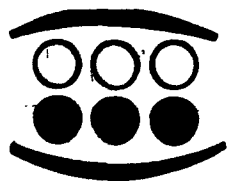


Our Parish COUNCIL

by Bernard Lyons



'One Parish'

Neighborhood Mass at Church

(Catholic Press Features)
In one parish, special Masses are held at the church for 17 different neighborhoods in the parish on successive Monday evenings.

The Neighborhood Mass was adopted as an alternative to

home Masses because it was considered more practical.

The decision to have a Neighborhood Mass was made by the parish as one way to create a greater sense of community among the parishioners, who number 950 families.

After the Mass the parishioners gather in the church's social room for coffee and cookies. This includes informal meetings with the pastor, his assistants, members of the parish school board, the school principal and leaders of the CCD program.

The parishioners are encouraged to ask questions about parish finances, operation of the school or CCD program or any parish organization.

In addition, it was pointed out that the Neighborhood Mass and the following social gathering often give the parishioners the only real opportunity they have to meet their own neighbors, especially newcomers into the neighborhood.

As for the organization of the Neighborhood Masses, a committee is set up in each neighborhood and they get the word out and even assist in the planning of the Liturgy, including special prayers.

One of the organizers of the Neighborhood Masses commented:

"One of the things that I feel is significant about this program is the number of people we are reaching. I would say that so far we have had at least half of the families in each area represented in some way at each of the Masses."

"The comments we have so far have all been favorable," she continued. "The people appreciated the Mass and the meeting afterward very much. In fact, some have suggested that we not stop with just one Mass for any given neighborhood, but continue the procedure on a regular basis."

How does the Community Life Committee go about planning to solve some of the problems in their parish and area?

Here are some steps that you can take to build a systematic approach to your planning.

- Select an issue. Since no one committee can do everything and many solutions will require full community participation, a list should be made of the issues. They should be evaluated in terms of how crucial they are and how well the issue is articulated or felt in the community.

One parish committee might find racism is the most crucial issue, while in another parish a committee may find pollution of the air and streams to be of the most concern.

- Define the issue. An issue can be seen as both a problem and a hope. Each approach will help to define the other, in the same way that black-and-white colors help to both differentiate and complement each other.

- Describe the issue. Who has the problem (specific persons and groups)? What are they experiencing? Is the issue recognized as a problem? How widespread is it? What forces are working to resolve it?

- List sources that can provide information. What other persons, groups, and organizations are concerned and have done something about the problem to date?

- Identify the kinds of information needed. What are the resources available and the methods needed to change? What is the church's mission in this area? What has been tried by others and worked?

- Summarize the major information discovered.

- Discover the possible implications for action. You might try role-playing, brainstorming, and other "game" devices to "see" what would happen if you took certain courses of action. "What if we . . ." will reveal some of the implications of your actions, who would be affected, who might support, and who might be opposed.

- Determine your action goals and review these goals with the people who will be affected and the persons and groups you wish to call on for support.

- Revise these goals in the light of your review.

- Map out strategies to implement the goals. What structures, already there or new ones to be created, and personnel are needed? What is the cost going to be, and what are the possible sources of your income?

- List the steps, in sequence, to initiate your action program.

- Promote the plan in the community. How can the community best be prepared to respond to and participate in the strategy you have outlined?

- Use liturgical seasons and special calendar emphasis for your program. Will you gain greater acceptance of your plan if it is scheduled for Brotherhood Week, Lent, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas?

- Evaluate. Build ways to review your actions while they are in process and upon completion. What standards will you set in order to judge the effectiveness of your goals? What evidence will there be for support and opposition to the goals? Who will gather and interpret the information?

Holy Cross Schedules Latin Mass

The Holy Cross parish council will sponsor a Latin Mass at 9 a.m., Sunday, May 21.

The choir, under the direction of Mrs. Adriana Urtis, will sing Gregorian selections and songs by Foure, Barber, Palestrina and Lambillotte.

James Buonemani will accompany the choir on the organ and a chamber ensemble from the Eastman School of Music will play.

Holy Angels Guild To Install Officers

Holy Angels Guild will begin its 41st year of support for the Holy Angels Home at an installation tea on Saturday, May 20, at Cutler Union on University Avenue. All members are invited.

The guild provides financial aid for the home's rehabilitation of young girls.

The installation will be at 2:30 p.m., followed by tea from 3 to 5. Miss Marilyn A. Potter is chairman of the tea.

Mrs. Fred Trotter will serve as President of the Guild for the year of 1972-1973 with Mrs. Nicholas Colamarino as first vice president; Miss Hayna Snyder, second vice president; Miss Josephine Flora, corresponding secretary; Miss E. June Dispenza, treasurer; and Miss Mary Syracuse, assistant treasurer.

Nixon Hailed For Stand

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — A Jesuit priest and author who has been to Vietnam 17 times in recent years said here that President Nixon's decision to mine Haiphong Harbor was "an historic act of statesmanship" that "will give him an abiding place in history."

Father Daniel Lyons, chairman of the international inter-religious Free Pacific Association, which describes its aim as "working for peace and justice for all Asia," called the President's move the "first significant action taken by our government to bring the conflict to a halt" during the past 10 years.

The priest, who is also editor-at-large for the National Catholic Register and Twin Circle-The National Catholic Press, said that the action should have been taken many years ago.

"For five long years our Joint Chiefs of Staff unanimously insisted that Haiphong Harbor would have to be closed in order to end the war," Father Lyons said. "Until now we have had nothing but a holding action, foolishly thinking that we could talk Hanoi out of its desire to take over the South."

He added, "Nixon's first important action was to remove the sanctuary we had imposed on ourselves in Cambodia. This brought about the closing of Sihanoukville (now called Kompong Son). Only Haiphong Harbor was left."

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