



From left to right: Father Daniel Brent, Father Benedict A. Ehmann, Monsignor Charles V. Boyle, Father

John P. Norris, Father Robert G. Kreckel, and Monsignor George A. Cocuzzi.

Pastors Discuss Their Role in Parish Schools

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

Five pastors who took part in a panel on the pastor's role in Catholic education agreed that they presently are mere "financiers" and hope to play a more active role in the future. The discussion was held at a meeting of the Rochester Association of Catholic School Administrators.

Speaking to the group of elementary school principals at St. Augustine's School Hall, Msgr. George A. Cocuzzi of Holy Family parish, said that a pastor is "a prisoner of the Catholic school system, limited to seeing that money is raised to keep the school going as it is going."

"In the future, pastors will

Parish Council Elects Schmidt

Milton Schmidt has been elected chairman of the new parish council at St. Margaret Mary's, and Philip Callan, vice chairman.

Josephine Lombardo is recording secretary and Kathleen Bufano, corresponding secretary. Alban Reichert and Emmett Schnepf are drawing up a constitution. Council members were chosen recently in a parish election.

Correction

There was an error in last week's story on the results of the Courier-Journal Christmas Fund drive. The story should read: Contributions . . . came to \$14,300, against the \$7,000 received last year; 1588 families received help; 608 food baskets were distributed and 980 families were given checks.

have to see that school goals reflect the needs of the people," he added.

Father John P. Norris of Blessed Sacrament and Msgr. Charles Boyle of St. John the Evangelist agreed that a pastor's role in the school is limited, and should be "in this age of specialization."

Father Norris also said that the pastor has the responsibility to question the value of the education given, and ask if it is getting in the way of the overall mission of the parish.

Father Robert G. Kreckel of Immaculate Conception saw the pastor's role as that of a critic of Catholic education. He must see how the school fits in with the over-all mission of the church, since that is where the money and personnel are, Father Kreckel said.

"We must ask," he continued, "are we doing anything if we just have a school in the community? I don't think it is possible for us to keep a school in every parish, and the way things are now I don't think we should."

Father Benedict A. Ehmann of St. Michael's said, "The pastor's role under God is that of a spiritual leader, and this has deep implications.

"Our main concern must be religious education, and this brings up a question on the training of our lay teachers in religion.

"If good religious education is not our aim, why are we supporting our schools, especially when there is little money or time left to be concerned for those not in our school system?"

Father Daniel Brent, superintendent of schools, urged pastors to bring their theological expertise to the classroom.

He also said he could see changes coming: "bigger involvement of lay people in the decision making role, and inter-

parish collaboration, new leadership and funding."

"I can't wait for the day," he declared, "when Rochester has a forum for discussion, such as

the pastoral and parish councils. We need the right forum for discussion so you can feel less like a bastion standing up for something no one wants."

43 Years of Helping Others

By LAURENCE E. KEEFE

Co-workers at Catholic Family Center gave Miss Elizabeth Stokes a hand-made figurine from Spain at her retirement party Jan. 5 which marked the end of 43 years with the social work agency.

Miss Stokes was supervisor of intake at the Family Center when she retired.

"You know, with the Christmas rush and everybody having spent their money," she said of her gift, "I just wanted them to have some Masses said for me. And not only did they give me this piece," referring to the china figure of a girl with ducks, "but they had two Masses said."

Since she started to work for what was called Rochester Catholic Charities in May 1929, Miss Stokes has seen "a lot of differences in the times—the Depression the one big thing, of course."

With the crush of unemployed people seeking financial assistance, she recalls, the agency would make case studies for the Department of Public Welfare, and request assistance. "The crush was more than we, as a private agency could handle, and more than the Public Welfare people could handle either."

A big change since those times, says Miss Stokes, is the switch from a voucher system for rent and food to direct cash relief. She was on the committee which initiated the new form of payment.

"Now we see people on a more professional basis, with them coming into the office," said Miss Stokes. "It used to be we were set up in districts, with a part of the city for each worker. They would handle all problems as they came up, and they would make home visits as a regular thing. That way you would get to know the family as individuals, from A to Z."

Family problems, she said, "are more complex. The mother used more to be in the home then."

Other social and familial trends noted by Miss Stokes during her years in counseling are the tendency of the mother to become the dominant figure in households where the father is working at two jobs, and changed attitudes toward pregnancy out of wedlock.

"Often now," Miss Stokes said, "the parents know, the girl can be placed in town or live with a friend or at home, and more of them are keeping the children."



Elizabeth Stokes with statue given her by colleagues.

Aid Decision

Chemung Schools OK This Year

By DICK BAUMBACH

Elmira—The halting of state aid to parochial schools will not be felt this year by the Chemung County Catholic School System, but Notre Dame High School could feel the pinch.

However, in the case of the Catholic high school, which is not connected with the county Catholic school system, plans have been under way since last summer to have alternate measures ready in case the parochial aid bill were found unconstitutional.

John Frawley, head of the high school's board of governors, says \$40,000 was included in the school's budget with funds to come from the parochial aid bill.

"We have several ideas we have been working on which would take up the slack from the loss of the state money. One is a second bingo night spon-

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