

# Owego Parishioners Approve Of Priests Marrying

By DICK BAUMBACH

Owego — An overwhelming majority of the parishioners at St. Patrick's Church here who filled out questionnaires on their feelings toward the church would approve of a decision by the church to let priests marry.

The results of the survey, which was titled "Your Chance to Be Heard", were released last week. Originally plans called for the survey, which was taken three weeks ago at Sunday Mass, to be released in August.

On the question of priests marrying, 611 of those persons responding to the survey said they would approve of a decision by the church to allow the priests to marry. A total of 266 persons said they would disapprove such a decision by the church, while 34 other persons answering the survey did not comment on the proposal.

The survey was the idea of the church's Liturgy Committee, which acts as liaison between the parish's lay persons

and the priests on liturgical matters.

A total of 737 said they would favor the continued operation of St. Patrick's School if it could continue to operate financially and with qualified lay teachers and sisters. A total of 150 persons said they would not like to see the school continue to operate, while 24 persons voiced opposing opinions.

A large majority of the parishioners said they believed the Catholic Church is more in tune with the modern world than it was before Vatican II.

A total of 729 persons said the church was in tune with modern society, while 154 persons voiced opposing opinions. Twenty-eight individuals had no comment.

A question on the advisability of such topics for the Sunday sermon as Vietnam, race prejudice and rioting received the support of 677 parishioners. A total of 234 persons believed such topics should not be discussed from the pulpit.

A total of 724 individuals completing the survey said their faith had not been shaken by "all the changes" which have taken place in the Catholic Church in recent years. A total of 165 persons said their faith had been shaken by the changes, while 20 persons had no comment on the question.

Various other questions dealt

with specific areas of interest to parishioners at St. Patrick's, such as, the times for Masses, whether the parishioners were participating in congregational singing and whether or not the parishioners tried to attend Folk Masses at the church.

In releasing the survey results parishioners were told their answers would "help us to determine the needs and attitudes of our parish."

Two items that were not listed in the survey, but which drew responses from the parishioners and thus further added to the value of the questionnaire, disclosed that "there are people at home who would like to receive the Sacraments" and "There were 21 people above eighth grade and an adult who have not been confirmed."

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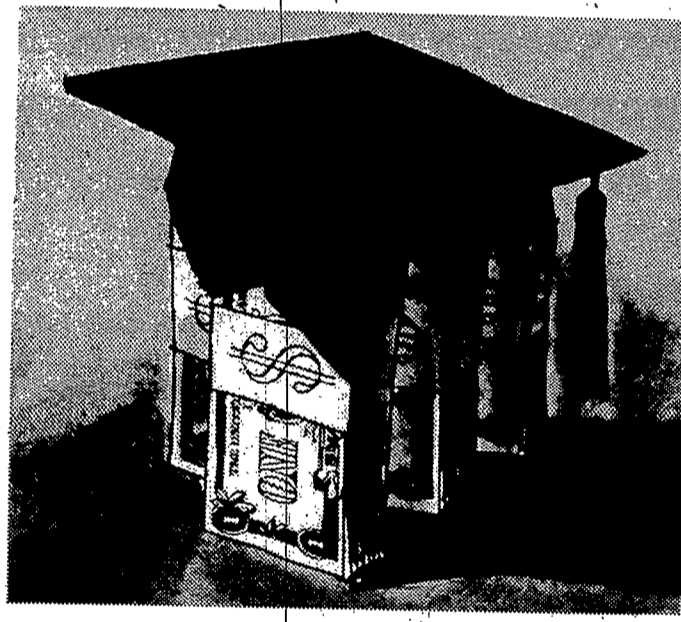
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