

# Convention News

**I**T has been decided to hold the first meeting of the delegates to the Diocesan Convention on Sunday, February 15, 1970. On that day the Bishop will concelebrate Mass of the Holy Spirit in the Hall of Caritas House, Caine Road (the Cathedral will still be undergoing repairs in mid-February). Lunch will be served after the Mass. This will give the delegates some little opportunity of getting acquainted with one another. They will then split up into 10 working groups to hold a preliminary discussion of the documents. Further details will be announced later, but delegates are requested to make a note of this date in their diaries. Shortly after this first meeting of all the delegates, the fortnightly meetings of the working groups will begin.

Making up the working groups is presenting problems. It had been hoped (perhaps a little naively) that by asking the delegates to state their first, second and third preferences we should be in a position to assign each to a group of his own choosing. But things have not turned out as conveniently as that. Apart from the 50 members of the original drafting commissions (who will be assigned to the working group discussing the paper they helped to prepare, 235 delegates have indicated the group they would like to join. Their first preferences, were distributed as follows: liturgy: 32; religious instruction: 40; education: 51; laity: 34; priestly life: 11; religious: 22; social apostolate: 31; communications media: 6; ecumenism: 2; government of diocese: 5. If the preferences of the delegates to be appointed by the bishop and of those who have already been elected but have not yet indicated their choice follow the same pattern, many delegates will have to be drafted on to the working

groups concerned with communications, ecumenism and government in spite of their expressed preferences.

A further complication will arise in trying to assign a proportionate number of lay people, religious and priests to each group. The 12, for instance, who opted for the working group to discuss priestly life are all priests. Only one lay person chose the working group on religious. Only two Sisters and four priests chose the laity group. We hope delegates will be understanding if, after they have been asked to indicate their first, second and third preferences and have taken the trouble of doing so, they find themselves assigned to a group other than one of these.

The second of the 10 draft documents prepared for discussion by the delegates appeared last week. Chinese and English versions of this document on Religious have been sent to each of the delegates and will shortly be available in the parish churches (at 20 cents per copy) to those interested. The printers promise to have the third document, that on Ecumenism, ready by next week. This will be followed by the one on Priestly Life. It is too soon to be able to give any indication of how many people acquired copies of the first document (Communications Media) in their parishes, where they were available last Sunday. But an enquiry at the Catholic Centre Bookstore revealed that in the first five days after its appearance there only 12 copies had been disposed of!