Our Parish COUNCIL

by Bernard Lyons

Do you have a pencil and ballpoint pen as you begin this column?

Quickly mark the answer after each "question," for you are taking this test without grades and as an opportunity to evaluate your basic attitude toward the concept of "Church."

When you see the word "Church," the next image that comes to mind is a) pastor; b) parish; c) pope; d) people of God; e) gothic church building.

Vatican Council II was a) a mistake; b) a success; c) a starting point for me to work at a community view of the Church.

The Church may best be described as a) a circle; b) a pyramid; c) a star.

This is not a test of right and wrong.

Rather, it is a test of attitudes, and since it is an attempt to evaluate thinking according to the Gospels and Vatican Council II, the answers might be rated as good, better, and best.

The best answers would be 1) d—people of God; 2) c—a starting point for me to work at a community view of the Church; 3) a—a circle.

It's important to see that if your answers did not agree with mine that they were not necessarily "wrong."

This type of judgment overlooks the necessity of change in life, and the developing character of man and the Church.

I am not saying that there are no moral standards.

What I am saying is that I am not making a judgment that overlooks the necessity of change and the developing character of man and the Church.

When someone tells me that the sun rises or sets, I don't accuse him of being "wrong," though I recognize that the words are imprecise, inadequate, and hardly suggestive of our planetary movements.

When I listened to a debate between Charles Davis and Father John L. McKenzie, SJ, several years ago, it struck me that this point of judgment was the basic difference between the two men's points of view.

Charles Davis would say that in this instance or another the Church is wrong and dishonest for not admitting the error.

Father McKenzie would say that he agreed that in this instance or another the Church was "wrong," and though individual persons might be dishonest, the Church as community would "develop" from the "error."

The problem here is not only a semantic one; that is, having to do with the words that are the map of reality. It also is an evolutionary one, involving the principles of change and growth.

I think Christ stressed these principles quite often in his parables about the mustard seed, the yeast, the fig tree, and the vine.

All of you who are, with me, over 30, and many of you on the sunnier side of that figure, were taught by a method that equated the Church with the Pope or the parish complex that was largely pictured as the pastor and the building.

You probably also had a picture drawn for you of the Church, which was a large chart, in the form of a triangle, that had the laity at the base, and numerous categories of religious, priests, and abbots above until you reached the peak of the Pope.

If we lack the circle, the "people of God," and the community concept of the Church, we will tend to think that parish councils are nice — but not really necessary — and give the laity a chance to help the priests and religious with what is considered essentially their work.

When we come to see the community view of the Church, we will see Christ at work in the apostolic community, and consider ourselves as Church, and inheritors of that tradition.

Father Curran Scheduled Here

Father Charles Curran has been scheduled to deliver the first in a series of adult theology lectures, Saturday, Oct. 23, at 8:15 p.m. in the Corpus Christi school hall. Father Curran, a nationally known moral theologian and Rochester native has been a controversial figure in theological debates on the place of individual conscience vis-a-vis Church discipline. The theme of his lecture will be "Conscience Today." The event is sponsored by the Corpus Christi CCD; and proceeds from admission to the lecture will be used for parish CCD materials.

Mercy Paper, Magazine Win Awards

Two Mercy High School publications have been awarded top honors by the Catholic School Press Association.

The Quill, newspaper, and the Mercedes, literary art magazine, were named Publications of Distinction.

Laurie Lochner, a June graduate of Mercy, won the first place art award.

These Mercy students received honorable mention awards: Mary Klingler, feature writing; Mary Tantalo, art; Juli Winter, poetry; and Elaine Schott, short story.

Vicki Hasenauer was editor of the Quill, with Anne Maracle, assistant. Mary Klingler and Linda Collins edited the Mercedes.

The Catholic School Press Association conducts the publication contest annually from its headquarters in Milwaukee.

Books

Handbook on Abortion

Handbook on Abortion by Dr. and Mrs. J. C. Willke (Hiltz Publishing Co., 1971, 141 pp.)

In this slim paperback, the Willkes, nationally know Catholic educators in human sexuality, have compiled a catechism on the moral social and cultural aspects of aborting fetuses.

The topic has been taken up by numerous groups in the United States in recent years, with the pro-abortion movement winning sympathy in several state legislatures.

The Willkes, however, begin their handbook with the statement: "This book is an honest effort to present the pro-life side of the abortion issue."

Wrapped in a question and answer format, the book explores abortion by refuting statistical and legal data on benefits of abortion and by denying ethical and cultural claims made for abortion by its proponents.

The Willkes have also authored several other books and recordings on sexuality. Their articles have appeared in over 20 publications in the U.S. and Canada.

The Handbook is distributed through the Rochester Right to Life Committee, P.O. Box 4763, Rochester, N.Y., 14612.

SIDEWALKS
• OLD REPAIRED NEW LAID
• CEMENT PATIOS
REASONABLE PRICES
A. J. ARIENO 235-4371

Hicks
Home Heating Inc.
271-9079 271-4650

Get A New . . . WATER HEATER!

for $54.25
(Cash & Carry)
Glass Lined
458-5000
House of Water Heaters
A Dept of Metzger & Breyer Co.
SINCE 1898

800 Maternity Shop
800 Monroe Ave. at Canterbury Rd.
Phone: 271-1654
Daily 10 to 5:30 Tues., Thurs. 'til 9

SALE
Pant Suits, Dresses
Summer Tops, All
40% off — 250 items
FREE DRAWING
Stop in and register anytime each month for free drawing. for $20 in merchandise. No purchase necessary. Drawing last day of each month.
COURTESY PARKING IN REAR

FOR PERFECT
DIAPER SERVICE
Stork
BABY WASH
381-7340

BUYERS GUIDE
"Quality Shopping With Confidence" "A Handy Reference To Friendly Service"

Visit our show rooms—Select a real Bargain — Complete line Rugs, Furniture, Appliances, etc.
Charlotte Appliance
TONY AGOSTINELLI
Lake Theatre—3268 Lake Ave.
663-5858

THE HOFFMAN MUSIC SHOP
467 N. Goodman
Phone 454-5645
OPEN EVENINGS

HEATH DOWNTOWN DRUGS
Open 10 A.M. to 1 A.M.
Sundays & Holidays Included
Opposite Xerox Square
141 CLINTON AVE. S. 232-2797

WARNER'S LIQUOR STORE
HINCHEY ROAD
AT CHILI AVE.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES
CHILSON PHARMACY
1704 Monroe Ave.
473-6402
Prescription DELIVERY SERVICE

CALL
DAVE WERNER
COURIER-JOURNAL
454-7050

ST. CHARLES BORROMEO
DEWEY AVE. PHARMACY
Prescription Specialists
COSMETICS - TOILETRIES
PHOTO FINISHING
2910 Dewey Avenue 865-2210

ST. ANDREW'S PARISH
PRESCRIPTIONS
Carefully Compounded
MANDELL'S PHARMACY
Hy Mandell
467-0679 -0785 266-9554
DRUGS-COSMETICS-SUNDRIES
Portland Ave. at Norton

OUR LADY OF LOURDES
LA MAY DRUG CO.
1800 EAST AVE.
271-2896

CLARENCE W. RYCKMAN AGENCY
All Forms of Insurance
WE'RE NOT BIG, BUT WE ARE QUALIFIED.
Just pick up your phone and call:
546-4060 (office)
or
473-1188 (home)

Clarence W. Ryckman

Read and use the Courier-Journal Want Ads