

# Priests' Council or Association: What's Difference?

"What's the difference between the Priests' Council and the Priests' Association of Rochester which was formally organized last week?"

In an effort to clarify the distinction between the two groups, which at first glance might seem to serve the same purpose, the Courier-Journal interviewed several members of the newly elected Coordinating Board of the Priests' Association of Rochester (PAR).

"The Priests' Council (formerly called the Priests' Senate) is an official diocesan structure, established by Vatican II Council, whereas the Priests' Association is an unofficial body, formed by a number of priests of the diocese on their own initiative," pointed out Monsignor George A. Cocuzzi. The pastor of Rochester's Holy Family Church noted that the Priests' Council includes all the priests working in the Rochester diocese, including religious order priests. Membership in the PAR, conversely, includes only those who care to join it.

(PAR signed up membership is currently 236 priests, of whom approximately 20 are religious order priests. It was stated at the PAR plenary meeting held at Casandigua's Tremholm East Motel on April 24. The total number of priests in the diocese, according to the diocesan directory, is 584, which includes diocesan, religious and Eastern rite priests, and 30 retired priests. All 584 are automatically represented at the Priests' Council, by priest-councilmen chosen by the priests last year.)

A special function of the Priests' Council, Monsignor Cocuzzi stated, is to provide the bishop with a sounding board.

of priestly opinion regarding programs or issues on which the bishop wants to seek consultation.

Using geometric terms to make his point, Father Raymond Wall, who is regional vicar for the Eastern vicariate of the diocese, said:

"The Priests' Council is set up in a vertical way, to facilitate communication between the bishop and his priests; the Priests' Association is a horizontal structure, to develop communication laterally among the priests."

The need for such lateral communication among priests was seconded by Father Edward J. Lintz, pastor of Brockport's Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church. Said Father Lintz:

"The problem of communication among priests, especially between the older men and the younger men, is a real one. I see the PAR becoming a solution to this problem."

The Brockport priest noted that he was gratified that in preliminary committee meetings leading up to the formation of the Priests' Association, young and older priests were able to sit down, offer their views freely and learn to appreciate the others' viewpoint.

On important issues, the PAR will issue statements from time to time, Father Lintz added. He noted that when this is done, both a majority and minority statement will be issued when there is a division of sentiment.

Father William Donnelly, assistant pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church in Rochester, stressed that the PAR is a professional organization, similar to a medical association or a lawyers' bar association. One of its main aims, he stated, will be to help the priest develop his competence to meet contemporary needs. Father Raymond Botham amplified this function in a report at last week's plenary

meeting. A Continuing Education committee, he explained, would seek to "determine the professional needs of priests, publicize opportunities for growth such as workshops, seminars and conferences, and help plan creative new programs for post-ordination growth."

One point made by almost every priest interviewed was this:

"The Priests' Association is not a union."



FATHER ALBERT BARTLETT

**Video Series Scheduled At McQuaid**

McQuaid Jesuit High School takes to the airwaves next Sunday when Father Albert Bartlett, S.J., its rector, inaugurates a weekly TV program on Channel 10 (WHEC-TV). Entitled "DARE—A TV Show for Mature Audiences Only" and intended to present new dimensions of McQuaid and the Jesuit Fathers to the Rochester area, Father Bartlett's program is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. for 13 Sundays.

Father Bartlett will open the series speaking on "Homo Incipiens." Future topics slated are: "Campus Unrest," "Commitment," "Resentment," "New Theology," "Population," "Apathy." Part of each program will involve photos in flashing imagery and a guest-interview. "We intend to show," Father Bartlett said, "that education does not end at the front steps of McQuaid."

If sensitive to Negro needs, he said, the inner city priest may choose to become an innovator, but for this he has been poorly trained. Through dogged effort he may "painfully gain the trust of his Negro neighbors."

Isolation becomes complete, Father Maloney added, when communications break down, a frequent condition involving the inner city priest, his bishop and his brother priests.

This point was spelled out in detail by the priest who was the keynote speaker at last week's organizational meeting, Father John Hill of Chicago. He emphasized:

"If there were to be a priests' union, the bishop-priest relationship would worsen; this approach would make the priest an employee, and would set up a polarity between a bishop and his priests."

Such results, the Rochester priests made clear, they do not want.

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## Inner City Pastor Asks Understanding

Saginaw, Mich.—(RNS)—An inner city Catholic priest has made a plea for understanding between priests who serve in all-white parishes and those who are "psychologically isolated" from them in Negro ghettos.

Father Malcolm Maloney of St. Joseph's Church, writing in the Saginaw diocesan newspaper, said that "working in a different kind of parish in a different kind of neighborhood" makes a man "a different kind of priest."

A special commission named to study Sacred Heart and five other core city parishes here recommended formation of a Catholic Inner City Department which will implement a plan to make wealthier parishes responsible for poorer ones.

Father Maloney said the priest in the traditional parish cannot understand why his inner city brother becomes "disenchanted with authority, structure and tradition," and is puzzled by "his temptation to rubrical freedom" and his "inclination to be an impatient innovator." The key word, he said, is "isolation."

The inner city priest, he said, has two courses to fight his sense of isolation, but both courses will only isolate him further. He may choose to run his parish along traditional lines, serving the masses still on his parish book and operate his large school for fewer children. "Meanwhile, he knows, or should know, that the Negro

in the neighborhood is being confirmed in his opinion, that the Catholic Church is a white man's church. And, though half empty, it has no room for him."

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## St. Ambrose Schedules FIGHT Head

FIGHT President, Mr. DeLeon McEwen, will address the St. Ambrose Adult Education Committee May 5 at 8 p.m.

The St. Ambrose Committee provides an opportunity to learn and a climate of understanding on many topics. For this particular meeting, the Rochester Public Library is providing a collection of books which will be available to any interested guest.

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This column's happiest readers are the men, women and children who know they're needed. The days we're busiest helping others are the happiest days of our lives. . . . Who needs you most? Surprisingly, God needs you — for instance, to help an abandoned orphan become a God-loving, responsible adult. Lepers need you (there are still 15-million lepers in the world), blind children need you, and so do we. . . . Here in New York we are your agents, telling you where the Holy Father says your help is needed, and channeling your help promptly and safely to the people in need. . . . Want to feel good right now? Do without something you want but do not need, and send the money instead for one of the needs below. You'll feel good, especially if your gift is big enough to mean a sacrifice to you. This is your chance to do something meaningful for the world — it's God's world — while you're still alive.

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