



Open for Business

Father Joseph Reinhart hangs his shingle in window of the new Propagation of the Faith Office at 111 East Ave. The newly renovated offices, which include a combination chapel-auditorium, replace old ones at 50 Chestnut St.

Priests Reject Proposal to Join National Group

BY BARBARA MOYNEHAN

Diocesan priests strongly rejected a proposal that they join the National Federation of Priests Councils (NFPC). Results of the referendum released at last week's Priests Council meeting showed that 208 voted against the proposal and 111 for.

The NFPC is a group of organizations which attempts to face the national issues that have an effect on the local Church.

Other key issues on the agenda of the February Priests' Council meeting were tabled, due to the absence of groups concerned.

Father Charles Mulligan, director of the Office of Human Development, pointed out that the Council of Inner City Parishes' (CICP) resolutions regarding the future of St. Patrick's, 454 Plymouth Ave., and the Spanish Apostolate needed representation from the community involved, and census figures from the area that aren't available yet.

However, one side was heard since Father Charles Bennett, administrator of St. Patrick's and pastor of St. Anthony's of Padua, was at the meeting with a city planner from New York City, who came to present a projection of the future of the neighborhood where the parishes in question are.

It was agreed that any further discussion of the future of St. Patrick's would have been unfair and futile since no one was there to represent the community.

Father William Flynn, director of the Office of Diocesan Planning made a progress report and took suggestions on who should be on the diocesan's planning board. City planners were favored over industrial (Continued on Page 8)

Demonstrators At Meeting

Peace demonstrators went to the Priests' Council to ask for a continuing dialogue with them and to urge increased training for religious and laity in peace and justice awareness.

The Ecumenical concern for Peace and Justice is 30 to 40 people of various religions. They say that whether we are feeding or bombing the people of Indochina our Lord's words remain true: "Whatever you do to the least of my brothers, you do to Me."

Carole Evans, Edward Lind and Donald Prange asked the Priests' Council for an opportunity to discuss nine proposals for making the Church an agent of social change.

Prange, executive director of Metro Act, spoke of their experience at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Brighton, Sunday, Jan. 16, when they interrupted "religion as usual" to remind those present of their "responsibility to one another and all peoples, that they might come to a deeper sense of responsibility and commitment to men as creatures made in the image of God, and men as shapers of history."

Special Rites Planned For Lenten Observance

Experimental rites and services will be the hallmark of Lenten liturgies in the diocese this year. The Diocesan Liturgical Commission recently issued a booklet which contains, among other things, a playlet for an evening service, suggested dramatic actions for Ash Wednesday, and Sunday homilies.

According to Msgr. William Shannon, director of the commission, the new rites have been explained in a series of meetings with persons concerned with their implementation around the diocese.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, in a cover letter, recommended

the booklet, urged its study and endorsed the theme of the program: Conversion in the Christian life with special emphasis on the Sacrament of Penance. He said, "It is an observable fact that many Catholics are using the Sacrament of Penance less frequently today than they did in the past," and expressed concern over the issue.

An evening service for Ash Wednesday recommends the distribution of pieces of sackcloth, and the blessed ashes of last year's Palm Sunday leaves. The rite is marked by a procession, antiphonal readings from the Bible, a penitential

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Auburn Schools May Consolidate

Auburn — Some of Auburn's Catholic schools may consolidate next year.

More than 200 people, mostly from St. Aloysius, Sacred Heart and Holy Family parishes met last Wednesday evening at Sacred Heart's hall to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of a possible consolidation. Questions covered such issues as academic improvements, transportation arrangements and costs.

The group heard Father Albert Shamon, vicar of education, discuss the unique advantages of Catholic schooling. He said it continues to be the best and most important vehicle for religious education.

Father Daniel Brent, speaking after Father Shamon, indicated that no plan had been developed in detail but that "crude outlines of possible arrangements" for consolidation had been prepared. He said that the future of Catholic schools would be in inter-parish cooperation.

A group from St. Mary's parish had earlier attacked the lack of detailed planning, though they endorsed the concept of consolidation.

A steering committee is being formed to pursue the planing.

Father Valukevicius Succumbs at 60

Father Frank J. Valukevicius, who ministered to his Lithuanian-American compatriots in the diocese for 28 years, died Feb. 2, 1972, after an illness of several months. He was 60 years old.

Father Valukevicius, the first priest of Lithuanian descent to be ordained here, was pastor of St. George's Church in the Hudson Avenue neighborhood where he was born and brought up.

Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated there last Saturday by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan.

Educated in Holy Redeemer School, St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries, Father Valukevicius was ordained to the priesthood in 1938 and assigned to the Lithuanian parish as an assistant. In 1950, he was transferred to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and in 1956 sent back to St. George's as pastor.

He kept in touch with Lithuanians throughout the diocese and helped start a Sunday morning radio hour for them. After World War II he worked on behalf of the Lithuanians in the displaced persons camps of Europe.

He said some years ago that



FR. VALUKEVICIUS

his vocation had been "seriously tested" once, when his progress as pitcher for St. Andrew's drew an offer from a baseball farm club.

He was a collector of autographed first editions, of films depicting religious shrines and of stamps of religious significance.

Surviving the priest are his mother, Mary Valukevicius, and a sister, Ann Valuk.

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