommended that parents first become informed on the issues of family planning agencies (who are, to some degree, promoting these clinics) and the philosophies of the school-based clinic. Second, that parents have "a right to object, both to school personnel and to school boards."

The U.S. bishops criticize educational programs that "treat sex as a purely physiological reality". They stated that "only a reversal of attitudes and values" can remedy the situation. More work needs to be done on "teaching self-control, moral responsibility, and creating an environment in which this teaching can become meaningful and be acted upon"

FECUNDITY AND INFERTILITY STUDY:

In the Feb.'88 issue of the American Journal of Public Health W. D. Mosher reported on his recent study "Fecundity and Infertility in the U.S.*" Among its principal results the study found 2.4 million married couples, with wives 15-44 years of age, infertile in 1982. The study defined fecundity as "the physical ability to have children", and infertility as "the inability to conceive after 12 months or more of unprotected intercourse."

Related issues such as surgical sterilization, spontaneous pregnancy loss, and pelvic inflammatory disease, yielded additional informative results. For example, spontaneous pregnancy loss nearly doubles after age 35, from 17% at ages 25-34 to 31% at ages 35-44; in 1982 13.7 million American women ages 15-44 or their current husbands had a sterilization operation, and approximately one woman in seven - or 14% of women 15-44 years of age - reported having been treated at some time for pelvic inflammatory disease (PID).

The study provides useful information for:

- 1) counseling patients about risks of infertility problems, pregnancy loss and cesarean section;
- 2) comparing local clinic populations with national averages;
- 3) market analyses of new products to serve those with infertility problems;
- 4) planning further studies of demography and epidemiology of reproductive problems in the U.S.

*Mosher, W. & Pratt, W. "Fecundity, Infertility, & Reproductive Health in the U.S., 1982, DHHS Pub. (PHS), 87-1990, Vital and Health Statistics. Series 23, No. 14. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics, 1987.

SURROGATE MOTHERHOOD CONTRACT INVALID:

On Feb.3, 1988 the N.J. Supreme Court, in a unanimous decision, declared the "surrogate motherhood" contract in the Baby M case invalid and unenforceable.

The immorality of the baby-sale had been attacked by various individuals and groups since the original publicity (early 1985) about the surrogacy. The Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (2/22/87) judged all "surrogate motherhood to be morally unlawful" principally for the same reasons its Instruction on Bioethics rejected heterologous (third party) artificial insemination: namely, as being "contrary to the unity of marriage and to the dignity of the procreation of the human person."

The N.J. bishops urged the N.J. Legislature to reject bills designed to legalize surrogate motherhood, deeming it a moral as well as a legal wrong, and submitted an "amicus" brief through the N. J. Catholic Conference.

It is reassuring to have the N. J. highest court recognize and reinforce sound moral values, while denying legal status to baby-sales and overzealous limitation of a natural mother's rights.

It remains now for all other states to reject surrogate motherhood in their courts and statutes, and for the N. J. Legislature to parallel the court's opposition with its own state legislation prohibiting surrogate motherhood. The N. J. Supreme Court left one door ajar; it should be closed by the Legislature before an ill wind rises. That is, even voluntary (noncommercial) surrogacy should be prohibited by statute. Baby-sales have a particular immorality, but all third party artificial insemination or "in-vitro" fertilizations violate the biological and spiritual unity needed in a marriage.

Msgr. Aloysius Welsh

ORDINATION STATEMENT OF BISHOP MCHUGH

At the close of the ordination ceremony on Monday Jan. 25th, Bishop McHugh thanked family and friends for "prayers and loving support". He also expressed his gratitude for Archbishop McCarrick's confidence in him, as well as thanking the Holy Father for appointing him auxiliary bishop of Newark.

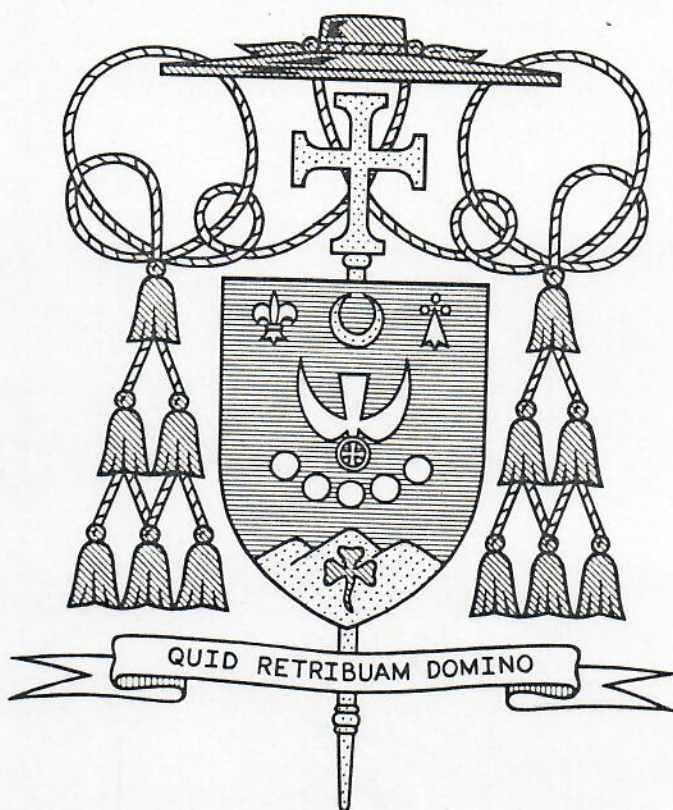
Bishop McHugh said he was "looking ahead with confidence and optimism" and planning on "the help of the Holy Spirit" in his new role as bishop. He said the bishop is a teacher and should be a source of unity and harmony, "within the Church and within society".

"I am aware of my needs and weaknesses, and of the challenges ahead", said McHugh. He also asked for continued prayers and patience; "...and the rest is in the hands of God."

'WHAT SHALL I RETURN'

The Coat of Arms of Most Rev. James T. McHugh, S.T.D., Titular Bishop of Morosbisdo, Auxiliary Bishop of Newark brings together those elements of his priestly service that have had the most significance in his life. The design is based on the symbol of the dove, overshadowing five small circles on a blue background.

The dove represents the Holy Spirit; the five small circles represent the cells of life and family units. Together these call to mind the Bishop's pastoral work in the family life and pro-life movements. The mountains coming forth from the bottom symbolize Potenza, the region of Italy his mother's family is from. The shamrock represents his father's Irish heritage. His motto: "What Shall I Return To The Lord".



NEWS BRIEFS

Archdiocese of New York;

Deacon Walter Sweeney was appointed as an observer to the October '87 Synod on the Laity.

Sheila Power Potter replaces John Heverin as NFP Coordinator. Sheila and her husband Charles come to the diocese with twenty-one years of teaching NFP.

Diocese of Allentown;

A regional NFP Conference will be held on the weekend of March 18-20, 1988 at Brisson Seminary in Allentown, PA. The program will be geared to NFP teachers and users. It will concentrate on the promotion of fertility awareness being made in high schools and marriage preparation programs. For further information contact William Urbine, Family Life Bureau, P.O. Box 1754, Allentown, PA. 18105 - 1754 ; 215- 439-1416.

(cont. on p.4)

(News Briefs Cont.)

Diocese of Memphis;

The NFP Center at St. Joseph's Hospital has closed due to budgetary cutbacks. The Center had served the people of Memphis for the past six years. NFP instruction will be managed by the Diocese. The new address is: Diocese of Memphis NFP Center St. Francis Hospital, 5959 Park Ave., Memphis, TN 38119.

Diocese of Springfield;

Donna Dausman reported that in late Sept. the Sunday edition of the Decatur Herald and Review, (daily paper of Decatur, IL.; pop. 91,000), ran a full page article on NFP. The reporter covered class content, use effectiveness, and personal witness from an NFP teaching couple. The article used color print, photos and a personal interest section. As a result, class size in Decatur and surrounding communities more than tripled in the next few months apparently giving validity to the statement that if NFP were adequately publicized, current centers would have trouble handling the increased client load.

A seminar entitled "The Priest, the People and Responsible Parenthood" was held on Nov. 4. It was co-sponsored by the Priests' Commission for Continuing Education, St. Mary's Hospital, St. John's Hospital and the Family Life Office of Springfield. DDP Director, Bishop McHugh, gave the Keynote address. Overall response from participants was positive. Further info. on schedule, objectives, and responses can be obtained from Donna Dausman, 217-422-8234; 315 South Westlawn, Decatur, IL 62522.

Couple to Couple League;

CCL will hold its biennial convention, "A Celebration of Faith", on July 23 - 27, 1988 in central Illinois. For details contact CCL at P. O. Box 11184, Cincinnati, Ohio 45211.

NFP Center of Washington, D.C.;

Dr. Hanna Klaus will be speaking at the 1988 NCEA convention in

N.Y., April 6th. The topic will be: "Teen Star A Tool for Self-Description". In addition to this, Dr. Klaus will be conducting Teen-Star teacher training workshops on the following dates:

St. Cloud, MN; April 22-25

Wichita, KS; June 3-6

Joliet, IL; June 10-13

Cleveland, OH; June 27-July 1

For further info. on these and Summer '88 workshops please contact Dr. Klaus at 301-897-9323; 8514 Bradmoor Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817.

Northwest NFP Services;

NWNFPS is celebrating its 10th anniversary on Sun., Feb. 21. The event will be hosted by Providence Medical Center. Archbishop William Levada, Portland, will bless those who have given of their time and talent during the past 10 years.

NWNFPS began as a parish based program. Among its dedicated staff were Rose and Mike Fuller, and Rev. Richard Huneger. One of the program advisors was Dr. Josef Roetzer, Austrian NFP pioneer.

Throughout its years of growth, NWNFPS has taught instructors from the U.S., Canada, Africa, and India. It is committed to the teaching of chastity to both single and married, adult and adolescent.

USCC News;

Dolores Leckey has been appointed Director of the new Secretariat for Laity and Family Life. The new secretariat will serve the NCCB Committees on Laity, Family Life, Women, and also youth and young adult ministry.

After ten years of service, Rev. Edward Bryce will retire as director of the Pro-Life Office. A search committee has been established to find a replacement. Warmest thanks are given to Fr. Bryce for his work. Fr. Bryce will return to his home diocese of Pittsburgh.

DDP For NFP;

Available for distribution: A recent Bibliography: Family Policy. Send requests to Kathy Carr.