



Animated conversation drew together some of the dignitaries present at the reception Sunday for Rochester's first black pastor, Father Stanley Farier, SVD of St. Lucy's parish. From left are Father Martin Gomes, SCC, a black assistant pastor at Ss. Peter and Paul; Bishop Joseph L. Hogan; Rochester Mayor Stephen May; and Father Farier.

## Priests' Salaries Topic of Council

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

A straight salary or dependence on stipends and stole fees — that is the question facing diocesan priests.

At last week's meeting the diocesan Priests' Council discussed a change in the priests' finances, the result of a questionnaire that went out to all 380 priests of the diocese last February.

A special finance committee of seven priests and five lay businessmen was established by the council in August 1971 to study priests' finances to determine whether the material needs of the clergy are being met adequately and fairly and to recommend remedies for any inadequacies and for financial implementation of the new personnel policies.

The committee, chaired by Father Robert A. Meng, pastor of Holy Rosary, made a thorough review of the existing financial stature of the priest (including income, salary, stipends, housing, board, benefits, car allowance, expenses, insurance, sick benefits, clergy relief, Social Security, retirement, pensions, etc.) and estimated the relationship of these to the role, needs and morals of the priest in view of present and future needs.

A good percentage answered the questionnaire and it was found that a majority favored cash compensation coming in

the form of a straight salary.

John J. Schmitt, a member of the committee who is vice president of the Genesee Computer Center, explained that the report first states that a bass salary is desired by the priests.

"But, above that," Schmitt continued, "there is the realization of the complexities of services among priests in different fields of work. We are looking for a system of salary adjustment, according to service complexity, using a point program."

The council agreed that the finance committee, plus three members of the Priests' Council would continue work on the report to formulate a final, more specific, position paper to be presented to the blocks.

Two representatives from the Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Board, which has been engaged by the diocese to do a 90-day study, answered priests' questions about how they can help the Catholic church plan.

Stuart Brown and Richard Morales, who look at the diocese as a business corporation, explained to the priests that in 90 days they are going to develop a planning program to point out areas that need study.

"The way I see it," said Brown, "our key role is to present alternatives and give expert advice to direct you in planning for the diocese."

## Fr. Farier Welcomed To Diocese

A crowd of more than 300 people gathered in St. Lucy's school hall last Sunday afternoon for a welcoming reception for Father Stanley Farier, SVD, St. Lucy's new pastor and the diocese's first black pastor.

John Holmes, Black Lay Catholic Caucus (BLCC) state chairman, was the master of ceremonies for the program featuring welcome addresses from Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, Mayor Stephen May and many other religious leaders.

Music was supplied by Elizabeth Yarn and the junior choir from the Church of God by Faith and refreshments were served.

In his address to the gathering, Bishop Hogan said, "We are blessed to have a black priest. As bishop I am interested to see how best I can help the people of this neighborhood," and he informed all present of his firm support to the National Office of Black Lay Catholic Caucus.

The local BLCC is responsible for Father Farier being here, and it is looking for black nuns to locate in Rochester.

Holmes, chairman of the local BLCC at the time arrangements were made, said they had wanted a black priest for some time and it happened that when they contacted the Society of the Divine Word, it was looking for a continuing ministry in Rochester.

"It happened so fast it took us by surprise," Holmes remembers.

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## How Priests View Report on Salaries

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

A change in priests' finances is being considered for the first time in years. Reasons for the change, which would mean a raise in base salaries for diocesan priests, are in cost of living rises, college loans the young priests have to repay, rise in insurance costs and preparation for own retirement plus personal responsibilities, to name a few.

A point system based on age and complexity of assignment allowing for a more flexible salary is the recommendation that resulted from a study by a committee of seven priests and five lay businessmen, said Father Robert Meng, pastor of Holy Rosary, and chairman of the finance committee.

As it is now priests have a salary base which raises every five years, and is based on age and assignment. But along with this salary come stipends (money required by Canon Law for Masses) and stole fees (money required by Canon Law for baptisms and funerals), car allowance and professional allowance (for retreats, and educational materials).

The recommendations which resulted from a thorough questionnaire sent to all priests last February by the finance committee were presented to the Priests' Council last week and are now undergoing further study.

Priests also received the committee's final report and recommendations, and have varying opinions about the proposed change in the system.

Father Raymond Booth and Father Laurence Tracey, co-pastors of Our Lady of Mount

Carmel, feel priests are getting enough money now.

Father Tracey feels "generally priests live better than they should" and added, "I get very embarrassed by the way they live."

The co-pastors who receive the salaries of assistant pastors since their parish can't afford anymore than that, agree there are circumstances — such as deacon interns with college loans to pay back, and priests with responsibilities to elderly parents or putting someone through school — that call for updating adjustments to the salaries.

"One of the greatest witnesses the Church can give today is poverty, at least simplicity," Father Booth said, "a priest doesn't have to live on the level of the parish he lives in."

They also stressed that stipends and stole fees are the major inequities. A large parish for example gets a lot more of these than a small one, and special workers have very little chance of ever getting them since they do not ordinarily get to say a stipended Mass, or perform baptisms, weddings or funerals.

"Notably special workers and retired priests need more money," he continued, "But just to change overall would give those that have too much now, more."

Joseph Hart, a deacon intern at St. Mary's in Canandaigua since his graduation from St. Bernard's last May, said that deacon's salaries are inadequate.

"When the diocese started the St. John Fisher program for seminarians (about six years ago) seminarians were expected to

pay for their own education. So seminarians started taking out big loans like every other college student and are now facing the difficulty of repayment schedule, as much as \$60 a month. And the diocese hasn't taken this into account," Hart explained, "so we do not make a livable wage."

The deacon favored further changes, "a liveable wage as base salary and payment to the parish for room and board.

"I feel this would promote fiscal responsibility," said Hart.

"If you are paid a straight sal-

ary and must put money into the parish you will become conscious of responsibility to some type of poverty. As it is now, with a lot of expenses hidden, you tend not to realize what you are really getting."

Father Elmer McDonald, pastor at St. Christopher's, Chili, admitted he hadn't read the recommendations explaining his finances are not on his mind. He is satisfied the way things stand.

Father McDonald agreed, however, that some jobs require

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## St. Ann's Festival Ready in Hornell

Hornell — St. Ann's Church will launch its first annual Fall Festival on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 15 and 16, beginning at 6 p.m., in the church parking lot. The rain date is Sunday, Sept. 17 at 2 p.m. The festival is a project of the St. Ann's Parish Council and has as its purposes, aiding the educational programs and bringing the parish family together in a spirit of work and play.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond McHale are acting as co-chairmen of the event. Assisting Mr. and Mrs. McHale as chairmen of various booths and concessions are Mrs. Francis O'Connor, Mrs. Hilda Kemp, Mrs. Patrick Mahaney, Miss Lena Falzoi, Robert Argentieri, Robert Crosby, Robert Lucas, James Tobin, Mrs. William Kelleher, Francis Mahoney, Harry Fillmore, Bud Howe, Mrs. Robert Boyle, Mrs. James Ma-

honey, Fred Lang, Mrs. James Dagen, Mrs. Richard McCarthy, Owen Stoddard, Joseph Daniels, and Francis Moretti.

Helping to staff the booths are a host of workers from the entire parish and its numerous organizations. Booths were constructed by men of the parish under the direction of Paul Polasik. Wiring and lighting is supervised by Fred Campbell.

Women of the parish are baking 500 cakes for the cake booth. Members of the Parish Council are lending support in many areas, particularly publicity.

Fourteen booths will provide cake, dishes, psychedelic posters, candy, stuffed animals, lollipops and other surprises. Pizza, hot dogs, sausage and cold drinks are among the refreshments that will be available at the festival.