



Photo by Laurence E. Keefe

Day of Recollection

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, above, pauses thoughtfully while addressing priests of the North Region at a day of recollection held Monday, Dec. 4 in the chapel of St. Anne's Home. Theme of talk was prayer life.

Priests' Council Reviews Progress

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

The last meeting of the third Diocesan Priests' Council was a day spent reviewing progress of programs initiated and supported by this bishop's advisory body in the last two years.

Election returns are not in yet for the next council which meets for the first time Jan. 9.

The only members of the present council who have served their limit of two terms, four years, and are therefore ineligible for the next council are: Msgr. George Cocuzzi, pastor of Holy Family and chairman of the present senate. Father Charles Mulligan, director of Office of Human Development, and Father Joseph McDonnell, pastor of St. Michael's, Newark.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan reported on last month's U.S. Bishops Conference in Washington, D.C.

Father William D. Lum, diocesan liaison to the two-year-old ecumenical Draft Information Center of the Rochester Area (DICRA), reported that counseling is constantly expanding into new areas of peace and justice.

Sister Shelia Kennerson, RSM, director of Bosco House, told the 22 priests present of training programs in session which will provide lay leaders to operate network centers in parishes to obtain better religious education for mentally and physically handicapped.

The future of the Pastoral Council lies in regionalism, said Msgr. Donald J. Mulcahy, director of the formation committee, in his monthly council report.

He informed them of two areas of concern: more intensive training programs for parishes since those offered by the Pastoral Formation Committee in the past have been "ineffective for the most part," and continued education for the clergy to help them adjust to internal changes in the church.

"Unless we can motivate ourselves, I'm not as optimistic as

I'd like to be at this time," Msgr. Mulcahy said, but added that he feels certain the Pastoral Council will be established at an earlier date than the original target of June 1974.

Richard Morales of the Geneva Finger Lakes Regional Planning Board (G/FL) reported to the council for the second month in a row.

He brought with him 50 copies of five parts of the survey G/FL was commissioned to do three months ago.

The priests' and sisters' councils are reviewing drafts of the table of contents, introduction, statistics and recommendations of the complete study to be presented later this month in Geneva.

After the review of programs set up during the lifetime of Council 3 a familiar matter of concern was rehashed — the relationship between the Bishop and the council.

As the Sisters' Council gets better organized and the Pastoral Council is closer to being established, many have noted that a power struggle may be rising.

Msgr. Cocuzzi stands on canonical rulings of Vatican II which call the Priests' Council a governing body. "A vehicle with the specific role of contributing to the leadership of the Bishop," a role which to him "demands theological expertise."

Father Joseph Brennan, rector of St. Bernard's Seminary, agreed and added: "We are evolving toward a time when Sisters and lay have a canonized voice, but they don't have it at this point."

Two recommendations were voted on as advice to successors: the executive officers should meet monthly with the Bishop to learn what matters are most important to him, and the council should have the power to act on issues without consulting with blocks as it now does, which slows any action down by two or three months.

Father Bonnike Resigns

Miami (RNS) — Father Frank Bonnike, a Rockford, Ill., diocesan priest who helped found the four-year-old National Federation of Priests' Councils, has resigned as president of that agency.

A priest of the Burlington, Vt., diocese, Father Reid C. Mayo, was named to head the organization which now includes 131 member priests' councils, senates and associations.

The NFPC board, at its quarterly meeting here, expressed its confidence in Father Bonnike's "continuing priestly service" to the Church in the U.S. and cited the new president's "vigorous leadership" since 1970 in the Boston Province.

Father Bonnike's resignation becomes effective Jan. 31, ending nearly five years of service with the NFPC executive board. He was a member of the first board when, in 1968, it ratified the NFPC constitution, and he was elected president in 1970 and in 1972.

A 50-year-old Rockford priest who succeeded Father Patrick O'Malley of Chicago, the NFPC's first president, Father Bonnike said he submitted his resignation because it was time "for my own mental, physical and spiritual health, to form new perspectives and to extend my ministry to a broader segment of God's people."

"In Father Mayo," he added, "new and younger leadership is available. He is balanced, thorough, sensitive and courageous, with a strong faith. He inspires others to work hard, and will be a great president for NFPC."

St. Cloud Priest Named U.S. Bishops Secretary

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — Father James S. Rausch, a priest of the St. Cloud, Minn., Catholic diocese, was elected general secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the U.S. Catholic Conference, succeeding Archbishop Joseph L. Bernardin, appointed to head the Cincinnati archdiocese.

The 44-year-old priest's election by the 40-member Administrative Council of the NCCB and the 25-member Administrative Board of the USCC, becomes effective Dec. 15. The initial term is for five years.

Cardinal John Krol of Philadelphia, president of the NCCB-USCC, made the announcement following a mail ballot. The prelate also explained that Archbishop Bernardin, who had been general secretary since 1968, remains as secretary of the NCCB-USCC because under the by-laws there must be a bishop-secretary if the general secretary is not a bishop.

Father Rausch joined the USCC staff in January 1970 as assistant general secretary and three months later was named associate general secretary, the position he has held since then. He was Archbishop Bernardin's closest collaborator in administering the affairs of the USCC, which is the action arm of the Catholic bishops conference.

However, as general secretary, he will be responsible for the administration of both the USCC and the NCCB, the latter being the bishops' collective canonical organization.

In accepting the post, Father Rausch said he realized that the bishops expect him to continue the policies and leadership of those under whom he served over the past three years. "I hope that I bring to the position . . . an awareness of the desires and expectations of the priests, religious and laity in our country," he noted.

Irish Church Disestablished

Dublin (RNS) — The Roman Catholic Church no longer enjoys a "special position" in the Republic of Ireland.

In a national referendum on Dec. 7, some 50 per cent of Eire's 1.8 million eligible voters turned out and 85 per cent of these voted to have Article 44, sub-section 2, deleted from Eire's 1937 Constitution.

The article declares in part: "The State recognizes the special position of the Holy Catholic Apostolic and Roman Church as the guardian of the Faith professed by the great majority of the citizens."

At the same time, the voters, by the same percentages, approved a measure that lowers

the minimum voting age from 21 to 18.

The government of Prime Minister John Lynch had given strong endorsement for removal of the Church's favored constitutional status in the belief that such a move would help clear the way for eventual reunification of the Republic with Northern Ireland, with its two-thirds Protestant majority.

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