



... there was tension-breaking levity.



... but most of priests' meeting was in earnest.

Priests Council Rescinds Support of School Plan

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

After hearing the dismal financial reports of parish priests last week, the Priests Council withdrew its support of a plan to raise school money by levying a new tax on the parishes.

At issue during an open forum was the Interim Education Financial Plan that the council accepted last month. This would impose a special assessment to provide a common pool of operating funds.

The council reaffirmed its support of innercity schools by endorsing again a subsidy increase to the extent compatible with the diocesan budget.

About 150 diocesan priests met at St. Bernard's Seminary May 2 with the comptroller, and chancellor of the diocese, Bishop Hogan and auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey to discuss the council's priority decisions.

After four hours of exchanging thoughts and parish level financial statistics the consensus was: religious education for all is the top priority, but there is no viable plan to achieve it.

Father Vincent Collins of St. John of Rochester characterized the interim plan as "rear guard action," drawing applause from about half of those gathered.

"We are speaking to a concept when talking about a plan to keep all schools open one more year," Father Collins said.

"I am not certain parochial schools as presently constituted are viable. Don't you think it is about time we reviewed the existence of parochial schools? Any parish can do a better job with CCD," he continued.

Msgr. William Roche of St. Catherine's, Ithaca, former school superintendent and staunch supporter of Catholic schools, replied: "It is as shortsighted to say Catholic schools are not viable as to say an economic plan is beyond our wildest dreams."

"For the past 10 years," he continued, "the Catholic schools have been in a phase out mode of operation."

"We stopped building schools in 1960, and schools operated with resources of a parish, and with resources of a parish, and religious staff, died in the 1950's. Now we are forced to see that we have to run them differently again, no longer as an isolated entity."

Father Daniel Brent, school superintendent, explained that a purpose behind the plan is to stall for time until those who use the schools are organized in parish councils, and can make the decision.

Father James Schwartz of St. Theodore's emphasized that the plan is an interim plan, "to allow us to do research and develop an outline for the total religious education program."

Bishop Joseph Hogan confessed that when the Diocesan Education Commission drew up the interim plan he didn't realize how much would be involved, and what it would mean to Monroe County parishes.

He called for a hand count of Monroe County pastors on the question: how many pastors can afford the plan for one year. Seven out of about 25 responded.

Father John Hedges of St. Charles Borromeo urged, "Give ourselves one more year. We

don't have any viable substitute for our schools so we need the year to come up with something. And at the end of the year we should let them die together."

Father Benedict Ehmann reminded the gathering they said the same thing last July, "and we didn't do much homework on it; we'd better this time."

The proposal before the regular Priests' Council meeting following the open forum, suffered drilling that probably wouldn't have happened had it been on any other day's agenda.

The proposal in question stated guidelines for the Spanish Apostolate, complete with

statement of purpose and job description, emphasizing the need for training and cooperative programs among those parishes which have 50 or more Spanish-speaking people.

The 12 members of the 18-member council that remained for the meeting, criticized the proposal for not including a budget breakdown, and for an overlap of staff with the Office of Human Development.

Father Daniel Tormey, chap-

lain of Rochester General Hospital, pointed out that the proposal was suffering because it offered something new, while all the old offices, such as the Tribunal, go unquestioned.

"This is a guideline," Father Tormey said, "and what they want is our support and I think they should have it, in the face of all those ministries that never come in for our support."

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Rice Ordination To Be in Wayland

The Rev. Mr. Robert J. Rice, deacon at St. Joseph's, Wayland, will be ordained to the priesthood there on May 13.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan will officiate at 2 p.m.

The people of St. Joseph's and their pastor, Father William Riefer, have planned a reception and buffet supper in the church hall, to follow the Mass.

Father Rice, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Rice of Webster, will concelebrate his first Mass at 2 p.m. Sunday at St. Rita's, West Webster. He will give his first blessing at a reception, from 6:30 until 8:30, in Sweet's Party House.

Brought up in Webster, Father Rice attended both St. Rita's and Holy Trinity parish schools. After his graduation from Aquinas Institute, he attended



FATHER RICE

St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries and took his clinical pastoral training at Lancaster, Pa., General Hospital.

Victor Readies Musical Show

Victor—Last year Father David Simon directed many young people of the Victor area in a musical production which played two nights to a standing room only auditorium.

This year the people of Victor had to travel a little farther to see Father Simon's production—Geneva. Father was transferred from St. Patrick's to Geneva, where on May 6, 7 he produced a musical entitled, "Everything Is Beautiful."

Travel they did though, and invited Father Simon to come and see them in a show they are planning for June 2, 3. This year's production will be sponsored by the Victor Council of Churches and directed by Miss Karen Sullivan, a music graduate of Nazareth College.

What Do You Think...

...Is the Space Program Worth It?

By CHARLES RANDISI
For 1971-72, the United States expects to spend enough money on the space program to take the world out to lunch, and leave a sizable tip to the waitress. To some that seems like a lot of money wasted on glorified rock collecting expeditions.

But Isaac Asimov, noted science fiction writer who was in Rochester recently, defends exploration of the moon. He explained that more money is spent on Vietnam in a year than is spent on the space program in 12 years. He also calls the moon the "pathway to space." He says that man will never get beyond the moon unless he first gets to it.

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Terry Dickinson, resident astronomer at the Strasenburgh Planetarium, thinks that NASA's projects are "exceedingly important." He says that in the overall scope of things, it was inevitable that man should go to the moon. Instead of looking at the political aspects of the space race, the struggle between the U.S. and Russia to get there first, he thinks that we must consider "the event itself."

During the Apollo 16 voyage, I visited a science fair at Holy Family Parish, to get the layman's viewpoint. The question was: "Do you think that the space program is worth it?"

Angela Uttaro, a seventh

grader, said, "Yes, it's a good thing. We might find something up there that we will need in the future."

Don Uderitz, a parishioner, said, "We should definitely continue, but not too much. If we don't do it, who will?"

Mr. and Mrs. James Hotra feel that it is difficult to decide. "The progress we've made is good, but at the same time people are starving," Mrs. Hotra described the television coverage as "interesting and breathtaking."

Rosemary Maeder also believes in the progress made by the lunar expeditions. "It's worth it," she said, but added

that "too much money" is spent.

Ceil Murante takes a different stance. "We have to concentrate on our own people," she said. "We could easily delay the program, and cut back on the budget."

Mary Mitzman is against the space program. "I don't understand it, really," she said. "An astronaut accidentally cuts a wire and we lose a million and a half dollars. That's too much."

Ray Tette, who is in charge of the Holy Family youth group, agrees with Mrs. Mitzman. "How many times do they have to go up there to find out that there's nothing but rocks? There are

so many needs today, with the drug problem and the breakdown of family life. The money they're wasting on the moon could be put to much better use."

The most original viewpoint was expressed by Albert DiProspero. He said, "We should limit our expenses, but not cut it out. I think that sooner or later I'd like to visit there. I want to find out for myself what it's like."

Good luck, Mr. DiProspero.

(Your views are invited to Letters to the Editor)