

# ITHACA Area / NEWS

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## Msgr. Roche, New Chairman, Sees Valid Role for PAR

By ED and JOAN COFFEY  
Ithaca Area Correspondents

Ithaca — Msgr. William M. Roche, pastor of St. Catherine of Siena, has been named chairman of the Priests' Association of Rochester for the coming year. He succeeds Father William Donnelly.

Since its formation a few years ago by diocesan priests in search of a vehicle for expressing their collective ideas on social, ministerial, and diocesan administrative matters, the PAR has dwindled to where it now numbers only about 50 members.

### Ithaca Area Notes

Ithaca — Father Paul Kim, procurator of the diocese of Suwon, Korea, visited Immaculate Conception parish July 11 to make an appeal for the prayers and financial assistance of the people of the parish. Prayers can always be offered for the missions and late donations can be made at the parish rectory.

Groton — Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Webster of St. Anthony's parish recently celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary.

Ithaca — The film series sponsored by the Interdenominational Religious Education Workers continues on Wednesday evening, July 14, at sunset in Dewitt Park. Films for the week are "The Hole", "Time Out of War", and "The Hat." Rain date is July 15.

Some of the missions envisioned for the association have been assumed by the subsequently formed Diocesan Priests Council. But Msgr. Roche said he believes that an organization that continues to represent 12 to 15 per cent of the priests in the diocese can fulfill a role independent of the Priests Council.

In a recent interview, he spoke about three possible ways in which the PAR can serve both its membership and the other priests in the diocese.

"A priest's personal life today is changing rapidly," he said, "along with the nature of his ministry and his parish or other mission."

"The mandated formation of parish councils places the pastor and co-pastor in a new, and for many, an uncertain role. The vague future of Catholic education, the new demands placed upon the priest by a vernacular liturgy, and the role of priests in society are all changing."

Priests themselves must have a major voice in determining what direction they will take in their life and work, and the PAR can assist in this determination, the new president observed.

He noted the emphasis on continuing education evident in the careers of men in business and professional life, and stated that a similar need exists in the life of a priest.

Priests must be knowledgeable on the issues of the day, particularly those with moral or social significance, he empha-

sized. However, they should not be limited to these matters. They must likewise be familiar with new and more efficient methods of operating their parishes, schools, and other institutions. Monsignor Roche believes the PAR can play a prominent role in scheduling, organizing, and determining the subject matter for seminars and workshops designed to achieve this goal of continuing priestly education.

He said the PAR could and should represent a particular point of view on social and ministerial issues. A group representing 12-15 percent of the diocese's priests is substantial enough in size that it should be heard, he feels, and it will provide another thoughtful viewpoint for discussion whether others share the view or not.

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