

**RACL: Everything You  
Wanted to Know  
But Were Afraid  
To Ask**

RACL stands for the Rochester Association of Catholic Laymen. (It is referred to as "rackle".) To give Courier-Journal readers a better understanding of its structure, membership and aims, Editor Carmen Viguerci sat down with Robert Fein, RACL president, to come up with this question-and-answer interview.

**LAST IN A SERIES**

**Q.** Why doesn't RACL offer public support of such positions as anti-abortion taken by other lay groups?

**A.** Because of our limited resources, there are just so many areas in which we can be vocal. We don't want to duplicate effort in areas where groups in the Church are speaking effectively.

**Q.** But are there areas wherein you

work in cooperation with the institutional Church?

**A.** This gets us back to the other thrust of RACL, namely the educating and sensitizing of all of us as we continually try to form our Christian conscience. Specifically, we supported the education division of the diocese in instituting its sex education program by holding a public informational meeting so that different views could be aired.

Also RACL conceptualized and designed a more personal pre-Cana course and working through Father Collins' office are continually presenting it at colleges and some areas in the city.

Also with the full support of both Offices of Education and Human Development, RACL prepared a program designed to educate and sensitize parish leaders to our Christian responsibility concerning welfare.

We are in the process of preparing other educational programs, including one which will be released very soon on peace and social justice. Further our peace commission distributed through the RACL organization a Christmas peace message to all the parishes in the Rochester area.

**Q.** Is RACL only concerned with action programs or is there a spiritual side to it as well?

**A.** According to Vatican II action programs and Church renewal must be concurrent with the individual spiritual growth of a person. We in RACL take this counsel very seriously. We truly feel we can in no way be instruments of the Holy Spirit if we don't try very hard to develop a closer and closer relationship with Christ.

Therefore each month we celebrate the Mass with all our members and we help one another grow in love, understanding and forgiveness.

**Q.** What are RACL plans for the future?

**A.** The Church is indeed renewing itself and so the issues of yesterday will not be the issues of tomorrow. In an effort to continually search out areas for renewal we have established just recently an Issues and Priorities Commission which will present to the members at our annual convention the directions our organization will be taking next year. It's premature to state specifically what these might be.

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