

Our Parish COUNCIL

by Bernard Lyons

"What's the purpose of a parish council?" asks a reader. "Our steering committee," he writes, "has discussed this question a number of times, but not all of us can agree."

Total agreement is not necessary. A parish council has a number of purposes. Some people see it as a way of helping the priests. Others feel it is a way of bringing democracy into the Church. And dozens of other reasons could be listed. The different motivations should not prevent people from working together, because the purposes do not necessarily conflict.

If we want to see why we have parish councils, it is well to study the Vatican Council II documents.

"In dioceses, as far as possible," says Article 26 of the Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity, "there should be councils which assist the apostolic work of the Church, either in the field of making the Gospel known and men holy, or in the charitable, social, or other spheres. To this end, clergy and religious should appropriately cooperate with the laity. While preserving the proper character and autonomy of each organization, these councils will be able to promote the mutual coordination of various lay associations and enterprises."

"Councils of this type," the bishops continue, "should be established as far as possible also on the parochial, interparochial and interdiocesan level as well as

Regiment Sets Field Mass

The 55th annual military field Mass of the Rochester Regiment, Knights of St. John and the Ladies Auxiliary will be held at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery at 10 a.m. Sunday, June 15. This Mass, held on the Sunday nearest the Feast of St. John the Baptist, is offered for the repose of the souls of departed members.

Father George S. Wood, pastor of Mother of Sorrows and chaplain of the regiment will be the celebrant and will give the homily. Martin Stephan is chairman, assisted by the Brig. Gen. Al. G. Miller.

The regiment, under command of Colonel Joseph L. Cimino, will form in the cemetery on the west side of Lake Avenue and march to the altar erected in front of All Souls Chapel. The public is invited to attend and a special invitation is extended to the families of departed members. It is suggested that guests bring folding chairs.

Mass Celebrated For MOS Scouts

Father George S. Wood, pastor of Mother of Sorrows, celebrated a special Mass June 3 for parish boy scouts who had received the Ad Altare Dei award the night before.

The 17 boys, instructed by their pastor, constituted the largest parish group among the 60 scouts who won the award. They are William Ritzenthaler, James Wachter, Craig Miller, Robert Leicht, Jeffrey Cave, Gary Farmer, Stephen Melenring, Michael Andriulli, Andrew Karpinski, Robert and John Law, Gregory Woods, Mark and Paul Spacher, Mark Jozefski, Daniel Hasenauer and David Polansky.

Courier-Journal

"One Parish"

Sharing the Expertise

Four Vermont parishes — in the same way that some parishes have been consolidating their separate parochial schools — have banded together to hire a single coordinator of religious education for the four parishes.

The four parishes total more than 3,000 families and the hiring of one religious coordinator for the quartet of parishes is seen education, while another parish plans to call upon the coordina-

Social Events For Visiting Religious

The Sacred Heart Sisters, who will be visiting Rochester friends next week will be guests with their hostesses, at two social events.

Mrs. Charles Denniston of East Avenue will give a dinner for them Monday night, June 19, in the Rochester Club, and Mrs. Joseph C. Wilson of Clover Street will entertain at luncheon the following day in her home.

The Sisters, who taught at the former Academy of the Sacred Heart on Prince Street, or were students there, will be attending a "Crisis in Belief" seminar during the week, at McQuaid. The Seminar, June 18-22, was arranged by members of their order and local alumnae.

The guests include Sisters Elizabeth Antisdale, Ruth Cunningham, Patricia Donovan, Ellen Farrell, Roseanne Forward, Bernetta Green, Margaret Hannon, Madeline Howe, Maura Kelleher, Mary McCarthy, Eileen McGrady, Eileen McDonnell, Frances Murphy, Margaret Odiome, Marguerite Seymour, Rosemary Statt, Ruth Whalen and Elizabeth White.

Hostesses are Miss Anne Bassett, Mrs. Robert Burns, Mrs. Francis Dowling, Mrs. Richard Driscoll, Mrs. Thomas Farrell, Mrs. Worthy Forward, Miss Kathryn Howe, Mrs. John Leckinger, Miss Helen Little, Mrs. Robert McGraw, Miss Evelyn Ruth McIntee, Mrs. Robert Odenbach, Mrs. Richard Reddington, Mrs. Raymond Statt, Mrs. Leo Waldert and Miss Helen L. Whalen.

AWARD TO MCC GRAD

Linda Duchyns, a graduating sophomore at Monroe Community College, has been awarded the first New York State Medical Record Association Award for proficiency. She is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Duchyns of Spencerport Road, Gates, and a graduate of Cardinal Mooney High School.

as one way around an increasing problem: the need for competent personnel to direct religious education programs in parishes but few parishes financially able to support a coordinator by themselves.

"The geographical makeup of Vermont, with 102 parishes and 42 missions presents many limitations, one of which is money," commented the Rev. Donald LaRouche, assistant director of religious education for the Diocese of Burlington.

"The bulk of these parishes are rural with only one priest. Each small parish could not possibly afford a full-time professional religious educator. Therefore, we must share the wealth. The large, more affluent parishes must offer a helping hand in sharing the financial burden."

Of the four parishes joining to hire a religious education coordinator — for which a search is underway — three are in Rutland and one is in Wallingford. Two of the parishes plan to utilize the full range of the coordinator's services. One parish plans only to enlist him or her in adult-only for the elementary and

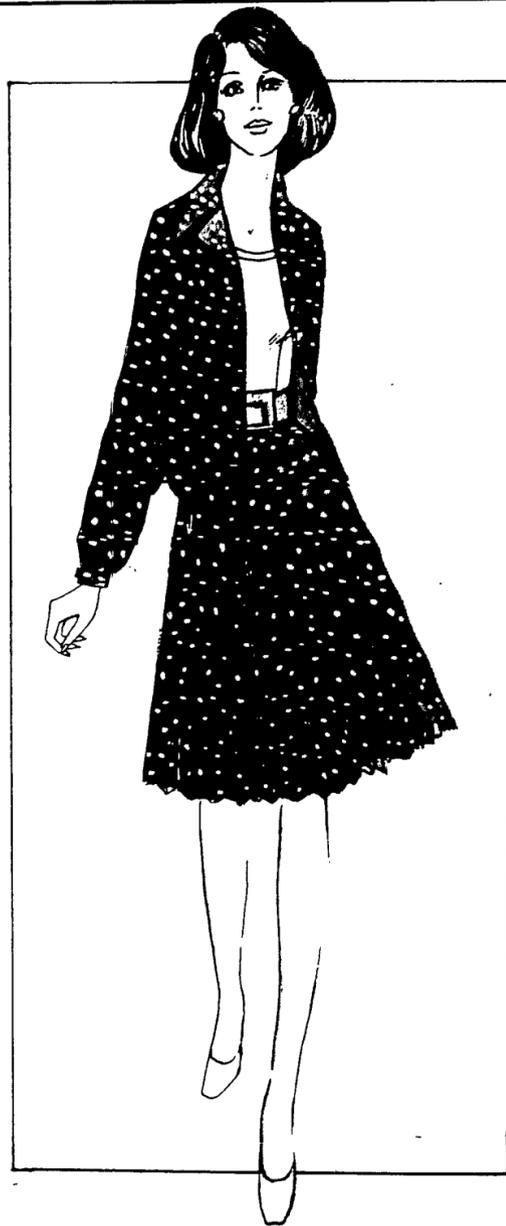
secondary-school programs.

Father LaRouche said the person hired by the four parishes would be accepting a real challenge. "We are looking for a professional, ideally an educator, with a master's degree in religious education or theology. This person will work in close conjunction with the diocesan Confraternity of Christian Doctrine Office, which will be the major source of supportive aid."

As with most coordinators, the one hired by the four Vermont parishes will help set up administrative procedures for all religious education programs in the parishes and be in charge of the budget, after a vote by the parish involved.

The coordinator is in charge of teacher training, development of a catechetical library, including books and audio-visual material, and development of programs for parent education.

"Rather than hour power, it is expertise we are buying," Father LaRouche said. "Of course, the special requirements of each parish will dictate the extent of the coordinator's work."



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Wednesday, June 14, 1972