

Our Parish COUNCIL

by Bernard Lyons

Two great problems that face the Social Action committee of the parish council are deciding on a single issue among many needs, and insuring that a solution, or solutions, don't create further problems.

The answers to both these questions may be found taking a systematic approach to community concerns.

Jane Jacobs, a noted writer on city problems, once said that the problem with much of the housing for the poor was that the planners "had taken the pub from public housing."

By this she meant that no provision was made in public housing projects for the informal institutions, such as the neighborhood tavern, mom-and-dad grocery, small dry-cleaner, store-front church, etc.

These facilities not only serviced real needs of drink, food, cleanliness, and worship, but they provided opportunities for "community." In these settings, people were known as persons. Their faces were recognized, their names were known, and they could exchange news and small talk.

The complexity of today's society is such that any group who would be effectively helpful in their community must not only

St. James To Elect 8 to Council

On Sunday May 14 2,500 people from St. James Parish, ages 16 and up, will elect eight candidates for the Parish Council out of 19 candidates. It will be the fifth election since St. James began its council in 1967.

The council consists of 14 lay parishioners, pastor, assistant and a religious representative (currently the school administrator). It has six committees: the executive committee (5 officers), liturgy, youth, community relations, education and communications. More than 100 people from St. James Community are involved in the above committees.

During this past year several subcommittees were formed, including task force to study ways of increasing revenues, regionalization, review committee to study by-laws and council procedures.

One important accomplishment was the establishment of a monthly calendar and newsletter. According to Father James Feeney, pastor, much of the success of the council over the past two years is owed to Robert Gleichauf, Joseph Ventura, Donald Wafer, Nancy Strang, John Reina, Paul B. Schmidt, Gary Seibert and Gerald Skerrett.

Club to Fete Bob Rosmarino

The Aquinas Sports Booster Club will stage a testimonial dinner May 15 for football coach Bob Rosmarino, who will depart the Dewey Avenue school at the end of this semester.

Rosmarino, who has coached for Aquinas for seven years (record 41-13-1), will become head football coach of Methuen, Mass., High School.

Ben Schwartzwalder, head football coach at Syracuse University, will be guest speaker at the dinner, at Sweet's Farm. Jerry Flynn will be toastmaster. Tickets may be obtained at Aquinas.

Courier-Journal

'One Parish'

Social Worker for a Day

(Catholic Press Features)

In one parish, a diocesan Catholic social services worker has been on hand one day a week as a parish caseworker available to assist on any kind of problem, whether it be marriage counseling, alleviating the loneliness of the aged, or soothing parent-child conflicts.

The social worker, according to the parish's assistant pastor, is also there to get the parish acting in those areas where needed.

Cabrini Circle Plans Dinner

Mother Cabrini Circle will put on a smorgasbord dinner from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. Sunday, May 21, at Montgomery Neighborhood Center, 10 Cady St., to raise money for its scholarship fund.

Mrs. F. G. Shaughnessy, chairman, explained:

"This interracial and non-sectarian group work to pay the tuitions of needy Negro boys and girls, who desire to attend Catholic high schools of their choice. There are many religious denominations among the scholarship students. The schools share the cost, as their contribution to this great opportunity for education, which grows more important each year."

Reservations are being taken by Mrs. Mattie Nelson Smith, 232-5561; Mrs. Charles Perry, 454-6625, and Mrs. Clifton Carroll, 328-6639. Tickets also will be sold at the door.

PARENTS' CLUB

The McQuaid Parents' Club will hold "Geritol Follies" at Bishop Kearney High School Auditorium, Saturday and Sunday, May 13 and 14 at 8 p.m. The musical revue is under the direction of Father William O'Malley, S.J. and Sister Margaret Mary Ganley, SSJ.

isolate a problem to work on it, but must, at the same time, be aware that the persons affected are not "isolated."

Some principles for planning that follow from this brief statement of the problems are:

- Problems do not exist in isolation. Housing, education, income and preparation for worship are related.

- Problems are isolated, or abstracted, for purposes of devising action programs, but persons are not so abstracted.

- Planning is required to study a problem, create solutions, and study the ramifications of not only the problem, but also of the proposed solutions.

- Planning must not only be for, but also with, the people who are affected by the problem and who will be affected by the solutions.

For example, imagine what our public housing approach might have been had community hearings been held in ghetto areas before public housing was planned. There is truth, no matter how bitter, in the street-wise saying, "Urban renewal is black (people) removal."

The purpose of planning must not be to select one solution, but must be to increase the number of options open to people.

Evaluation is a necessary step to planning. Once a plan is started in process, the environment changes, hopefully the people involved grow, and evaluation is needed to study, to incorporate, and to change the process to most fully meet human needs.

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