

A Parish Forms a Council

There are presently six permanent Standing Committees — Finance, Education, Building Management, Liturgy, Parish Life, and Community Relations — each of

A little over a year ago, the Pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish, Father John Norris, and a nucleus of interested parishioners researched the idea of a Parish Council in Blessed Sacrament.

Convinced of its worth and feasibility after a few months of study, the Steering Committee drew up a proposed Constitution and went about the education of the entire parish in this matter.

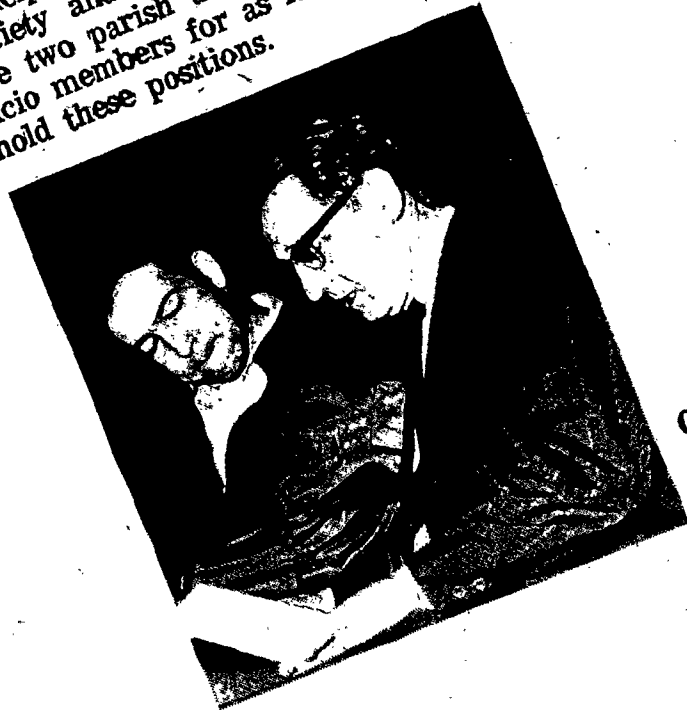


Council members listen to a point made from the floor. (L to r) Dr. Pieter Schram, Marion Leaty, Marie Doud, Dr. John Albert, (council president) Paul Gartlan.

An informative flyer, blurbs in the church bulletin, talks—by both priests and laymen—from the pulpit, and two public parish meetings drew interest and, when it came to a vote, overwhelmingly favorable response from the parishioners.

The Council is composed of twelve lay men and women, elected by the parishioners and serving for a three-year term, these terms being rotated so that four new members and eight experienced members are on each year.

The Pastor, Assistant(s), School Principal, President of the Rosary Society and the Men's Club, and the two parish trustees are ex-officio members for as long as they hold these positions.



Council members Robert Radell and Dr. Abbott discuss a report



which has two assigned representatives from the Council. The Committee Chairmen, in turn, may attend every Council meeting with voice, but no vote. All of the meetings are open to all members of the parish.

With every kind of motivation and encouragement from the Documents of Vatican II, with a richness of lay personnel who are will-



ing to put their expertise and experience at the service of the People of God through such a vehicle as the Parish Council; and with realization on the part of all concerned that our priests' time not be absorbed by the "nut bolts" of parish administration with all these, it still takes mutual trust and faith to get a new idea off the ground and going well.

Rita McCarthy, chairman of the Education Committee, makes her report from the floor. Among other parishioners present (from left) Sister Joanne Hoefner, Mrs. John Abbott, Molly Parisi, John Sullivan, Bruce Carson, Ted Warmbold.

Molly Parisi, chairman of the Life Committee makes her report.

Some members would be hostile, many others, however, is truly in to

'We should contribute to the building of a world.'