

Well Briefed

Parish Council Tackles Its Job

The Parish Council of Holy Family Church in Rochester, after a lengthy planning and organization period, will open its action phase next week. With officers elected and considerable "homework" analyzed, the Council's next meeting on Monday, Nov. 13 will tackle some real problems.

Edward Winterkorn, elected chairman of the Parish Council, stated that parish financial structures, physical facilities and organizations will be the areas to be dealt with first.

Nearly 1,100 parishioners of the Dutchtown area parish mailed in ballots last month to elect 15 at-large members. Eight other ex-officio members, including the pastor, three associate priests and four presidents of parish groups, brought the Parish Council to 23 members.

Few such councils have had as thorough planning as that provided by the 800-family parish in the western sector of Rochester.

The big send-off was a two day parish convention in April which attracted 500 parishioners and gave everyone a chance to state their views on what they felt were the key concerns of the parish.

Using tapes of the convention floor discussions, an "analytical commission" sifted out the main issues, drew up a 21-page report, which was summarized to 3 pages and mailed to all parishioners in September. It contained recommendations under the headings of education, parish activities, spiritual, youth and finance.

Some of the recommendations were carried out immediately. One of these was that calling for a parish School Board, which has subsequently been appointed and begun operating. Others are to be acted on this fall.

Overall aim of the Parish Council, according to chairman Winterkorn is "to convey the spirit of Vatican II Council" to the parish.

"We now have the machinery to specify the main areas of concern and can begin to act on them," Winterkorn told the Courier-Journal recently.

A Governing Role

The Holy Family Parish Council will be the governing body of the parish, according to its constitution, involving the parishioners in the operation and

administration of the parish.

A key unit in the Parish Council is the Executive Committee, made of nine members of the Council. These are the elected officers: Edward Winterkorn as chairman, Richard Scriver as vice chairman, and Mrs. Robert Engel as secretary—augmented by Monsignor George A. Cocuzzi, pastor and honorary chairman, and five coordinators of committees. The committees are education, worship, finance, community relations plus program and planning.

It's the job of the Executive Committee to screen the material to be brought up at the Parish Council meetings and to set up an agenda for the meeting.

Present plans call for the Parish Council to meet monthly, and the Executive Committee to meet in between each Council meeting.

This means a lot of work for the parish leaders, but they are enthused by the prospects of having a larger role in the life of the parish.

Monsignor Cocuzzi is equally enthusiastic about the prospects

of the Parish Council, which has drawn such a widespread interest and response from his people to date.

Admitting he's "impatient to get on" with the Council, the pastor stated that he's pleased that the long planning was so thorough. "Our parish has been sounded out, and we have a fairly clear idea of what our people want," he said last week.

He sees the Parish Council as a logical outcome of Vatican II's stress on the Church as the People of God. "We can no longer consider the whole Church as only the hierarchy, nor can we think of the parish as primarily the pastor," he explained.

The Holy Family pastor is not worried about lay "encroachment" on his pastoral rights. The specific prerogatives of a pastor outlined in Canon Law, are relatively few, leave wide latitude for lay collaboration, he indicated.

There are many areas in which pastor and people can deliberate and act together for the parish good, he noted. "In these," he stated hopefully, "I expect our people to exercise a responsible role."

Patriot Marks:

11th Anniversary Of Freedom Bid

Auburn—A present day Hungarian hero, Monsignor Bela Varga, marked the 11th anniversary of Hungary's brave but unsuccessful revolt (1956) against Communist domination, with a concelebrated Mass here on Saturday, Nov. 4.

A refugee from his native land since 1947, the exiled prelate offered the Mass together with Father Edward Shamon, pastor of St. Aloysius Church, where the Mass was held, and Father Albert J. Shamon, vicar of Religious Education in the Diocese.

Monsignor Varga expressed joy that his first concelebrated Mass in his life, should be offered on the 11th anniversary of the Hungarian revolutionary movement. The Mass, he said, was offered for a "common cause"—the war in Vietnam and the Hungarian Revolution, and the heroes of both.

Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus acted as an honor guard, under the direction of Knight, and Saint Aloysius parishioner, Fred Landry.

The last freely elected president of the Hungarian Parliament, Monsignor Varga began a political career in Hungary in the late 1930s, when the Smallholders Party, led by the Gas-ton Gaal, advocated social and land reforms and improvement of democratic institutions. He was elected to Parliament in 1939.

During World War II Monsignor Varga helped to save the lives of thousands of Polish, French and German refugees and escaped war prisoners as well as countless Jews. His rectory at Balatonboglár became headquarters for the resistance movement in Hungary.

After escaping death at the hands of Hitler and Stalin, he left Hungary in 1947 with the help of American friends, when the Communists took over. He has worked and prayed ever since for his countrymen, from exile. He said that communism was in bankruptcy in Hungary today. "Hungary is merely the largest colony of Russia inhabited by a few opportunists."

The exiled priest, under death sentence behind the Iron Curtain at this time, believes that free countries must help those not free, to have free elections and self determination. He said: "I love America; I feel a responsibility to America, and I have to tell you, Russia has but one purpose—to devastate America; nothing has changed in the Russian doctrine—they want to occupy the whole world. They are the greatest danger there is to freedom of religion. America is right to take a firm stand against Communism in Vietnam," the Monsignor asserted.

Speaking of Cardinal Mindszenty, who is a close friend of Monsignor Varga's, he said: "He is a symbol to the Hungarian people, a symbol of their love of freedom. He will not leave Hungary, although he would be a communist prisoner, if he left the embassy. But he will not be a miserable refugee." He added: "It is better that Cardinal Mindszenty remain in his refuge. The Communists would say, if the Cardinal were to leave, that the Americans kicked him out of the embassy."

Svetlana's Book

"Svetlana Stalin's coming to America and writing her book is an 'Act of God,' Msgr. Varga said, "and what could be a better commentary on the 50th Anniversary of the Russian Revolution? Svetlana has come to this country, daughter of the world's greatest tyrant, and has written of the terrible life of her family under communism, a family that Stalin himself destroyed."

"Communism is the system that destroys the life of men and tries to annihilate religion. Yet, Stalin's daughter confesses in her writings, that she cannot live without religion. I cannot imagine a better gift than that Svetlana should reveal this Russian hell for the free world to see," he added.

As a token of remembrance of his visit to Auburn, Monsignor Varga presented a medalion in commemoration of the 1956 revolution to Monsignor James S. Coffey, pastor of St. Mary's, to Father Albert J. Shamon, pastor of St. Patrick's in Victor, and to Father Edward A. Shamon, pastor of St. Aloysius. The Hungarian Freedom Crown on one side bears the features of the Hungarian Freedom Fighters as visualized in the painting by Boris Chapiapin. The reverse side shows



PRESENTS MEDALLIONS: Monsignor Bela Varga, left, as he presented Memorial Medallions to Father Edward Shamon, center, pastor of St. Aloysius Church and Father Albert Shamon, right, pastor of St. Patrick Church, Victor, and vicar of religious education of the Rochester diocese.

the torn Freedom flag symbol of the revolution.

Monsignor Varga also visited the Seward Home in Auburn and paid tribute to William H. Seward, Secretary of State 1851-1862, as a great friend of the Hungarians.

The 64 year old prelate, now living in New York, is president of the Hungarian National Council and chairman of the Hungarian Committee, an exile political organization embracing post-war democratic Hungarian political personalities and representatives of the 1956 revolutionaries and freedom fighters. The purpose of the Committee is to work for the independence of Hungary and for the restoration of the freedom of the Hungarian people. He is also associated with Radio Free Europe.

'Willing Workers' Go Into Action

The initiative of a group of mothers of students in Immaculate Conception School has brought a noontime lunch and recreation program into being.

The effort came from a group of women called "The Willing Workers," and is presently caring for some 110 youngsters during the lunch period at the Plymouth Ave. South school.

The need for such a program was vocalized last Spring by a group of mothers who were concerned over the time being spent by their children walking back and forth to school.

Their first step was to form a mothers' patrol to monitor the main routes in an effort to reduce loitering and street quarrels. This helped, but they eventually decided that lunch in school would be more feasible for many of the youngsters.

This first group of mothers joined forces with another group of women, established originally as a Scripture discussion unit, and the "Willing Workers" were the result.

They raised money from a bake sale last Spring in order to get athletic equipment and craft supplies for the proposed program. Their next fund-raising venture was a "Next to New" sale, which not only did well, but brought in more clothes than were needed.

Surveying the situation, the ladies came up with the idea of a year-around "Next to New" store, which would provide a neighborhood service and also help fund the lunch program.

That idea has now been realized and the "store" is open on Friday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. and on Saturday afternoons from 1 to 3 p.m. Mrs. Lorna Lancer and Mrs. Ann Resch are the co-chairmen of this project.

The "Willing Workers" investigated the possibility of a hot lunch program using surplus food under a state grant. This had to be deferred, because the existing kitchen facilities at Immaculate Conception school did not meet the government standards. For the time being, lunch will be a "bring your own" with milk provided.

Some of the neighborhood centers and clubs have donated sports and craft equipment for the recreation period after lunch.

Staffing the program adequately has been the biggest program for the cafeteria co-chairmen, Mrs. Betty DeRouen and Mrs. Esther Vicente, and Mrs. Doris Gerst, who is in charge of the overall planning for the lunch program.

As it is, some of the older students help supervise the play period of the younger ones, all under the watchful eye of adult volunteers. A few fathers who work night shifts have come in to supervise the older boys' sports program.

It was decided that to ensure a permanent staff for the new program, four of the parents would be given a regular stipend for their work. Other parents sign up as volunteers one or more days a week.

The lunchtime program, planned and carried out by parishioners is only part of a new picture of lay involvement which marks the Third-Ward parish.

An interim Parish Council has begun functioning to plan for the general needs of the parish. One of the first steps of the Council, according to Father Robert Kreckel, pastor, was to establish a lay School Board, which will concentrate on school needs. Other committees will deal with finances, liturgy, program and planning.



WILLIAM BURT, one of the parents who helps with the noon time program chats with some of the young clientele.



LUNCH FINISHED, this young man gets involved in a craft project at Immaculate Conception School's noontime program.

Education Goes Beyond The School

Education means more than formal schooling today, a veteran educator told her hearers at the Christian Culture Series at Good Shepherd Hall in East Henrietta last Friday night (Nov. 2).

Miss Margaret Kenney said that "school does not equal education any more." She stressed that all a child's experiences, good or bad, come with the child into the classroom each day.

The administrative director of Rochester's 43 public elementary schools explored the lives of children within and without the walls of the classroom. She was the second speaker in the Christian Culture series being sponsored by the parish.



MISS MARGARET KENNY In discussing the importance "Children need a moral base."

of understanding a child's needs relative to learning, Miss Kenney said "Children need a moral base. They must know that you believe in something. They need rules and more than anything, they need honest praise."

The final speaker in the Good Shepherd lecture series will be Secretary of State John P. Lomemo on Friday, Dec. 1 at 8:30 p.m.

Young Patient

Cleveland — (NC) — A nine-year-old girl, Theresa Kichelinski, a fourth grader at St. John Cantius School, herself recuperating from a serious kidney operation, read about the pending surgery for Pope Paul VI and sent him a letter of encouragement.

Promotions On Faculty

The Board of Regents of St. John Fisher College has approved promotions for four members of the Fisher faculty.

Bhaskara Rao Sripathi was advanced from assistant professor to associate professor in the Department of Business Administration.

Basilian Father John C. Murray was elevated to associate professor in the Department of Business Administration.

Joseph Versage, chairman of the Sociology Department, was promoted to associate professor.

Clarence A. Amann, a Fisher alumnus, was promoted from instructor to assistant professor in the English Department.

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