

Our Parish COUNCIL

by Bernard Lyons

Should every parish council have an ecumenical participation committee? The suggestion has been made by a diocesan newspaper editor.

The editor, a priest, claims that the Catholics of his diocese "pay only lip service to ecumenism."

"We are shocked by the scandal of our divided Christian churches. We praise the inter-faith activities organized for us by our Catholic Church leaders and the leaders of other churches. But we simply don't take part," he says.

"Even when an ecumenical program is conducted in a Catholic Church building, our attendance is dwarfed by the numbers who attend from the Protestant churches."

The priest suggests that the ecumenical participation committee "would organize definite Catholic participation in every approved inter-faith activity. It would make a point of enlisting Catholics to take part in each function, organizing transportation and baby sitting, paying registration fees from parish funds, if necessary."

I feel a bit uneasy about the proposal. Frankly, if I were in a council where a vote was taken to establish an ecumenical participation committee, I would probably vote "no."

My uneasiness comes from several subtle points.

- The phrase "approved inter-faith activity" suggests to me part of the difficulty. How well is the "approval" communicated, what is its relevance, and is it necessary to have "approval"? Always?

- The examples of the inter-faith activities given by the editor strike me as the "show biz" type, or as worship services not expressive of the ecumenism that surrounds us every day.

- I don't know of any ecumenical commissions or committees of parish councils that have done outstanding work. I can, however, think of excellent ecumenical events and projects that have been carried out by other parish council commissions.

- My belief is that ecumenism is the responsibility of each and every committee of the parish council.

I have seen community life commissions cooperate with

Business In the Diocese

John Cicero of 260 Dale Rd., Brighton, was awarded a certificate of merit, a check for \$25 and a desk set, for a suggestion he submitted to the New York State Civil Service Commission. Cicero, tax compliance agent with the Department of Taxation and Finance, has been employed by the agency for four years. His suggestion, relating to the issuance to tax warrants, is being used throughout the State and has resulted in a considerable increase in collection of delinquent tax accounts.

Bernard Dubrow, Rochester District tax supervisor, made the presentation.

After the ceremony, Cicero contributed his check to the department's library for the purchase of new books. He is a parishioner of St. Thomas More Church.

Courier-Journal

Cardinal Joins Criticism Of 'Maude'

St. Louis (RNS) — Cardinal John J. Carberry of St. Louis has complained to CBS Television, the Federal Communications Commission and a local broadcaster about two controversial episodes of the "Maude" television series.

In letters dated in mid-December but made public in early January, Cardinal Carberry said he believes CBS Television "made a serious error in judgment" in presenting the Nov. 14 and 21 episodes of the comedy series, both programs dealing with abortion and vasectomy.

In addition, Cardinal Carberry said, the network "has shown an insensitivity to the deeply held moral and ethical positions of millions of people and has intruded, through techniques of ridicule and espousal, into a discussion that has involved

honest men and women in serious soul-searching.

As of Jan. 5, the cardinal had received no response to his letter.

In a letter to William Paley, chairman of the board of Columbia Broadcasting System, and to CBS President Dr. Frank Stanton and CBS programming vice president Fred Silverman, Cardinal Carberry noted that the mass media in the U.S. have a legitimate obligation to treat controversial subjects.

"But 'Maude' is hardly the vehicle for the presentation of a serious issue," the Cardinal wrote. "Rather, in the episodes in question, those responsible for 'Maude' made a presumption about the acceptability of abortion. It injected CBS-TV as advocate of a moral and political position that many not only op-

pose but find positively offensive as immoral."

The Roman Catholic prelate also objected to using the themes as comedy material. "The decision to secure an abortion or the decision to have a vasectomy, even for those who choose them, are hardly jokes," he said.

He said that comedy programs do not ridicule the Christian doctrine of Christ's Resurrection, or religious practices of Jews or Buddhists. "Neither should such a program ridicule — and that is the only word that fits the occasion — the religious and moral convictions of millions of people."

The cardinal closed by asking the network executives to "give consideration to this presentation, which I make in the name of the Catholic people of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, who number almost a half million."

STATEMENT OF CONDITION

DECEMBER 31, 1972

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
Cash and Due from Banks	\$ 11,964,681.45	Deposits	\$ 87,555,926.51
U. S. Government and Federal Agency Securities	14,390,937.98	Repurchase Agreements	709,930.47
Municipal Securities	14,969,118.76	Other Liabilities	2,582,720.83
Other Bonds and Investments	5,217,466.23	Total Liabilities	\$ 90,848,577.81
Real Estate Mortgages	13,761,118.46	Allowance for Possible Loan Losses	878,842.73
Loans and Discounts	35,471,047.61	Capital Accounts:	
Bank Premises and Equipment	4,966,418.00	Subordinated Debentures	1,974,000.00
Other Assets	925,977.30	Capital Stock	4,000,000.00
		Surplus	2,600,000.00
		Undivided Profits	1,365,345.25
		Total Capital Accounts	\$ 9,939,345.25
	\$101,666,765.79		\$101,666,765.79

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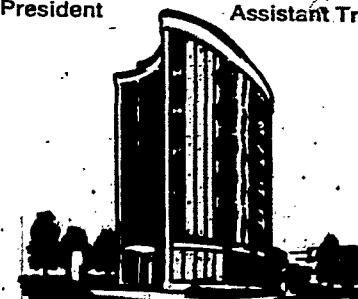
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