

What Do You Think?

Should Priests Be Allowed to Marry?

By CHARLES RANDISI

I recently attended a gathering of the First Friday Luncheon Club to get views on this question: "Do you think that priests should be allowed to marry?"

DUANE PANCOAST is in favor of changing the law. "I'm all for it," he said. "Celibacy is just a symbol. I see no conflict of interest between a priest's family and his priestly duties. Most Protestant ministers are holy, dedicated family men. There is no reason why the Church could not have a mixed clergy, similar to the Episcopalians. I think the change should be gradual.

though, because many adjustments will have to be made."

EUGENE CUSKER, an attorney, also would like to see optional celibacy. "There's nothing wrong with it," he said. "Some priests in the Eastern rites are married. So were the apostles."

BILL BENNETT SR. wants to see the law liberalized. "It's a man-made law. Priests should have as much right to marry as the laity. Years ago they could; today they should be able to."

"I'm a sort of a traditionalist," said **BILL BENNETT JR.** "This is pretty much the way it should

be. The general feeling of priests with whom I've talked is that celibacy should remain. If people felt that it was important enough, why don't they favor marriage for nuns?"

MIKE TOBIN sees the problem as a practical one rather than a religious one. "Optional celibacy is just not realistic. The Church would have to make a heck of an adjustment. For example, married priests and unmarried priests could not live together in rectories. Also, priests should be on call 24 hours a day, and would have to abandon their families if they are needed elsewhere.

JOHN TEMMERMAN, retired Monroe County chemist, also thinks that marriage for priests is impractical. "Married life presents too many problems," he said. He mentioned divorce and financial difficulties as the major setbacks to optional celibacy.

CLARENCE KESSELING feels that parishes cannot afford a priest with a family. "They should stay single," he said. "I think they could do a much better job without having to worry about a wife and family."

The only woman I talked to, **MARY SCHIMTT**, said that a priest has his hands full with the Church. "With a family his time would have to be divided."

"Priests should definitely not marry," said **EDWARD LYND**. There is a sacrifice involved in becoming a priest. The vow of celibacy is the biggest sacrifice."

DR. CHARLES COYLE thinks that priests should be "just a little bit different" from the laity. He said, "If they were allowed to marry, I don't think I

KEARNEY CONCERT

The band and glee club of Bishop Kearney High School will give their annual Spring concert at 8 p.m. Friday, May 19, at the school.

The St. Christopher Social Club for single adults 25-5 years of age announces an open dance and cocktail party from 8 p.m. until midnight Sunday, May 21, at the Parliament Lounge, 2620 W. Henrietta Rd.

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could respect them as much as I do now."

The person most strongly against the change was **EDWARD MILLER**. "I think Pope

John made a mistake when he 'opened the window,' so to speak, with the Vatican Council," he said. "I am absolutely opposed to optional celibacy."



Sisters Estelle, Arlene and Jean Marie, from left, will help at Stella Maris.

Camp Stella Maris ... Things are Changing

Camp Stella Maris is changing.

This summer approximately 750 boys and girls from second through eighth grade will go to Stella Maris from June 25-Aug. 26.

The boys' session runs from June 25-Aug. 5, and will be staffed primarily by seminarians from St. Bernard's. The girls' session runs from Aug. 6-26 and will be conducted again by the Sister of Mercy after a lapse of several years.

Tom Koester, who is in charge of the boys' program, says, "We are expanding this year in order to give the camp a broader appeal. We want to be more flexible so that the counselors can act as free agents. We will be more experimental. For example, we will try to get some sailing in on the waterfront."

"A camp should be a happy place." So says Sister Mary Michael, RSM, this year's director of Stella Maris' girls' program. "If a girl doesn't like to go swimming, I see no reason why she should be forced to."

An estimated 250 girls will spend from one to three weeks at the camp. Age groups will be divided into "mini," "midi," and "maxi" sections.

"An important feature at camp is the kind of fun provided," says Sister Michael. "This summer we will offer many kinds of crafts, including macrame, candle-making and belt-making. We are trying to get away from the old popsicle stick kind of crafts."

Aside from crafts, Stella Maris offers swimming, boating, nature hikes, overnight camping, athletics, movies and games.

"We will have no rain, but campfires, and good ghost stories," predicts Sister Michael.

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