



Present at the Black Lay Catholic Caucus meeting were, left to right: John Holmes, state chairman; Bob Pitts, national vice president; Viola Brown, local chairman; and Joseph Dulin, national president of the organization.

100 Blacks Attend State Caucus Here

By MARGARET CONNOLLY

The new voice of black Catholicism was raised in Rochester last weekend, as it had been lately in Rome.

It said: "We are black first and Catholic second."

"We shall fight to survive as blacks in a white racist society, and we shall help and seek the help of blacks outside our church."

This was the substance of the news that black leaders from across the country had for their fellow Catholics in Rochester.

They met at Immaculate Conception parish — the executive board of the National Black Lay Catholic Caucus, and the first statewide convention of local caucuses.

Joseph Dulin, a high school principal from Detroit and national president, chaired the board meeting, and John Holmes of Rochester, the state convention. Viola Brown is the Rochester caucus chairman.

The executive board announced that there would be a four-day convention in Cleveland next August of organizations of black clergy, religious and lay people to "map strategies and plans for the role of the Black Catholic in nation building and continue its move towards a greater participation of Black Catholics in the policy-making and decisions of the Catholic Church as they affect the lives of black people."

The background of this movement within the Church is described in a recent book

by Father Lawrence Lucas of New York.

"Catholicism in this country is white," Father Lucas says in Black Priest, White Church. "We have culture-white white churches and white-culture Negro churches."

It is necessary, he declares, "to retrieve the minds of Negro Catholics from the man's captivity, and to encourage white Catholics to start believing what they say they do, and to start behaving the way they talk."

The church, as institution, treats the problems of black people in a context of white superiority/black inferiority, he says, but "human distortion cannot destroy the Divine reality," and he will "stay and fight."

Two men who accompanied Father Lucas to Rome two weeks ago to tell the Vatican about conditions they say the American hierarchy ignores were at the Rochester session. Dulin and Brother Joseph Davis, executive secretary of the National Office for Black Catholics, said their Rome experience was "encouraging."

A meeting with Cardinal Giovanni Benelli, Vatican substitute secretary of state, went three times beyond the scheduled half hour as the black leaders pressed their request for a black bishop in Washington, D.C. They also talked of a black rite that would be independent of the American hierarchy.

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Australian Priest Sets Up World Eucharistic Congress

By LAURENCE E. KEEFE

On his way home from Rome a tall priest from Australia showed up in Rochester during the weekend of Oct. 17.

A priest from Melbourne would be interesting enough, but Father Brian Walsh also happens to be executive director of the 40th International Eucharistic Congress, to be held in Melbourne in February, 1973.

"Many people feel that congresses have had it," said Father Walsh, "that, and the money is too much — so we've done a big rethink."

When he had his "rethink," Father Walsh came up with two ideas to make the Fortieth "a congress with a difference."

"We're going to de-centralize into all Melbourne parishes, both the Catholics and the non-

Catholics alike," he said. Melbourne's Anglican archbishop and the secretary of Victoria's Council of Churches have expressed their desire to cooperate.

Next, "We asked the people of the community to help us," said Father Walsh. High officials of the Australian government prepared a brochure for the congress and provided office space; private individuals and businesses donated office supplies, furnishings and their services.

While in town to visit relatives and Father Donald Murphy of St. Pius X parish, who is considering taking a group to the Eucharistic Congress, Father Walsh stopped in to invite Bishop Joseph L. Hogan to come.

"We will ask bishops to send at least one of the ordinary

folk to the congress," said Father Walsh in his Australian accent. "It could be a truck driver or anybody who does something in the church, just as long as they wouldn't be able to come otherwise. If their bishop pays the fare over, we can provide accommodations free in a Melbourne household."

Underdeveloped countries, said Father Walsh, would be a special target of this effort to get "ordinary folk" to the congress.

He noted that Pope Paul VI had been to the last two Eucharistic Congresses, and said that he had learned the Pope "would wish to come." The Pope's attendance, Father Walsh said, would be a matter of whether the pontiff is able.

When he was asked what, exactly, a Eucharistic Congress does, Father Walsh said, "We're anxious to get people to stop and think, and to show the connection between religion and life."

"Australia is going down," he said, making a sloping gesture with his hand. "Oh, I know, America's going down even faster," and then the same slope, but steeper. "Those people in Pittsburgh, after the World Series . . ."

The congress, Father Walsh thinks, will come up with a new form of devotion to the permanent sacrament of the Eucharist that may bring religious principles into the lives of the "ordinary folk."

Pope Paul VI has set as the theme of the congress, "Love one another as I have loved you."

Fire Destroys Building At Elmira Monastery

Pine City — Fire ruined the Benedictine monk's studio and destroyed thousands of dollars worth of equipment early Saturday.

The fire was discovered at 5:15 a.m. as the monks at Mt. Saviour came from their chapel. The order's fire brigade and a local volunteer fire department worked for an hour and a half to bring the flames under control.

The building, measuring 80 by 100 feet, contained carpentry tools and equipment for book binding and pottery making. The fire was said to have started near a pottery kiln, but the exact cause was not known.

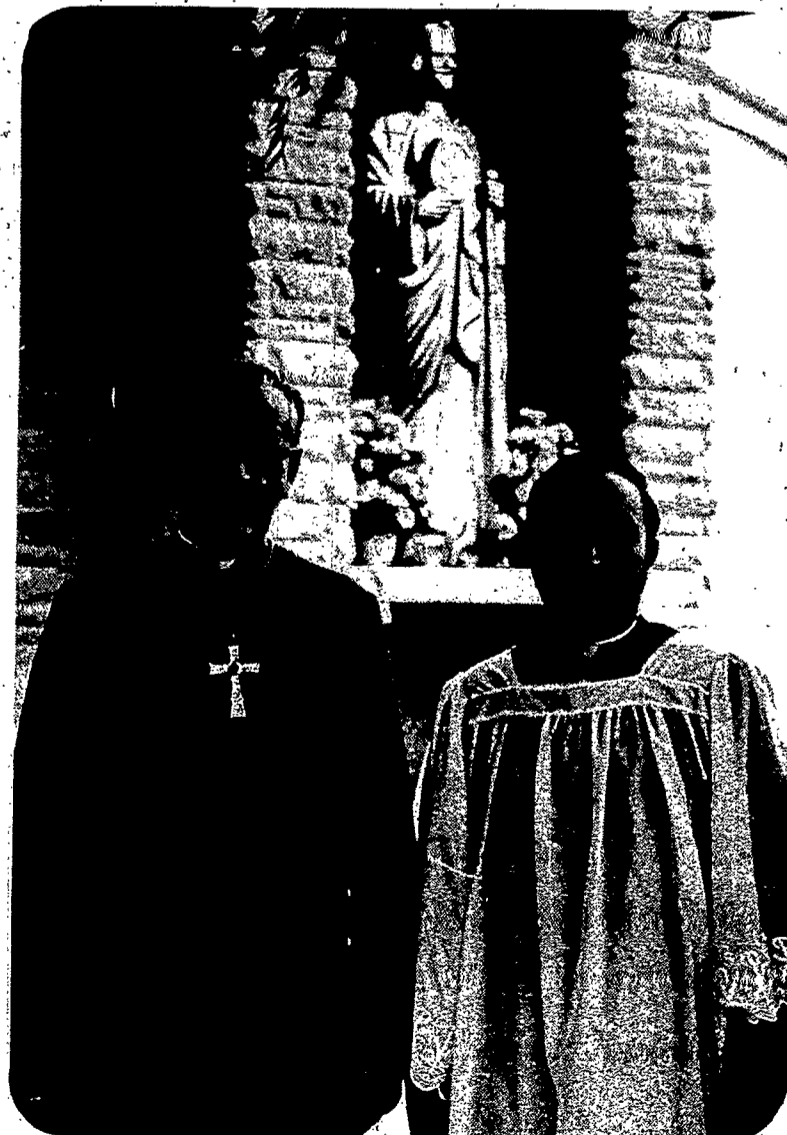
The amount of the loss was estimated only at "thousands of dollars." The building and equipment were insured.

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Mass Slated For Retarded

The first Mass for retarded persons and their families is scheduled at 9 a.m., Sunday at the Bosco House, 1150 Buffalo Road, it was announced by Father Charles Bauer. Masses will be set up on a regular basis.



Shrine Dedicated

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan and Father John Steger, pastor of St. Jude the Apostle Church in Gates, stand in front of the newly dedicated shrine to the church's patron saint, blessed by the Bishop Sunday, Oct. 24.