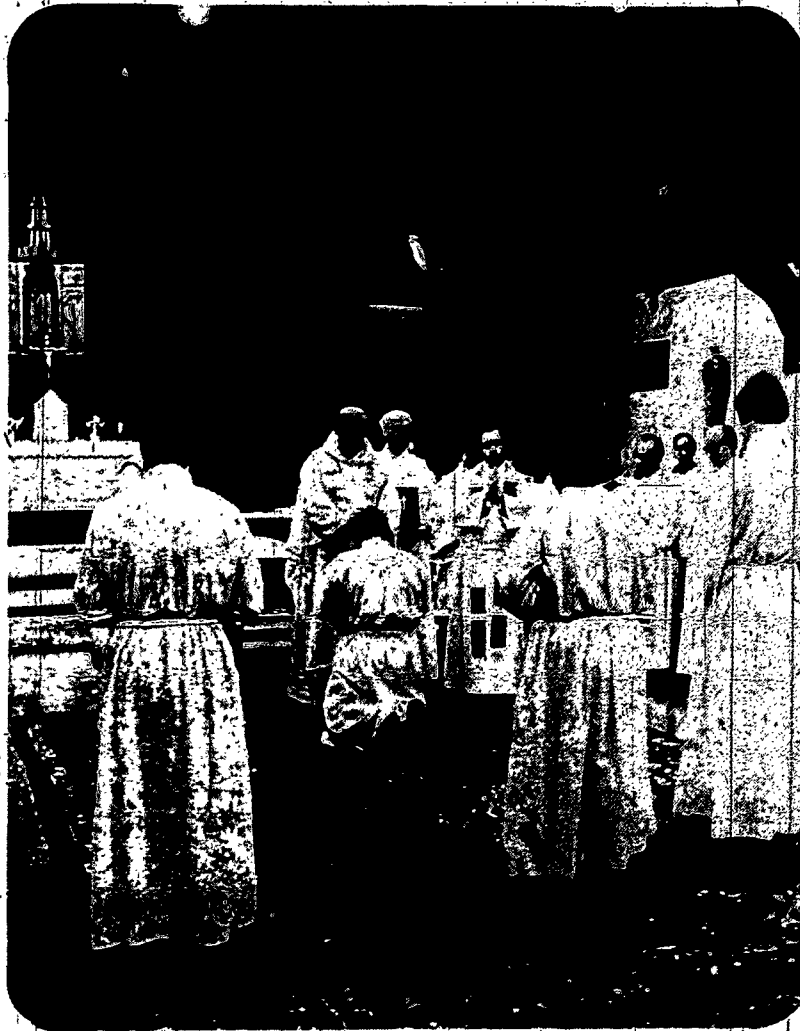


Five More Deacons

Five students from St. Bernard's Seminary took the permanent vows of the diaconate at their ordination Thursday, Feb. 1 by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan in the seminary chapel. Above the new deacons receive congratulations from their schoolmates. Left, Bishop Hogan ordains William Leone. Others in class are Frances Blighton, Louis Sirianni, William Spilly, Gerald Wahl. They will serve a one year internship before ordination to the priesthood.



Housing Foundation Sees Expanded Role

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

The freeze on construction of low and moderate income housing announced by the Nixon administration early last month puts greater responsibility on the Bishop Sheen Housing Foundation (BSHF) and will increase the demand for the organization's services, its executive board agreed last week.

Nine Housing and Urban Development assistance activities, which include all public housing and rent supplements except construction already underway on approved plans, are curtailed for 18 months as of Jan. 5, 1973.

Victor Hadeed, a mortgage banker with the Sibley Corp., who chaired last week's meeting at Becket Hall in the absence of BSHF president, Father Charles Mulligan, sees the freeze as lasting all year and gave his opinion on what that means for the foundation.

"We must continue as though the freeze were not on," he said, explaining that any organization applying for loans or grants for purchase of land or construction of low and moderate income housing, won't be ready to begin actual work until the freeze is off.

"The freeze will put greater responsibility on us to help individuals with grants or loans since

other avenues will be closed to them," said Hadeed.

John Ritzenthaler, diocesan comptroller, a member of the BSHF board since its beginning in 1967, interjected "This is where we were five years ago," referring to helping individual families personally as opposed to helping organizations build housing, an activity begun in the last two years.

"Since our stress has always been on helping the individual attain housing, Hadeed concluded, "in effect our services will be more in demand as a result of the freeze."

Other business included discussion of the drive to expand Foundation membership, activities and funds. Eight of the ten executive committee members attended.

Richard Wardell, an attorney with Corning Glassworks, reported on the progress of his committee on regional participation.

"We are looking for regional committees, who will be full members of the corporation. People who will make a commitment for one year to give substantial time to housing in their communities," he said.

It would be the role of regional representatives to take the re-

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Result of Survey

There'll Be Some Changes In Inner City Church Work

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

Inner city parishes were handed an "overwhelming amount of information" last week that is very likely to change the way Church work will be done in the future.

Using government census data, the Office of Human Development (OHD) compiled facts on ethnic and age distribution, family stability, socio-economic factors and housing in the area engulfing the 11-church Council of Inner City Parishes.

Dealing with the reality of the life styles and human needs of their neighborhoods in a planned, coordinated way will fashion future Church work if OHD recommendations are heeded.

OHD staff member Sister Grace Miller, RSM, with the help of volunteers, spent about six months gathering government census data and relating it to parish census information in such existing fields as parish resources, programs and the whereabouts of active parishioners.

The result is the first real overview of who lives in the inner city, their needs, their way of life and the Church work that is being done there.

Members of a suburban parish who attended the presentation Sunday evening, Jan. 28, expressed the desire that a similar survey be done in their parish to help them find out the real needs of their people.

Father Charles Mulligan, OHD director, and Richard Morales of Genesee Finger Lakes Planning Board, one of the professional advisors who helped conduct the survey, presented the information to about 100 CICP lay and religious members.

It was an objective presentation of statistics leaving it up to each parish to seek specific information and more in-depth correlation of what it means to their parish, according to one member of the council.

St. Michael's parish was the only one to receive its finished packet of information, complete with statistical data and recommendations for use of the information.

Each parish has to look at the information on age concentration in its area then decide if a school or senior citizen programs are the real need of the neighborhood, explained Father Raymond Booth, pastor of

Mount Carmel and CICP spokesman.

It also helps to point out where our strong areas are," Father Booth continued, "who is in-

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One Example

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

A priest today needs to be a linguist, a specialist in urban affairs and legal rights, a counselor of alcoholics and the young, a planner, a liturgist and an administrator if he is to be competent in church work.

Or so it seems after reading the Office of Human Development's survey and recommendations for St. Michael's parish.

Pointing out the obvious, that there have been dramatic shifts in population patterns in the parts of the city served by Council of Inner City Parish members, OHD informed those churches that the times are forcing them to create forms of ministry to serve the needs of the people as well as praising God.

St. Michael's school reflects the cross section the parish serves. Of the 284 school children, 35 per cent are Puerto Rican, 15 per cent black, 15 per cent Italian and 35 per cent other whites.

The parish is made up of 1,359 families which is about 4,203 individuals.

The packet of information given to St. Michael's to study and work from includes four sections of statistics on education, occupation and income of those in the nine census tracts within St. Michael's parish boundaries.

Statistics on unsound, vacant and overcrowded housing as well as family stability information in the neighborhoods were also reported to St. Michael's.

From a questionnaire answered by the three priests, two parish council representatives and one of the School Sisters of Notre Dame that teach in the parish school, the OHD made an inventory of existing resources, programs, plans and hopes for the parish.

One section of the finished report, the only one of 11 parish surveys to be put into a finished folder, includes a review of existing liturgy, religious education, societies, programs, staff, planning, church and community relations activities.

OHD learned that St. Michael's deals with the language factor satisfactorily, by providing Spanish and English Masses, Spanish lectors regularly as well as Spanish missalets. St. Michael's is coping with life in its neighborhood but could be more organized about it — was OHD's general conclusion.

The recommendations made by OHD are an objective report of a lot of what Father Benedict A. Ehmman, pastor of St. Michael's since 1961, has had in mind, he said recently in a phone interview.

The recommendations ranged from such liturgical concerns as the problem of a huge church and a small congregation to the pragmatic need for a systematic approach to requests for food and money that come to the rectory door at a rate of four per day.

Father Ehmman had a very favorable reaction to the report as a whole, calling it "a lot of work that was realistic and showed us goals and roads to take to them."

He did not expect, however, to begin any action on the survey right away since his time now is taken up with the school transition. St. Michael's elementary school will become a central junior high school in September and there is much organizational work to go on before that time, the pastor explained.

Other parishes surveyed were St. Bridget's, Mount Carmel, Holy Redeemer, St. Francis Xavier, Immaculate Conception, St. Lucy's, St. Patrick's, St. Peter and Paul's and two national churches, St. Teresa's and St. George's.