

Urban Vicar:

Church's Mission to City Demands 'Deep Study', New Vision

(In this wrap-up article in our "Church in the Inner City" series, the Courier-Journal interviewed Father P. David Finks, for the past seven months Vicar for Urban Ministry in the Rochester Diocese. We asked him to clarify just where the Church was in "The City" and to suggest the direction in which it would likely be moving.)

By REV. ROBERT KANKA

The Catholic Office for Urban Ministry is "not a super parish," aiming at telling the inner city parishes what they should do.

So began Father P. David Finks in a Courier-Journal interview last week. As Vicar for Urban Ministry of the Diocese of Rochester, he heads up that recently formed department.

The function of his office, he said, is "to plan, to map strategy and to help fund new forms of ministry by the Church in the city."

Two notes already characterize the direction of this office, he stated. It will stress cooperation with other faiths and it will stress lay involvement. Ecumenical and lay-oriented are two adjectives which will be used often by the new Urban Ministry.

After almost seven months in office (he was appointed by Bishop Sheen on Jan. 21), the energetic priest can offer some penetrating insights about the future role of the Church in the city, and especially in the inner city.

He holds no brief for those theoreticians who want to phase out existing parishes and operate solely with super-parochial techniques.

"People talk about doing away with institutions, but this isn't realistic. Institutions there must be—in a complex situation like the urban society, you must have organization to accomplish anything," he stressed, finger jabbing to make the point.

"We do want to avoid the over-bureaucratization which can lead to stagnation and in-

action," he countered quickly. The fact is, the keen-edged, quick-thinking priest explained, "we do have bases in our parishes. We need such bases and from them we can operate new forms of ministry."

This is a time for "a deep study" and a thorough appraisal of Catholic resources, the new vicar believes.

A New Mission Field

"Just as 100 years ago, we felt it vital to pour our resources into a vast foreign mission effort, we must now consider how we can make a great effort to serve the problem-filled urban areas of America," he stated.

Vatican II's teaching on "The Church in the Modern World" has provided Catholics with a new look at the Church's mission, Father Finks noted.

"The Church today must be involved with the 'whole man,' not merely his spiritual dimension," he explained. The Church has a special work "to humanize and liberalize" urban life today.

While his new "beat" is particularly the inner city, Father Finks stressed that inner city problems must always be seen as part of the metropolitan scene. The solutions must be hammered out, he emphasized, by "an honest partnership of the outer city and suburbs with the inner city."

He feels that our cities demand an awakening, "a real conversion of thinking" of all people who are concerned to meet the needs of our time with viable answers.

Father Finks credited Bishop Sheen for focusing the gaze of Catholics on what he (Father Finks) calls "the first citizen of the Church—the poor man."

"Bishop Sheen is a man of the city," he commented, and he has "a keen insight" into the tangled problems of the urban milieu.

Climate is Ecumenical

In Rochester, Father Finks continued, Bishop Sheen, Epis-



FATHER FINKS

His Job — "To plan, to map strategy."

Copal Bishop Barrett and other Council of Churches leaders have given helpful impetus to various forms of ecumenical ministry. "Rochester is even getting a reputation for its positive ecumenical climate," he added with a smile.

"We've begun to plan several joint efforts," he recounted, adding that "we're anxious to avoid reduplication of programs and wasteful competition."

He cited such efforts as the various neighborhood Bible vacation schools that took place last summer as an example of

ecumenical activity. He also mentioned the summer seminar for collegians, who probed into the decision-making structures of the city.

Coming up soon will be a seminar for interested people on "Urban Issues," again a venture planned by the three faith groups.

More than Social Work

Prodded as to how the "community ministry" approach differs from secular social work, Father Finks, knit his brows, reflected a moment, and tackled the question:

"We must see that it is the work of Christians to build up humanity, the 'new man' that St. Paul spoke about," he began.

"We must be alert to discern where the Holy Spirit is operating in our day. We must try to meet those vital needs that Christ pointed out—the poor, the hungry, the wanderers," he continued.

Christians with imagination and courage must provide the "task forces" to pioneer in meeting modern needs. "And then," he added quickly, "we must be willing, like John the Baptist, to hand over our works to others who can do it equally well or even better in time." He cited Catholic hospitals as an example of this type of passing the torch.

"The man of faith," he concluded on this point, "sees current problems in the light of the future—of the total fulfillment of God's plan for all mankind."

Father Finks is slow to agree with those who would phase out Catholic schools in favor of all-new parish apostolic programs.

No Easy Solutions

"I'm a bit cynical about rigid solutions to complex problems," he mused. He does think that the Catholic Church in Rochester must evaluate its use of people and resources—that one of the first areas of study must be the Catholic school system, which absorbs such a large share of available resources of the Church.

He added that the Catholic school system had been invaluable in helping immigrant groups make the transition from alien status to full membership in American society—"but this service is no longer required."

"One of the basic priorities for the Church is certainly education—but I think this is broader than just education of children," he added.

If the Church is going to meet contemporary needs—"of the poor, of our cities, of our Appalachias,"—there will have to be a revamping of priorities.

Bishop Sheen has already indicated, he stated, that church building programs must be included in this revamping study. "I'd add that it must include our schools, our social welfare

programs and all our main efforts," he went on.

Asked bluntly how effective the Catholic Church has been in meeting Rochester's inner city needs,—the articulate Father Finks said carefully:

"We've been rather late in facing these needs. We've been content to maintain our traditional parish approach, as long as we still found satisfactory numbers at Sunday Mass, etc."

A number of factors have contributed to change things recently, he went on:

"The pressures of the racial revolution, the questions posed by Vatican II, the example of our Protestant brothers who saw the need of fresh urban ministries 10 to 15 years ago—these have helped move us in new directions."

The best thing that can be said now, he concluded is that "the climate is good for improvement." He feels that there is now in Catholic circles, "a humble spirit of being ready to accept new ideas, and to work hard to serve the city effectively."

This cannot be done by multiplying meetings or running in circles, he added as a postscript, rather, the times demand "a large scale commitment of our total resources to the real needs of our day."

What Kept Rochester's Summer Fairly Cool?

Improved communication between the black and white communities in Rochester was the main factor in the "relatively cool" summer of 1967 here, Father P. David Finks believes.

(Rochester Mayor Frank T. Lamb stated this week that Rochester did not experience "a riot" this summer. He wrote a Texas legislator that "what happened in July was not a major disturbance.")

Thanks to the existence of FIGHT, "a broad based Negro community organization," Father Finks commented, "the black man now has an effective voice in the decision making process in Rochester."

Other factors which helped locally, the Urban Vicar stated were the "generally successful" efforts of the Rochester Police Department to maintain working communication with FIGHT and other Negro leadership, and a "good job market" which has kept the unemployment rate very low locally.

"The efforts of Kodak, Xerox, FIGHT and now Rochester Jobs, Inc. have produced hopeful programs to hire hard core unemployed people," he concluded.

Set Lawyers' Red Mass

(Continued from Page 5)

M. White, Robert F. Wood, John Vaisey, F. Ross Zornow.

PRESIDENT AND past presidents of Monroe County Bar Association are: David O. Boshun and Domenic L. Strepps, Mitchell T. Williams, Sidney J. Salzman, Hyman Freeman, Thomas J. Meagher, E. James Hickey, Elsworth A. Van Graafelland, Luther I. Webster, J. Frank Traynor, J. Paul Brennan, Anthony V. Cotroneo, Charles S. Wilcox, Daniel F. Fitzgerald, Sr., T. Carl Nixon, Andrew L. Gilman.

Justices of the Supreme Court, Seventh Judicial District with Hon. Arthur Ervin Blauvelt, chairman are the Honorable

G. Robert Witmer, Charles B. Brasser, Daniel E. Macken, Clarence J. Henry, William G. Easton, Jacob Ark, Domenic L. Gabrieli, Marshall E. Livingston, Austin W. Erwin, Jr. and Marvin R. Dye.

Inactive judges to take part are: James C. O'Brien, John C. Wheeler, Fred D. Cripp, Earle S. Warner, Goodman H. Sarachan, James P. B. Duffy, Thomas P. Culhane.

Appellate Division, Fourth Department: Hon. Alger A. Williams presiding justice; Earle C. Bastow, Harry D. Goldman, Frederick T. Henry, Frank Del Vecchio, John S. March; Court of Appeals, Hon. John Van Voorhis, Kenneth B. Keating,

U.S. Federal Court, Hon. Harold P. Burke.

Monroe County Court Hon. Michael L. Rogers, George D. Ogden, Harry L. Rosenthal, John J. Coway, Joseph G. Fritsch, Emmet J. Schnepf, Norman H. Selke, Caroline W. Branch.

Rochester City Court: Hon. James F. Sheehan, Emmett L. Doyle, Alphonse L. Cassett, Arthur B. Curran, Jr., Edward O. Provenzano, Ruben K. Davis.

County Court Judges, outside Monroe County: Hon. Gerald S. Hewitt, Gerald Saperstein, Carrollton A. Roberts, Joseph W. Cribb, Jerome B. E. Wolff, Alton J. Wightman, George B. Parsons, Lyman H. Smith.

Fisher Begins Fall Program

A reception for all new students and their parents Sunday, Sept. 10, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Haffey Hall lounge will mark the start of fall semester activities at St. John Fisher College. The college dormitories will open Sunday at 9 a.m.

"Fisher Week" orientation activities for all new students will continue from Sunday afternoon through Tuesday.

Registration for sophomores will be held Monday, Sept. 11, at 8:30 a.m. in rooms 205, 207, and 208 in St. Basil Hall. Freshmen will register Monday afternoon at 1 p.m.

Returning juniors will register Tuesday, Sept. 11, at 8:30 a.m. Seniors are scheduled to register Tuesday at 1 p.m.

Classes at St. John Fisher will begin Wednesday morning, Sept. 13.

25 Years Ago

(From Catholic Courier files Sept. 10, 1942)

Aviator, Lt. Clarence E. Sanford, who won world fame because he miraculously escaped death when aborigines in the South Pacific discovered a miraculous medal about his neck, returned to his Auburn home on furlough.

Supreme Master Timothy P. Galvin of Hammond, Ind. was to go to Elmira Sept. 27 to confer the Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus in Dunn Memorial Auditorium.

The outdoor shrine to the Sacred Heart donated by a family of Sacred Heart Church, Perkinsville, was erected on the church grounds.

F. L. McCorry Mass At St. Andrew

Funeral Mass for Francis L. (Pat) McCorry was offered at St. Andrew's Church, Tuesday, August 29. Father James J. Marvin celebrated the requiem Mass. In the sanctuary were Monsignors Gerald C. Lambert and William E. Shannon, also Fathers Anthony J. Valente and Paul G. Wehrab.

Mr. McCorry died August 28, 1967 at his home, 22 Portland Court.

He is survived by his wife, Cecelia Kuter McCorry; his daughter, Miss Kathleen McCorry; three brothers, George, John and Emmet McCorry.

Interment was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, with final blessing by Monsignor Shannon.

Arrangements by L. W. Maier's Sons.



10th Birthday For Legion Unit

Former spiritual directors returned to help celebrate the 10th anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima Junior Legion of Mary presidium recently. From left, standing are Fathers Albert Ryan, Richard Mattie and Michael Reagan; seated, from left, current officers: Robert Zapf, treasurer, Robert Crawford, president, and Geraldine Crowley, president. The priests celebrated a Mass marking the 500th meeting of this crack Legion unit, based at St. Augustine's Church.

Sister Makes Final Vows

Sister Marie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John M. Kerwin, 3830 Canal Rd., Spencerport, made

her final profession of vows at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Buffalo on Saturday, August 19.

Former Resident Marries in Michigan

Former Rochesterian, Thomas J. Fawkes, now of Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Judith M. Poxson, Grosse Pointe, Michigan, were married in St. Paul's Church, Grosse Pointe, August 25.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elijah G. Poxson, Grosse Pointe. Mr. Fawkes is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John J. Fawkes, Cameron St.

The former Ruth E. Kerwin was one of eleven Sisters of St. Joseph who made their final profession in the diocese of Buffalo.

Sister Marie was formerly a member of St. John the Evangelist parish in Spencerport. She entered the Order of the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1959, received her degree in education from Mount St. Joseph College, and is presently a teacher in the Buffalo diocese.



SISTER MARIE

SWEET DREAMWEAR FOR GIRLS

Sweet dreams for her with these coordinated pajamas, gowns and sleeping bags. The sleepwear is Sanforized, durable press, and never needs ironing.

- 1. Granny Gown**—50% Avril®, 50% cotton. Tiered ruffles on sleeves and hem. Empire waistline; Daisy print of muted green and rose. Sizes 8-14. **5.00**
- 2. Matching Pajamas**—To coordinate with granny gown. Tiered ruffles on sleeves and legs; Daisy print of muted green and rose. Sizes 8 to 14. **5.00**
- 3. Cozy Comfort Sleeper**—Opens to a full size bed comforter, or closes as a sleeping bag, for year-around beauty and use. For variety, daisy pattern reverses to solid green. **13.00**

EDWARDS—Girls' Wear—third floor; Ridgmont and Pittsford