

PARISH PROGRAMS, OUTREACH AND COMMISSION PRESENTATIONS (MORE THAN 100 APPEARANCES)

An essential part of the Commission's work is meeting members of Archdiocesan parish communities. By speaking with parish clergy and staff and by listening to the concerns of parish membership, the Commission maintains communication with an important segment of the community that it serves. In this way, the Commission also increases opportunities to remain visible and accessible to that community. One primary project of parish interaction in 1983 was a series of "Parish Outreach Meetings," conducted throughout the year.

In these meetings, the Commission devoted an afternoon session of every other monthly Commission meeting to parish dialogue. At a different parish location for each of these meetings, discussion was invited centered around a specific topic, such as The Challenge of Peace. The meeting concluded with a liturgy, and the format was arranged according to the needs and interests in each of the parish locations for these outreach sessions.

In 1983, Parish Outreach Meetings were held at: St. Pius X (March), St. John/ Westminster (May), St. Mary/Annapolis (July), Immaculate Conception/Towson (September) and All Saints (November). Presentations ranged from an outline of the Pastoral Letter to the question of the Soviet Union. Through these meetings, the Commission gained valuable insight to the concerns and questions of parish membership. Although the meetings varied widely in attendance, each represented the efforts of both parish leadership and of the Commission to improve contact and communication. In some parishes, active justice and peace committees have been formed, partly as a result of this contact.

Another parish outreach effort was the presentation, for the second time, of "Towards a Theology of Peace." This overnight retreat program at Holy Cross Camp at Deep Creek Lake drew parish leadership and membership of the Western Maryland area. The 1983 program concentrated on The Challenge of Peace and featured presentations by Rev. James Forker of Mount St. Marys College and by Commission Coordinator Chuck Michaels. The retreat also included the group process exercise, "Dreaming