

Our Parish COUNCIL

by Bernard Lyons

Ideas for parish councils may come from most anywhere — which only goes to prove the wisdom of sharing responsibility in a community of concern.

Adam E. B. Weiss, writing in *Advertising Age*, suggests that churches call in management consultants, and that one of the things they do is to find commercial uses for empty churches and the property they stand on.

"To put it bluntly," Weiss writes, "I think a unique opportunity is emerging that could bring some segments of marketing into a mutually beneficial relationship involving mutual social and economic benefits."

"Like our hospitals, the church has tended to function with something less than required efficiency, and (again like so many hospitals) has tended to look askance at such strictly commercial practices as management of physical assets — not to mention financial planning, budgeting, accounting."

Weiss believes this is a delicate topic.

"Some will insist that it raises the old charge of money-changers in the temple. But this is an age in which priests and ministers and rabbis and nuns are challenging traditions. They are challenging traditions for religious, secular, social and economic reasons."

"One explanation (there are many, of course) for the sorry financial plight of the church is the amazingly few hours each week that the church edifice, as well as the land on which it rests, is used," says Weiss.

"True, the church edifice tends to be used for more hours

than it was years ago, but the total still tends to be inadequate. Fundamentally, a major part of the church building remains unused for most of the week."

Rising costs make it compulsory, asserts Weiss, that more of the church structure and the land be used for income-producing activities.

"It would have been incredible, only a year ago," says Weiss, "to expect to see an article in *Barron's*, the financial journal, on a day care center that is renting space in a Church!"

Barron's quotes the head of that day care center, "Our purpose is pre-school education, and church facilities are ideal for it. There they sit, empty and unused virtually all week long."

Weiss points out that hospitals have leased part or all of their excess space to outside businessmen. Hospitals now have gift shops and cafeterias — which serve outsiders as well as hospital personnel and visitors.

Railroads have leased their excess terminal space in many cities. The Guggenheim Museum on New York's Fifth Avenue has rented out its auditorium to a theatrical group for a normal commercial run.

The Museum of Modern Art, also in New York, permits the use of its facilities by corporations for board of directors' meetings.

"Why use an art museum building for commercial purposes?" asks Weiss. "Because even well-endowed museums now contend with economic problems. This situation is currently as common among museums as among churches."

'One Parish'

Dinner and Drinks at Rectory

(Catholic Press Features)
In more than one parish, pastors are solving the long-standing complaint — "It's so hard for priests to meet their people" — by inviting parishioners over to the rectory for cocktails and dinner.

In one parish, it's a regular Saturday night affair, with ten couples invited each time.

An invitation committee chooses names at random from the parish lists and issues invitations.

Every couple comes for two Saturdays; one week as guests, the next week as hosts. Five couples are hosts each week, doing the cooking, setting up and cleaning up. Five couples are guests. The following week the five guest couples become

host couples for five new guest couples.

The evening consists of food, conversation and a tour of the rectory.

Response to the program has been "fantastic," according to the pastor, who finds that besides getting to know the priests better, the parishioners get to know one another.

In another parish, the pastor is planning a "reverse visiting program," whereby instead of going out and visiting the parishioners in their homes, the parishioners can come to the rectory during several "open house" nights a week.

"After all, they're paying the bills and entitled to see how we live," he says.

He is inviting adult parishioners to bring their children along, so that some of the mystery that surrounds the rectory and the priesthood

might be dispelled.

In another parish, "dinner at the rectory" takes place every Sunday night, with two families — children and all — invited.

After dinner, prepared by the families that were, there the previous Sunday night, there is conversation and family games, such as checkers. But out of the conversations have come suggestions implemented by the pastor and parish council.

One suggestion was to have a pause during the Mass after the names of the sick were announced — so that members of the congregation might volunteer to visit that person or drive a disabled person to a doctor. After one dinner, a woman remarked that she'd like to read Bible stories to pre-school children on Sunday mornings. Now she is doing just that.

Coordinators Sets Plans for Parish Councils

The ten newly-named diocesan regional coordinators met Sunday, March 5, at St. Stephen's rectory in Geneva with Auxiliary Bishop John E. McCafferty and Msgr. Donald J. Mulcahy.

The result of the meeting, said Msgr. Mulcahy, was a general determination "to push ahead with the development of parish councils for every parish in the diocese."

A further goal of the coordinators, said Msgr. Mulcahy, will be "regional activity around the issues of liturgy, school and educational activities."

Bishop McCafferty pointed out to the coordinators that as the bishop's representative in their respective regions, he hoped "they develop a spirit that would promote all these things."

Mount Morris Plans Fashions, Card Party

Mt. Morris — The St. Patrick's Church Rosary Society will present a Spring Fashions Show and Card Party Tuesday, March 21 at the Mt. Morris Inn starting at 7:30 p.m. The co-chairladies are Mrs. Jeremiah W. Flynn and Mrs. Joseph J. Regal.

Mrs. Anthony S. Barone is chairman of the tickets committee. Other ladies assisting are: Mrs. Vincent Bonafede and Mrs. Serafine LaDelfa, decorations; Mrs. Francis E. Barnard, table prizes; Miss Mary Barone, posters and Mrs. Francis E. Brado, fashion show.

Various business firms are donating prizes; and the fashions to be presented are from the Style Center, Jeanne's and the Children's Center. Proceeds go to St. Patrick's parish and school.

Acies Ceremony At St. Cecelia

Father Joseph Bernier, SSS will be the main speaker at the Legion of Mary Acies ceremonies at St. Cecelia's Church, Sunday, March 26 at 2:30 p.m.

Father Bernier's topic will be "Apostolic Action as Witnessed by the Blessed Virgin Mary."

After the ceremonies, refreshments will be served in the parish hall. Father Thomas Wheeland, diocesan director of the Junior Legion, invited all high schoolers to attend.

Wednesday, March 15, 1972



one great whirl of elegance

From California two exciting pieces in a sunburst of yellow to whirl you through parties from now on. The skirt's a huge circle of a wrap in polyester and seersucker. Buttery yellows melt and flow into vivid garden tones. But it's the feminine, sunburst yellow volle bodice that makes these two an irresistible team! Sizes 10-16. \$58. From McCurdy's First Impressions, Second floor, Midtown.

McCurdy's



Antique Show

Getting it all together for the Mother of Sorrows Rosary Society antique show and sale are (l-r) Kay White, Carolyn Hollembaek and Terry Zapaglia.

Joan of Arc Subject Of College Program

"The Many Faces of Joan of Arc" will be explored by Nazareth College faculty members and students during a Theatre Day program for area high school students on Saturday, March 18, at the college Arts Center.

More than 600 students from Western New York high schools have registered for morning and afternoon activities coordinated by the Theatre Arts Department.

The morning session will consist of four segments, highlighted by "The Many Faces of Joan" presentation during which panelists from the English, History, French, German

and Religious Studies departments will discuss the many interpretations of Joan in history and literature. Student actresses will portray Joans, as depicted by Shakespeare, Schiller, Twain and Anouilh.

"The Role of Women in the Middle Ages" will be explored by a narrator and actors in another morning segment and two other sessions will be devoted to directing and design techniques used in transposing Bernard Shaw's St. Joan from script to stage.

After lunch, the Nazareth St. John Fisher Drama Club will present a matinee performance of the Shaw play.