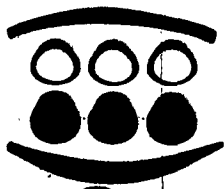


Our Parish COUNCIL

by Bernard Lyons



The Holy Spirit, the love of God Himself, unites the members of the Church community. Order, organization, structure, and authority are at the service of the growth of love.

All members of the Church are equal. Differences in roles are important, but secondary.

Councils are decision-making and policy-setting, but, more important, are at the service of the parish community and the local Church (diocese).

All council meetings are open to each parishioner. Secrecy destroys community.

The greatest growth and participation in the Church will come from assemblies or councils in every parish, and on the regional, diocesan, national, and international levels.

Council leaders should be representative of the various persons in the parish.

The majority of the parish council leadership must be democratically elected. The pastor, as a representative of the bishop, is automatically president of the worshipping community, but not necessarily the chairman of the council.

Each council should be governed with the aid of a constitution and by-laws, which are adopted by a majority of the parishioners.

Each parish should hold an annual meeting, at which all parish-

ioners are invited to receive reports from the council's committees, to review the work of the officers, and to vote on policies and other matters affecting the parishioners.

In addition to the annual meeting, and the open meetings of the council leadership, there should be a mechanism by which a meeting of all parishioners might be held, or, at least, their views polled.

The autonomy and special character of each parish group must be respected by the council, as provided for in Chapter Five of the "Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity."

There should be an appeal system to a regional or diocesan council when the pastor and the council, or several groups within the parish, reach an impasse on a conflict.

The need for training must be recognized and incorporated into the parish council structure.

The need for competency, including the use of natural talents and occupational skills, must be recognized if the laity are to make their full contribution to the mission of the Church.

Although all councils might be guided by the principles above, the specific organizational structures in individual parishes should be flexible, and readily adaptable to the needs of the people.

'One Parish'

Try Some Space Program Expertise

(Catholic Press Features)

In one parish, a technical advisor to a company active in aerospace showed how aerospace management technique could be applied to the parish to improve communication, to best motivate and use parish laity, and to improve the position of the pastor.

The advisor, Dr. J. F. Gloude-man, who advises North American Rockwell on management systems, engineering and computing services at its Downey, Cal., space division, said the approach used was to divide his parish, St. Anthony of Padua, into 18 guilds, each of which has an elected governor. There are families in the parish.

The 18 guild governors are like "senators" or state governors, all reporting to the president or pastor. Then on a parish-wide level, another council with committees such as social services and ways and means was set up with representatives of each guild on each committee.

The two-part system, he said, took the systems engineering approach of the space program to help make it possible "for a beleaguered pastor to communicate with his people."

"Systems engineering," Dr. Gloude-man explained, "is a method of breaking a problem into manageable pieces, identifying what has to be done, what it will cost, and putting it all together on a board, then into a computer, to see that it does

get done on time and within the allotted budget.

The company he works for, he said, has been involved in the building of all the Apollo spacecraft, each of which has two million functional parts, which are broken down into sub-systems.

"In the approach used, we back off to the start — even to the purchasing of materials — and determine what's to be done, who's going to do it, what space facility is needed. By backing off we are enabled to see where the most serious problem in manpower will be."

By applying the technique to the running of a parish, "we can determine and give the necessary visibility to the pastor to see what's going on and to have the information he needs to take some action if it is needed and be able to assign the non-religious parts of his parish work to the people."

In the individual guilds, the parish found that the people get

to know each other better, while still maintaining a strong centralized role for the pastor. "It is not akin to dividing a large parish into many small parishes," he advised.

The people within the guilds become more acquainted — women who do not have children in the elementary school and are therefore somewhat apart from parish life become more involved. Each guild has a monthly meeting which one of the priests attends.

The guild system in the parish gives the people a clearer knowledge of what is their own individual parish responsibility. A very visible fruit of the system, he said, was the increased financial participation. A parish fiesta, which used to gross \$25,000 and net \$15,000, doubled its revenue once the guild association was in effect. Dr. Gloude-man feels the guild was directly responsible for the increase because more people were involved.

Father Grasso Notes 40 Years A Priest

Mt. Morris — Father Dominic J. Grasso, pastor of St. Patrick's Church, celebrated his 40th anniversary of ordination Sunday, May 21. He was honored by the parish at a reception held at St. Patrick's School, following a concelebrated Mass at 4 p.m.

Celebrating the Mass with Father Grasso, were Father John Woloch, former pastor, and Father Stanislaus Bialaszewski of Bath, assisted by the Father William Gall, assistant pastor.

Father Grasso, a native of Schenectady, is a graduate of Our Lady of the Angels Seminary and Niagara University where he was ordained May 1932. He came to Mt. Morris as pastor of St. Francis Xavier, Rochester.

He became pastor of St. Patrick's in 1961 when Assumption parish merged with St. Patrick's. He also served as Catholic chaplain of the former Mt. Morris Tuberculosis Hospital until it closed last June.

During his years in Mt. Morris he has been active in community affairs as well as that of the Church. He is presently chaplain of the Mt. Morris Council Knights of Columbus and chaplain of the Active Hose Company of the Mt. Morris Fire Department.

Guild Names

New Officers

The Holy Angels Guild recently installed new officers.

Mrs. Fred Trotter was named the new president; Miss Hayna Snyser, second vice president; Mrs. J. Edward Naughton, recording secretary; Miss Josephine Flora, corresponding secretary; Miss June Dispensa, treasurer; and Miss Mary Syracuse, assistant treasurer.



FATHER GRASSO

Fisher Plans Tennis Club For Summer

A summer tennis club is being established at St. John Fisher College.

The club, which will utilize the college's four new all-weather tennis courts, will be in operation from June 1 to Sept. 1. Memberships are being accepted from families, singles, and couples.

Father Charles J. Lavery, president of Fisher, said that the club is being instituted "in response to many inquiries from neighbors of the college."

"Since the large percentage of our students are not in residence during the summer months," Father Lavery continued, "we expect the courts to be available much of the time."

To make the family memberships more attractive, the college's outdoor handball courts, playing fields, and a picnic area will be available. Members will also be able to use the locker room facilities in the adjacent Fisher Athletic Center.



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