

Our Parish COUNCIL

by Bernard Lyons

Parish council leaders will find some excellent tools for action in the new inquiry book of the Christian Family Movement, "Quality of Life."

"Everyone who has been in CFM," the book says, "develops some know-how that he didn't have before—each according to his skill when he began."

The same development of skills should take place in the parish council.

Keep a good name, address and phone book.

The inquiry book explains, "The person who said that a first-rate address book is as important to today's Christian as a book of meditations wasn't far off the mark."

"The names, addresses and phone numbers of people you meet, speakers you hear, and organizations you discover are priceless assets. You can be and you should be known in your neighborhood as the person who knows whom to talk to, where to call for help and information."

Mine your local newspaper.

Any newspaper, of whatever quality, is a goldmine of ideas and information (club presidents, community needs, church activities, school board meetings, candidates for office on and on).

Use your public library.

The single most important feature in the library is the librarian. And the single most important fact about the librarian is that he (or she) likes to answer questions. She can show you the wealth of reference materials including how the pamphlet file is indexed, the audi-visual materials and special book lists. (Some libraries will help you develop topical book lists.)

Develop an eye for materials for special files.

Work out your own filing system for clippings. Decide on some simple headings. (For example, a parish council president might wish to set up headings for each council committee, so that he will have mate-

rial to suggest and talk about with individual chairmen.)

"Big used envelopes (about 10x13) make good file holders, and a stout cardboard box in a corner of a closet has served many a capable CFM couple well as a portable office," according to the current CFM program book.

Put your radio and TV set to work.

They can be good resources, if you mark your weekly guide for programs that inform and inspire. Conversation, phone-in, and news shows are a source of ideas about people and current activities in your community.

Get on mailing lists.

Many publications have lists of free or low-cost items that are good resources. Also check your local phone directory for organizations that will be helpful (e.g., American Friends Service Committee, Anti-Defamation League, etc. for your Community Life Committee or Human Relations Commission).

Be turned on.

"You will do some of your best work by putting people and ideas together," the CFM book explains. "You'll put A in touch with B, who knows C. You'll mention an article to D who will call E, who belongs to a club that needs a program. You'll discover that there are never too many catalytic people who enable other people to act, who set in motion a series of interactions between groups, who provide the ignition spark for love to act."

McQuaid Teacher In Current Show

Father William O'Malley made his debut with the Theater at the Tracks last night, in a preview of Tennessee Williams' Glass Menagerie. But he is in no way new to the theater.

Though he describes his training in the theater as "seat of the pants training" he has a very full and varied background.

He recounts that the acting "bug" bit him when he was five years old and not chosen to be in the kindergarten play. For revenge, he and some other renegades in the class made up their own play and staged it.

Father O'Malley, who has taught at McQuaid Jesuit High School for the past seven years, acted during his two years at Holy Cross College and during his Jesuit training.

He has written original plays and also musical adaptations of such works as The Odyssey and Teahouse of the August Moon.

Father O'Malley describes his involvement in the theater as an addiction and that is the only possible explanation for his recent schedule.

Since he began rehearsals for the Glass Menagerie two weeks ago he had been directing McQuaid and Mercy High School students for their production of Inherit The Wind which was staged last week-end. Directing after school until 5 and then rehearsing from 5 to 7 he also taught his usual four classes a day.

He foresees that the Spring will be a replay of the pace he has been living. He plans to do Guys and Dolls with the students and he will be acting in the Community Playhouse production of The Power and The Glory.

Preview shows tonight and Friday will be followed by "opening night," Saturday, Nov. 27, at 8 p.m.

Shun Skepticism, Pontiff Urges

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope Paul VI has called upon men and women assailed by temptations to "skepticism, pragmatism and hedonism," and by feelings of "the uselessness of life," to seek refuge in the bosom of the Church.

Referring to the Church as a "divinely-wrought" assembly of human beings the Pope said that all who belong to this assembly find their destiny, their reason for being and their mission in life. They are raised up by a divinely guaranteed hope, he said, often lacking in other persons.

The pontiff spoke at his customary Wednesday general audience, describing the spiritual condition of many men and women today. "(They) often find themselves without any clear or certain knowledge of their reason for living, with the result that the more they reflect, the more they feel assailed by doubts about the reasons for their existence."

He said that in such cases these people "easily become victims of the aristocratic temptation of skepticism — a 'what's the sense of it all;' or by the empirical temptation of pragmatism—just doing things for the sake of doing them; or, worse still, the temptation of hedonism — 'enjoy life, and that's all.'"

The Pope observed that the upshot of all this spiritual torment is the temptation to despair.

To such persons, he said, the Church opens wide her arms

and tells them that they can find a reason for living, seeking, loving, working, suffering and dying.

"To the Church," he stressed, "no one is insignificant, no one is useless, no one is lost, no one need be in despair, no one need be without a vocation in life," and added:

"Through the Christian vocation, the most miserable existence can become the most noble, the most precious. To the small, the poor, the suffering, the Church offers something which will give their lives a value, a dignity and a hope — and an abiding sense of the meaningfulness of life."

Pope Greets Astronauts

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope Paul VI welcomed the Apollo 15 moonlanding astronauts and praised them for placing their talents — "gifts of God" — at the service of mankind.

Col. David R. Scott, Lt. Col. James B. Irwin and major Alfred M. Worden, were received in a special papal audience on Nov. 17.

The Pope told the Air Force men he had followed the Apollo 15 mission "with the greatest interest." The historic 12-day voyage of lunar exploration last Summer—fourth moon-landing mission of the U.S. — has been hailed as one of the greatest expeditions of all time.

Deaths

Mrs. Schiller

Florence Hargather Schiller of Monroe Avenue, who was among Nazareth Academy's oldest alumnae, died Nov. 12, 1971, at the age of 74.

Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated Nov. 15 at Our Lady of Lourdes.

Mrs. Schiller leaves her husband, George W. Schiller; a son, George A. Schiller; a daughter, Mrs. William (Elizabeth) Creary, and 13 grandchildren.

FRIEND OF INDIANS NAMED BISHOP


Whitehorse — (RNS) — Father Hubert Patrick O'Connor, 43, has been named bishop of the Diocese of Whitehorse. The Vancouver, B.C. Oblate is famed for his work on behalf of British Columbia Indians.

NEWS DEADLINE


A reminder that Courier-Journal news deadline is noon Thursday for the following Wednesday's newspaper.

Courier-Journal


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