

## 'One Parish'

# Laymen Give 'Money' Sermons

In one parish, the pastor got tired of giving "money sermons" and let laymen do it.

The result: contributions are now up 15 per cent, even with a second collection being dropped.

On four successive Sundays, four laymen — an insurance executive, two attorneys and a doctor — spearheaded a "Spiritual Motivation Campaign" after the pastor found a need to seek larger contributions from the 900 families of his parish. Parish income had not increased in four years, though expenses had gone up considerably.

One Sunday the insurance executive spoke to the parishioners on the idea of God's goodness to man and man's need to express his gratitude.

Another Sunday, an attorney spelled out what the material needs of the parish were.

He was followed by another lawyer who talked about the parish's future plans and hopes.

Finally, a doctor told the parishioners how much weekly revenue was needed if present pro-

grams were to continue and future plans be realized.

New programs and plans that were itemized included: the hiring of a director of religious education to coordinate C.C.D. and adult religious education; revamping of the sanctuary and new carpeting for the church; hiring of a musical director to enhance liturgical participation; creation of a learning center for the children in the parish school and C.C.D. and installation of an advanced science program in the school.

Explaining why he called upon laymen to give the "money sermons," the pastor said such a move was appropriate, since Vatican Council II recommends giving lay people responsibility in such areas.

He also said there was value in de-emphasizing the identification of the priest with financial appeals.

The four men responded eagerly to their pastor's invitation to give the financial talks, according to the pastor.

One is a parish trustee and along with two of the other laymen is a member of the steering committee for the parish council that is now in the planning stages.

Reaction of the parishioners — who were told of the idea in a letter prior to the laymen's talks — has been enthusiastic, gauging by the financial response at collection time. And the pastor found them "promising preachers of the word of God."

## Tag Sale At Nazareth College

The Nazareth College Alumnae Association is sponsoring a "Tag Sale" on March 24 from 10 a.m. until 9 p.m. and on March 25 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. in the Nazareth College Gymnasium on the campus at 4245 East Ave.

The "sale" is a combination flea market, antique and household sale. It also features art and craft items and baked goods.

At least 100 area alumnae of Nazareth College are working on this project. Committee members include:

Mrs. Thomas B. Clifford, Pittsford, general chairman; Mrs. Thomas A. Lyons, Clifford Avenue, Rochester, co-chairman; Mrs. James P. Mannix, Fairport, chairman of workers; Mrs. James J. Goodwin, Fairport, publicity chairman; Mrs. Jerome E. O'Dell, Brighton, promotion chairman; Mrs. Lyman A. Bement, Pittsford, baked goods chairman; Miss June Dispenza, Rochester.

## Youth Chorus Auditions Set

Open auditions have been scheduled to fill 25 places in a special youth chorus which will perform with the Concert Chorale this spring. The auditions will be held in the auditorium of St. Agnes High School, 300 E. River Road, Henrietta, on Tuesday, March 28 at 3:30 p.m.

The chorus is open to both boys and girls in grades 4 to 6. Previous musical training is not required.

Youngsters who qualify will receive musical direction from Sister Virginia Hogan, who heads the Chorale. After a month of rehearsing, they will perform in three concerts the weekend of May 5-7.

This will be the seventh season for the Concert Chorale, which is composed of members of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

# Triple Thriller At St. Agnes

Two nights of chilling drama comprise the spring dramatic offering at St. Agnes High School. Entitled "Three for Terror", the production consists of three one-act plays to be performed Friday, March 24 and Saturday, March 25 at 8 p.m.

Ionesco's "The Lesson", the first of the plays, presents the bizarre activities of a professor and his student in a ghastly lesson whose outcome is quite out of the ordinary. Karen Redfield, Mike Greene (of Aquinas) and Sandy Spade make up the cast of this unusual piece of terror.

"Sorry, Wrong Number" equals telephone terror in which the victim listens to the plans for her own murder. Mary Agnes Hess fills the lead spot on this chilling party line.

Liz Trippe heads the bill in the third part, "The Opening of a

Door", a play of the supernatural.

The production is directed by William Andia.

Tickets may be purchased from any cast member or at the door.

## POPE LAUDS UNIT

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI has expressed his high esteem for the achievements and efforts of the World Federation of Deaf People.

In an audience with members of the Federation's executive committee, the Pope said he greatly admired the "splendid work" that the organization was accomplishing on behalf of the deaf. "The ideals which you pursue," he told the group, "are most dear to us and the further achievement you are preparing for merit our closest attention and our highest esteem."

# Our Parish COUNCIL

by Bernard Lyons

At least three out of 10 letters that I receive about parish councils ask about finances.

This is not because of an unhealthy balance or concern about finances, I don't believe.

At workshops, where I set up table discussions, worship and education are well attended, and in a few cases we had to plead with people to join the work group on finance.

The concern seems to grow out of a number of trends and events, namely high unemployment and the general uneasiness about the economy. This, in turn, is reflected in lower contributions to not only the churches, but to all social, charitable and welfare institutions.

An additional important trend is the polarization among Catholics, with some people withholding or reducing contributions because they don't believe the Church is doing enough, while others are cutting back funds because the "Church's place is in the sanctuary."

A trend that is not mentioned publicly is for a growing number of Catholics to determine for themselves where their "church contributions" are going to go.

A steel company executive told me that he was now splitting his previous envelope money. Where he had been giving \$11 a week (\$572 annually) to his parish, he now was putting \$3 into his weekly envelope.


Since he doesn't feel his parish needs that much money, he said, he gives the balance of his former payments to his suburban parish to support a laity group (\$2 a month); several inner-city parishes (\$2 a week); the United Fund (through payroll deductions); the Little Brothers of the Poor; contributions to political candidates; and several community groups working with minorities and the poor.

Several other persons that I talked with had similar splits, and a few had dropped parish contributions entirely, except for a few random coins put into

the collection basket. Many of these people were and are making significant contributions of their time and money to community organizations.

A former president of the local chapter of National Organization of Women (NOW) reported: "All family money that used to go to the Church now goes to social issues — in our case, the women's movement. Some of that money, and, more important, time, might go back to the Church if they would do relevant things for women — turn those closing schools into child care centers or homes for the aged."

Here we have some people who do not see themselves as "Church." They view their contributions as going to "them." It's a job not only for the Finance Committee, but for the parish council and the community of Christians. It demands not only detailed and open financial accounting, but also a sharing of concerns and working together on a budget that involves selecting priorities among so many needs.



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