



Msgr. Charles Boyle extends the kiss of peace to Father Benedict Ehmann during last year's Kolping Society — sponsored Christmas Mass.

Kolping Sets Mass, Party

The Catholic Kolping Society will sponsor a German Christmas Mass, Sunday, Jan. 7, at Our Mother of Sorrows Church, Greece.

The Eucharist will be celebrated by 12 priests, with Msgr. Charles V. Boyle, praeses of the society, as principal celebrant.

During the Mass German Christmas hymns will be sung

and Father Theodor Eisemann will deliver the homily in German.

Leo P. Saeum, president of the group, announced a German dinner and Christmas party following the Mass. John Messbauer's orchestra will play. Reservations for the party are necessary and may be made through Mrs. German Sperr, 342-0932, or through William Wittmann, 288-3895.

Our Parish COUNCIL

by Bernard Lyons

"We are getting back to the fundamental principles of personalism," the pastor of a parish in Colorado said, at a meeting announcing the formation of "little parishes."

"Christianity is spread by personal contact; the one-to-one basis. We are building little parish families, mini-parishes, in each neighborhood to communicate and educate."

The pastor explained that each neighborhood will have a leader responsible for funneling information to the parish, including needs of the parishioners and the welcoming of newcomers.

A training program was set up for the neighborhood leaders. A special liturgical installation of the leaders will be held at the end of the training sessions.

The Colorado parish has had a council for more than three years. They are not turning to the "little parish" concept in desperation or in hopes of reviving a lagging council.

The importance of using the "little parish" approach raises the question of how it has worked in other parishes.

In one parish, after three years of a parish council, the "little parishes" have disappeared. The new pastor blames the lack of competent people trained to handle such a job. "It was simply a case of too much, too soon," he said.

"In the Church we are very disposed to just going out and asking people who are willing to take on jobs — without training them," he said. "It's time the

Church begins training the people it asks to assume responsibilities."

In another parish, the program has been "going" for more than five years. "It's a beautiful program on paper, but it has not really gotten off the ground," said the council president.

He explained that the program worked well when the parish was new and had no buildings of its own, and meetings and Masses were held in homes. But as the parish center developed interest fell off.

In another parish where the parishioners are spread over a wide area, the district system has worked quite well. The parish council is based on geographical representation, each area electing their own representative.

In this parish, meetings are held at least four times each year in each "little parish." These sometimes incorporate a home Mass or a pot luck supper. Areas are also assigned specific tasks, including a special day of prayer during the week when they are encouraged to attend Mass.

Little parishes are not only worthwhile, but they will work. But they will only be effective if the leaders are trained, and if the little parishes are built into the structure of the council and given real work to do.

Eucharistic Congress To Open Next Month

"Love one another as I have loved you," the New Commandment of Jesus Christ, will be the theme of the 40th International Eucharistic Congress, which will be held in Melbourne, Australia, Feb. 18-25.

Msgr. Joseph Cirrincione, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Rochester, will lead a tour to Australia during the week of the Congress.

World renowned ecumenists will help to set an ecumenical mood for the Congress by addressing three public meetings in Melbourne during the days before the Congress officially opens.

They include Jan Cardinal Willebrands, president of the Vatican Secretariat for the Unity of Christians; Rev. Dr. Lukas Vischer, director of the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches; Rev. Jurgen Moltmann, of the Theology Faculty at the University of Tübingen, Germany; and Father

Thomas Stransky, superior general of the American Paulist Fathers.

The Congress will focus attention on the Eucharist, with special concentration on liturgical celebrations.

Each day of Congress Week will highlight a special aspect of the theme. The daily themes will be: "The People of Christ," "The Life of Christ," "The Personal Love of Christ," "The Compassion of Christ," "Unity in Christ," "The Suffering of Christ," "The Mother of Christ," and "The Peace of Christ."

Throughout the week many seminars will be held for those in attendance, and many guests will appear. Among these are Abbe Pierre, the French "Ragpickers" Priest, and Mother Teresa, known for her work among the dying in India.

On the last day of the Congress, there will be a special Mass for Peace, called "Statio Orbis," to be held on the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

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Parish Council Sets Meeting

Oswego—Arthur Paro has been appointed choir director and musical coordinator at St. Patrick's Church here. The appointment was made by the church's Parish Council at a recent meeting.

In other council business it was recommended that a meeting be held Jan. 10 to bring together persons working individually on human development in order to form a parish human development committee.

The meeting will be held in the church hall and is open to all persons working in the particular area of concern, plus any interested persons wishing to become involved in such activities and the heads or representatives of parish organizations.

Those meeting on Jan. 10 will select a chairman and a committee whose purpose will be to concern themselves with human problems, both at the Oswego level and throughout Tioga County.

SISTERS' PENANCE

A communal penance service for Sisters will be held at St. Ambrose Church on Tuesday, Jan. 9, at 7:30 p.m. The theme of the service will be "Light of the World: Our Renewal."

PETE SEEGER

Poet and raconteur Pete Seeger will discuss his new book, *The Incomplete Folksinger*, on Book Beat, Jan. 8, at 9:30 p.m. on WXXI/Channel 21.

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