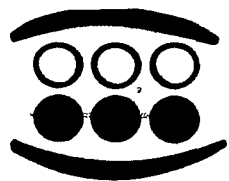


Our Parish COUNCIL

by Bernard Lyons



Church buildings are getting hit, too, in the vandalism taking place around the country — in cities and suburbs, in black and white areas, and in wealthy and poor communities.

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., recently closed its doors to visitors except during performances. The cost of security was getting too high. Thousands of people milling through the Center every day were taking even the brass covers on electrical outlets.

Some of the vandalism, like in the Kennedy Center, is an attempt to identify with a famous name.

Other vandalism, like the bombing of Chicago's Haymarket Square statue of a policeman, is an attempt to get back at the "establishment." After the statue was bombed twice in the last several years, it was finally moved to the central police headquarters to eliminate the need for 24-hour guards.

Still other vandalism is done by disturbed people or by malicious or mischievous youngsters.

Statistics of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) show that more than three out of every four vandals arrested are under 18 years of age. The highest number of arrests is among 12- and 13-year-olds.

These figures don't give the complete story, however. It is hard to catch, much less prosecute, vandals. It is difficult to apprehend someone in the act, and then the case may rest on one person's word against another's.

Book Review Lunch Set at St. Thomas

Mayor Stephen May will review the book, "Boss: Richard J. Daley of Chicago" by Mike Royko, at noon lunch Wednesday, May 3, at St. Thomas More Church, 2617 East Avenue.

The Women's Guild is sponsoring the affair for the benefit of the school library. For reservations, Mrs. Francis Dowling at 381-2694; Mrs. Charles Lambase, 271-5685, or Mrs. Richard Lewis, 244-5117.



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'One Parish'

Parish Newspapers Growing

(Catholic Press Features)

In a growing number of parishes, monthly newspapers — some numbering 16 tabloid pages every month — are helping to create and strengthen the parish community.

The papers try to provide in-depth profiles of parish leaders (parishioners in one parish were somewhat startled to learn that their pastor had spent the first seven years of his life living on a coal barge and had managed an amateur baseball team not long after his ordination), detailed explanations of liturgical changes as they take place in the parish, and reports on a variety of activities and projects in the parish in a manner not possible in the brief weekly bulletins.

In one parish, in fact, the monthly newspaper was credited with helping to bring about the introduction of female lecturers in the parish. One of the priests working with the male lecturers commented, in an interview, that he saw no reason why female lecturers could not be used in the parish.

Several female readers responded by showing up at the next meeting of the male lecturers and in a few weeks women were reading from the lectern during services.

Some of the parish newspapers have "traded" with their diocesan newspaper.

In one diocese, the diocesan

paper ran a lengthy profile on a Catholic state senator. When that same senator was scheduled to speak to one parish's Holy Name Society several months later, the parish newspaper there reprinted the diocesan paper's story and photo — with appropriate credits — with an introduction highlighting the legislator's appearance in the parish.

Conversely, one parish paper developed a story on its own concerning innovations in the parish CCD program. The diocesan newspaper used that story as a springboard to assign its own reporter and photographer to prepare a feature for its readers.

Among articles that have appeared in parish newspapers have been:

A description, based on interviews by letter and phone, of a parish's "adopted" parish in a poor area in Appalachia.

A localized film guide, listing films due at local theaters, with Catholic film office ratings and excerpts from reviews, with due credit, that have appeared in the diocesan newspaper.

A personality profile on a youth from the parish who had gone on to the diocesan CYO talent contest finals.

An interview with a number of the members of the parish's Nocturnal Adoration Society, in which they told why — and how — they showed up once a month for night-long vigils before the Blessed Sacrament.

The newspapers are financed by income from local advertising, rounded up by volunteer salesmen, most of them retired but many with previous sales experience.

Professional-calibre photography is provided by local professional photographers who "trade" their occasional services for a free advertisement.

Antiques Show A Charity Benefit

The 23rd annual antiques show and sale put on by members of St. Paul's Episcopal Church will be held at the parish house, East Avenue at Vick Park B, from 11 a.m. until 10 p.m. tomorrow and Friday, April 20, 21. There will be food service from 11:30 a.m. until 6.

The show, which draws dealers from the East and the Midwest, is a fund raiser for various charity agencies, including Rochester's Southeast Ecumenical Ministry and the Lewis Street Settlement.

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