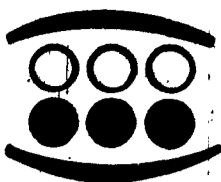


Our Parish COUNCIL

by Bernard Lyons



Before you begin this week's column, take several minutes to list some of the major problems in your parish.

After you have listed a number of major problems, make another list of resources in your parish that can help you and the council to alleviate these problems.

Did you have "youth" listed as one of the major problems of your parish? And, also, did you have "youth" listed as one of the resources that could help solve the problems in your parish?

If you are typical of many of the people I have talked with, you probably had "youth" in your first list, but you did not include them in your list of resources.

And this is one of the biggest youth problems that we have — that young adults are isolated from the adult world.

Some 328 teens were surveyed in a Midwest suburb by a motivational research firm, and four out of five of them listed boredom as the major problem causing teen discontent.

But, even more important, to my mind, was that the next strongest feeling among the young adults was that they were isolated from and even rejected by the adult world.

Many youngsters said that the adult world was hostile to them and that schools were indifferent to their feelings and needs.

The teens themselves thought that this boredom and isolation led to a "search for stimulation and excitement" through drinking, pot, hard drugs, sex, vandalism and other misdeeds.

The misdeeds were generally viewed as efforts to escape the unsatisfying dullness of their lives.

One of the most important needs in dispelling boredom is a meeting place where they can make new friends, as the teens see it. And the meeting place should not be a local drive-in or coffee-shop hang out.

"There's nothing to do—ever," said one 16-year-old girl. "They should have a youth center with dances. Kids should run it and it should be open all the time so kids can go there."

The teens often mentioned the need for constructive things to do.

Midnight Mass Planned in Peking

Vatican City (RNS) — A Christmas eve midnight Mass will be celebrated in Peking, the capital of the People's Republic of China, according to a Vatican Radio report. It will be the first such Mass in China since the Cultural Revolution of the 1960s.

Referring to an Agence-France-Presse dispatch from Peking, the broadcast said the Mass will be offered in the capital's only Catholic church, called the Church of the South, Nan Tang, where Catholic services resumed early this year.

PADRE PIO GROUP

The Padre Pio Prayer Group will meet tonight (Dec. 20) at 8 p.m. at St. Philip Neri Church for an hour of prayer for the sick and suffering. The group is dedicated to the ideals of the late Italian monk who is said to have borne the stigmata and whose life was devoted to conversions and healing the sick.

Courier-Journal

"We need things to do helping other people," said a 17-year-old girl. "Things like 'hike for hunger' go over big in the suburbs. Kids care about the world."

The motivational research firm also interviewed 351 adults to learn their views about young people.



Anniversary Celebration

Photo by John Pytlak

Father Thomas M. Reddington, pastor of Holy Name Church in Greece, introduces parishioners to Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, who celebrated Mass for them Dec. 3 to mark the fifth anniversary of the parish.

RG&E consumer news

Join the Watt-Watchers at the Consumer Information Center

The Consumer Information Center is currently the headquarters for watt-watchers and therm-watchers.

What are watt-watchers and therm-watchers, you ask? They are users of electricity and gas who are careful to use these forms of energy efficiently, safely, and without waste. To their benefit they are saving money on their RG&E bill, and to everyone's benefit they are conserving energy.

To help people become watt-watchers and therm-watchers, the Consumer Information Center is featuring a display which tells you the average monthly cost of the electricity and gas which operate various appliances — everything from a toaster to a gas water heater.

Available at the Center is a booklet prepared by RG&E — "The Watt-Watchers Handbook" — which shows you how you can approximate your own monthly cost for over 60 appliances. It also features a lesson in reading RG&E bills as well as suggestions on how to reduce your bill by using gas and electricity more efficiently. Suggestions like keeping mats down at entrances to cut down on dirt tracked through the house, and, consequently, on the use of the vacuum cleaner. Or conserving energy by not using your automatic clothes washer until you have a full load.

So join the watt-watchers. Membership is available at RG&E's Consumer Information Center every Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays until 9 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon.

And pick up a Watt-Watcher button while you're there.



Visit the display on energy usage at the Consumer Information Center

For your Watt Watchers Handbook mail in the coupon

FILL OUT AND RETURN THIS COUPON TO:

ROCHESTER GAS AND ELECTRIC CORPORATION
 89 EAST AVENUE, ROCHESTER, N.Y. 14649
 ATTENTION: DEPARTMENT 34 WWC

I would like more information on the following items:

Name _____

Address _____ Town _____

Phone _____ Zip Code _____

RG&E ROCHESTER GAS AND ELECTRIC
 89 EAST AVENUE, ROCHESTER, N.Y. 14604 • 546-2700