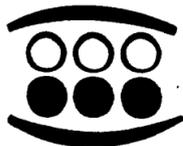


Our Parish COUNCIL

by Bernard Lyons



"Everyone with an eye in his head can recognize universal problems," wrote Father Daniel Berrigan, SJ, in his book *No Bars to Manhood*.

"This is not the task. The task is to localize the universal, to render it manageable by getting to work on it where one lives."

According to Father Berrigan, the real question is, "What can a few men and women offer to a few others by way of alterna-

tives to the general, indeed universal, reliance on death?"

What can a parish do with the global issues of war? What can they offer as alternatives?

Father Benjamin O'Connor, pastor of St. William's Parish in Louisville, challenged his parishioners, from the pulpit, to study world peace and recognize that Catholics have not been active enough in the field of political action for international peace.

As a result, the parishioners:

- Devoted nearly five months of Sunday adult discussions to peace.
- Formed a Peace Council to educate the parishioners and community on war and peace.
- Wrote a peace statement after a special series of Lenten forums.
- Agreed to place the statement before the entire membership at the Town Meeting, the parish's governing body.

More than 90 percent of the 343 parishioners who voted on the peace statement said "yes" to the proposals.

The two-page statement asked for a "total commitment to disarmament negotiation" "complete withdrawal, within six to nine months, of ALL United States troops from the land, sea and air of Indochina" "the economic and political structure of all nations be decided by the people themselves without pressure from outside

nations and ideologies."

Despite the nearly unanimous vote, the discussions on the statement were often spirited, and sometimes even heated. There were disagreements, for example, over the specific steps to end the Vietnam war and the ultimate goals of disarmament negotiations. The vote probably expressed a middle range of parish opinion, rather than the extremes. It would be easy to dismiss the example of St. William's Parish as just another "pious resolution."

The statement, however, was the result of wide parish study and discussion, and reflected in the document itself was the importance of speaking out.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The CYO needs volunteers for Girls' seventh, eighth and ninth grade Basketball League. The ten team league will run for five consecutive Saturday afternoons starting Feb. 5. Volunteers are needed for coaching, officiating and scoring.

Musical Program Set At Sibley's

Music meets fashion and art in "Bach and the Baroque," a multi-media Coffee Musicale being presented by Sibley's and the Rochester Philharmonic in the Sibley Tower Restaurant on Friday, Feb. 4, and again on Feb. 11 and 25.

The Musicale begins at 9:30 a.m. with coffee and pastries. Capacity seating for each concert is 200.

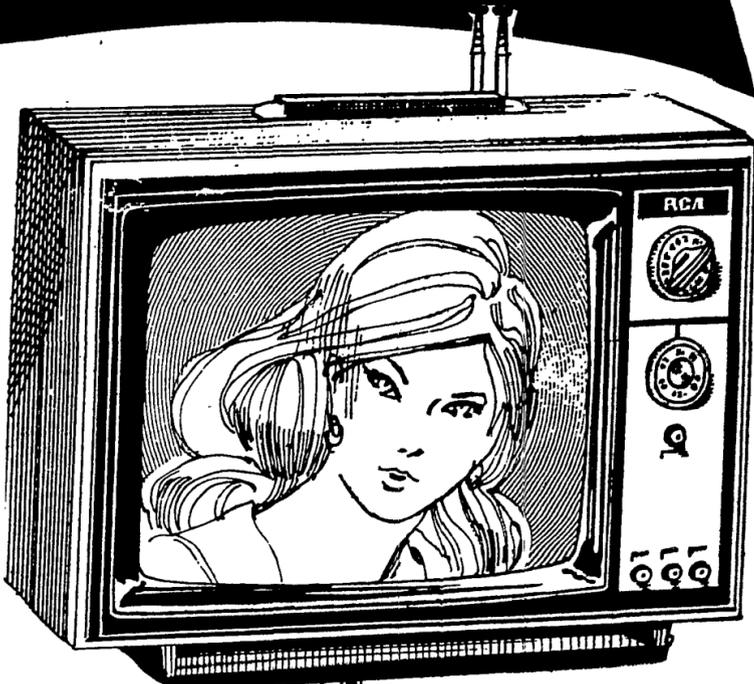
The program features the music of Johann Sebastian Bach. Combined with this will be mood-creating color slides of Baroque art and architecture and a fashion show of contemporary styles that show a Baroque influence.

The highlight of the musical program will be Bach's "Coffee Cantata," a lively, amusing mini-opera, sung in English, dealing with the coffee drinking craze in the 1730's.



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