



Chaplain Decorated

Rochester priest, Chaplain Frederick W. Straub, was decorated recently with the Bronze Star Medal at an awards ceremony at Fort Hamilton, N.Y. Presentation was made by Major General Thomas R. Yancey, Commanding General, Headquarters, II U.S. Army Corps, Fort Wadsworth, Staten Island, N.Y. Father Straub, recently returned from Vietnam, is attending a Chaplain Career Course at Fort Hamilton.

Catholics Find This Fish Won't Let Them Get Away

West Springfield, Mass. — Whatever the future of fish in their lives, more and more Catholics are being hooked on to something new in Christian living—something called "Fish," ironically.

"The FISH is a group of Christian people who feel the need to express their love and concern for their neighbors," explains a handbill which announces that "Fish" is on call 24 hours a day for anyone who might need emergency help, such as:

- Someone to mind the kids when the parents must leave the house unexpectedly.
- Light housekeeping and meals for a husband and his children while the mother is hospitalized.
- Grocery shopping for a family that is temporarily homebound.
- Emergency transportation to a hospital or clinic.
- Just someone to talk to in a moment of depression or loneliness.

In a steadily increasing number of communities, Christians of various denominations are joining to organize a local "Fish" and volunteering to be "on call" for at least one 24-hour period a month to go to the aid of a neighbor in need.

Although "Fish" was introduced to the U.S. by an Episcopal church in West Springfield, it is proving to be an ideal vehicle for interfaith cooperation. In the western Pennsylvania town of Rector, a "Fish" organizational meeting was called by the pastor of the Episcopal church and two of the four chairmen selected were Catholic laymen.

In Canton, Ohio, a Catholic priest is the "Fish" chairman and, indeed, "Fish" may appeal to many Catholics on Fridays, since the activities of "Fish" are among the "other penances" suggested by the U.S. Bishops as an alternative to abstinence.

Of most significance, however, is the fact that "Fish" was one of the first projects undertaken by the "Community of John XXIII" in Oklahoma City, a new experimental parish without boundaries, whose objective is "to be of service to man," according to its administrator.

"Fish" can be ideal for Christians who wish to give that service, says the Rev. Robert Howell, pastor of West Springfield's Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd and the person who got "Fish" started in the U.S.

"We all know that a person can go to church for years, serve on committees, raise money, and not once be required to stand up before his friends or a stranger and actually witness in word or deed to Christ," he said. "We need specific places to show the substance of the faith in our lives and 'Fish' has given us that."

The minister launched "Fish" two years ago, not long after a parishioner had returned from a vacation in Oxford, England, and told of how an Anglican church there had begun "Fish" in 1961. There, large cards containing a drawing of a fish were distributed throughout the community, to be placed in a window when help is needed. The sign of the fish was selected because it is one of the oldest symbols in Christianity and was a secret sign among persecuted Christians. In Greek, the initial letters of "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior," (IHS) spell out "Ichthys" — which means "fish."

"Instead of 'Fish' cards," explained the Rev. Mr. Howell, "we decided to use a telephone answering service. The operator has a roster that tells her which 'Fish' member is on duty that day or night. She relays the name, address, phone number and request of the caller to the 'Fish' member, who

then returns the call and determines how 'Fish' can best be of help—whether he himself should respond or should contact other 'Fish' members for assistance.

"Fish" volunteers are briefed at organizational meetings on what they can and cannot do ("Never give medication—call the doctor"), are advised on various community services that the caller should be referred to in certain instances ("Fish" works closely with Red Cross and other agencies to avoid duplication) and are then signed up for their "shift."

"Fish" is advertised via church bulletins, small ads in local papers (members chip in a dollar a month to cover various expenses) and handbills, which usually contain a drawing of a fish, the "Fish" phone number, a sampling of the services available and assurances that there is no charge for help given by "Fish" and that the caller "does not need to be a Christian or a member of a particular church. The neighbor will never be asked to obligate himself nor listen to a lecture."

Most calls to "Fish" have requested emergency housework, shopping, child care, transportation and fire-type blood donations. But in one community, "Fish" quickly gathered clothing for a family that had been burned out of its house; in another a would-be suicide was referred to Rescue, Inc., but perhaps "Fish's" most unusual call came from a teen-age boy who was afraid to show his poor report card to his stern father.

A "Fish" volunteer accompanied him when the boy went home.

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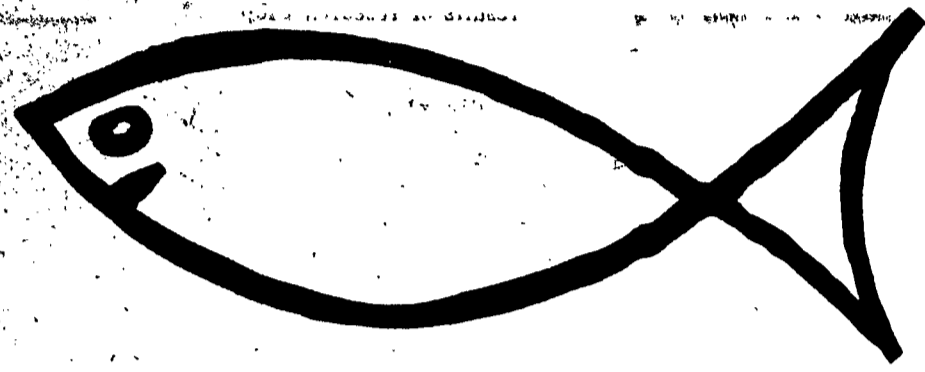
Clyde Votes Four to One For Diocesan Courier

With this issue, we bid farewell to 85 subscribers in the Clyde-Savannah parishes. They voted to get the Register, national Catholic paper, instead of the Courier.

The remaining 345 subscribers will continue to receive the Courier each week.

Father Paul Cuddy, pastor of St. John's Church, Clyde, and St. Patrick's Church, Savannah, recently gave parishioners a choice of which of the two papers they wanted to receive. The final tally came out 4 to 1 for the diocesan paper.

THE FISH



DO NOT THROW ME AWAY. PLEASE PUT ME IN YOUR PHONE BOOK.

When Help Is Needed Call The Fish Number

Rochester Chaplain in Vietnam

Plaque Honors Benefactor

Salgon — (NC) — Father, (Lt. Col.) Gerard J. Gefell, a priest of the Rochester Diocese, deputy staff chaplain at the U.S. Military Advisory Command here, blessed and unveiled a plaque to the memory of Maj. Dale D. Deford, an Army engineer who helped a Catholic orphanage build a new wing.

The major was killed in a plane crash at Dalat.

The description on the plaque reads: "This ward is dedicated to the memory of Major Dale D. Deford, Engineer, United States Military Advisory Command, killed on April 25, 1966, for his generous contribution of time and talent toward the construction of this building. The Association of the Friends of Go Vap Orphanage."

The Association of the Friends of Go Vap orphanage include Vietnamese and foreign women who organize help for the orphanage.

Under the care of the Vietnamese Sisters of the Lovers of the Cross, the orphanage cares for 800 children ranging in age from babies to 12.

Maj. Deford, who was not a Catholic, helped the Sisters obtain adequate housing for the children. When Maj. Deford was killed, his wife and parents asked their friends not to send flowers but to send donations to the orphanage.

At the unveiling of the plaque Father Gefell presented a \$1,017 check to the orphanage, the amount sent by the major's friends.

Maj. Deford's wife and three children live in Anandale, Md., and his parents live in Portland, Ore.

In the past two years, collections in U.S. Army chapels around the world for the Go Vap orphanage have amounted to \$30,000.

Monsignor Boyle Set By First Friday Club

Monsignor Charles V Boyle, pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church, Rochester is the speaker listed for the First Friday Luncheon Club, Jan. 6 in Hotel Sheraton.

He will be introduced by Father William Donnelly, club moderator and chaplain of Rochester Council, Knights of Columbus at the luncheon beginning at 12:10 p.m.

Presiding at the session will be Eugene R. Cusker, chairman of the K. of C. Sponsoring Committee.

Monsignor Boyle, ordained in May, 1940, is a former superintendent of Catholic schools, Diocese of Rochester. As assistant pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, Rochester, he was also director of the Catholic Courier weekly radio broadcast on WHAM. He was also an instructor at St. Mary's School of Nursing.

In 1944, he became assistant pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel and was a professor of Apologetics at Nazareth College. When doing graduate studies at Fordham University from 1951 to 1952, Monsignor Boyle was professor of Theology there.

He was elevated to the rank of Domestic Prelate with the title of Right Reverend Monsignor on Jan. 20, 1956. Since June 30, 1959, Monsignor Boyle has been pastor of St. John the Evangelist and has served on the Diocesan Building Commission and as a diocesan consultant.

Bishop Kearney spoke at the December mission stressing the purpose of the club, devotion to the Sacred Heart.



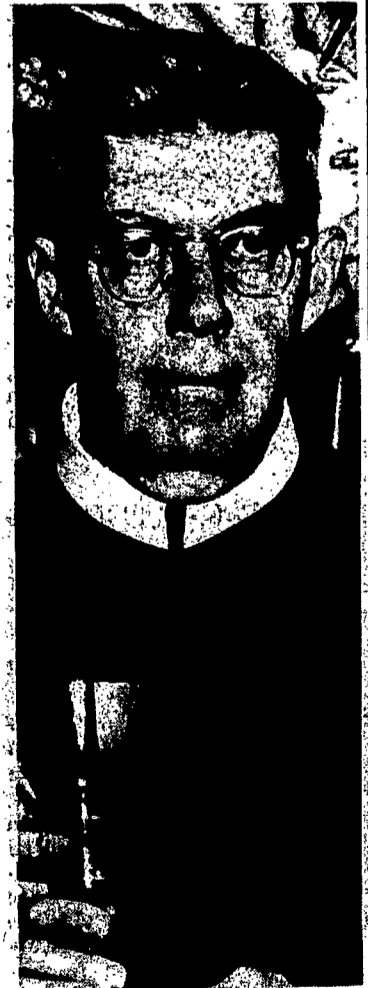
MONSIGNOR BOYLE

Any man receiving Holy Communion on the First Friday is welcome at the club according to Urban G. Kress, co-chairman.

Father Walsh, Retreat House Priest Dies

Father William Walsh, C.S.S.R., of Notre Dame Retreat House, Rochester, died Christmas morning (Dec. 25, 1966) at the Redemptorist House in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

Father Walsh, 67, was professed in the Redemptorist



FATHER WALSH

Order in 1924 and ordained to the priesthood in 1929.

Prior to his assignment at the local retreat house, he served in the Puerto Rico missions, in Pittsburgh, Ephrata, and other houses of the Redemptorist Fathers.

Funeral Mass was to have taken place Wednesday, Dec. 28 at St. Clement's in Saratoga Springs.

Bishops Agency Protests Birth Control Advice

Albany — (NC) — The New York State Catholic Welfare Committee has issued a strong protest against a ruling by the New York State Board of Welfare which will allow public social workers to suggest birth control programs to welfare recipients.

Prior to the 11-4 decision of the Board of Welfare, social workers could provide information on public birth control programs only on the request of the welfare recipient.

By the change, the State Catholic Welfare Committee charged, the State Board put itself "on the side of those who would take the risk of inhibiting a person's basic liberties because that person is dependent upon society for the bare necessities of life."

Charles J. Tobin, secretary of the Catholic Welfare Committee, which acts on behalf of the eight Catholic dioceses in the state, said that the committee viewed "with deep concern" the action of the State Board in changing its family planning policy.

He reported that the Catholic Welfare Committee made its position known to the State Board in opposition to any such change, "cautioning that any welfare recipient should have the same uninhibited freedom to choose his family size that any other member of our society has, and should be no less free in the formation of his judgments in this matter and in carrying out his consequent courses of action than any other member of our society."

And you can enjoy it at your own dinner table.

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BUFFET BEERWURST

SNACK SALAMI

HOLIDAY THURINGER

BUFFET BOLOGNA

SMOKED LUNCHEON ROLL

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Offer expires January 30, 1967