



OUR PARISH COUNCIL Bernard Lyons

"Parish councils are only a handful of elitists, those typically found on a 'big-time' board of directors, and do not involve the ordinary parishioner."

"Parish councils are a threat to that authority, which is the pastor's by virtue of his ordination and the bishop's assignment."

"Parish councils are just another rubber-stamp and have no chance to develop lay-initiated programs."

"Parish councils, with their emphasis on social concerns, are a danger to the traditional doctrines and practices held dear by Catholics."

These four often-heard charges about councils were recently answered in the newsletter of the Diocesan Pastoral Council of the Lafayette, Ind., diocese.

The first charge was answered by a letter from a railroad switchman who had served two terms as chairman of his parish council:

"Although it seems something of an incongruity to have a switchman rapping with so many formally educated persons, in retrospect, my years serving on our parish council have been very enriching... made me a better, more informed, and more aware Catholic... more sensitive to my fellow parishioners and their needs."

In addition, earlier this year, the Lafayette Pastoral Council began a program of small meetings among the representatives of the Pastoral Council and the chairmen of the parish councils. The meetings ask: "How has your council grown?" and "Who is doing what, where?"

The meetings are an open exchange of experiences and viewpoints. One elected pastoral councilor describes the meetings as having "the warmth of a koffee klatch."

On the question of where the authority lies, the newsletter said that this question "will fade into relative insignificance if we could amplify the involvement of our people in the mission of Christ to the world."

Bishop Raymond Callagher of Lafayette was quoted: "As I see the pastoral council, it is the use of the democratic system to provide leadership from the royal priesthood of the laity."

The charge about lay-initiated projects can be answered with examples of lay-initiated actions and programs.

"This past Sunday four mentally retarded young men made their First Holy Communion," wrote a parish council chairman. "This was the first fruit of a project of CCD classes for the mentally retarded. If I hadn't accomplished anything else in my tenure in office as council chairman, somehow that Sunday made it all worthwhile."

The program was lay-initiated and originated from a workshop on social concerns.

"Parish councils making conscious and painful efforts to point out present-day Church concerns," said the newsletter "far from being an abandonment of traditional Catholic values and goals which have withstood the test of time, are really an extended vision of time-honored Catholic virtues."

Keeping Tabs

The Holy Apostles parish school board will meet at 8 tonight in the school hall.

The Parents Group at St. Monica's will have a pot-luck supper May 22 in the rectory meeting room, after 6 p.m. Mass.

A procession and holy hour at St. Joseph's Church, Franklin Street, at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 13, will mark the 56th anniversary of the first apparition of Our Lady at Fatima. The Blue Army will sponsor the observance, with Father Albert Shannon presiding.

The Rosary Guild of Christ the King parish will hold its installation dinner May 21 at Henri's, Georgetown Plaza. The 7 p.m. dinner will be preceded by cocktails at 6:30. Reservations can be made until May 14 through Shirley Matthews at 544-4645 or Mary Roach, 544-1076.

Court Our Lady of the Cenacle, CDA, will elect officers and receive new members at an 8 p.m. meeting Tuesday, May 15, in the St. Philip Neri school hall.

A "before and after" fashion show will be presented at 8 p.m. Friday, May 11, at Mother of Sorrows, under the auspices of the diet-workshop that meets there. Mrs. Fred Rauner's committee will serve dessert and coffee. Tickets: \$1.50.

The Catholic Mission Guild will install officers at a Spring banquet in the Holiday Inn Wednesday noon, May 16. Reservations should be made with the chairman, Mrs. Gilbert Ernst, 458-9331, or with Mrs. Alfred Croft, 621-7166. Mrs. Croft, recording secretary, will be the new president.

Cardinal Mooney Women's Guild will meet Monday night

May 14, at Cardinal Mooney High School for a social hour at 6:30, buffet dinner at 7:15 and installation of officers. A fashion show by Mooney sewing students and mothers that sew, an annual event, will follow the dinner meeting.

The Confraternity of Christian Doctrine at St. John's, Spencerport, will sponsor a Mass, with renewal of marriage vows, at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 15. Father Robert Collins of the Family Life Office will speak at Mass and at a meeting in the school hall afterward.

The Sisters of Mercy will sponsor a supper and sale Saturday, May 19, from 4-8 p.m. at 1437 Blossom Road. The roast beef supper prepared and served by the Sisters, will be in the Mercy High School cafeteria. The sale in the gym will feature a flea market, baked goods and all types of hand-made items. Supper tickets are \$2 and may be purchased at the door or in advance at the Motherhouse (482-5442).

GROUP TO MARK 25TH

The 25th anniversary of the Holy Name of Mary Society of St. Stanislaus parish will be observed May 12 with a Mass at 5:30 p.m. and a banquet at 7. Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey will celebrate the Mass and speak at the dinner. Guests will include past moderators, Fathers Henry F. Adamski, Chester A. Klocek, John Karp and Wilhelm Pietrzykowski. Mrs. Eugene Mrzywka is chairman.

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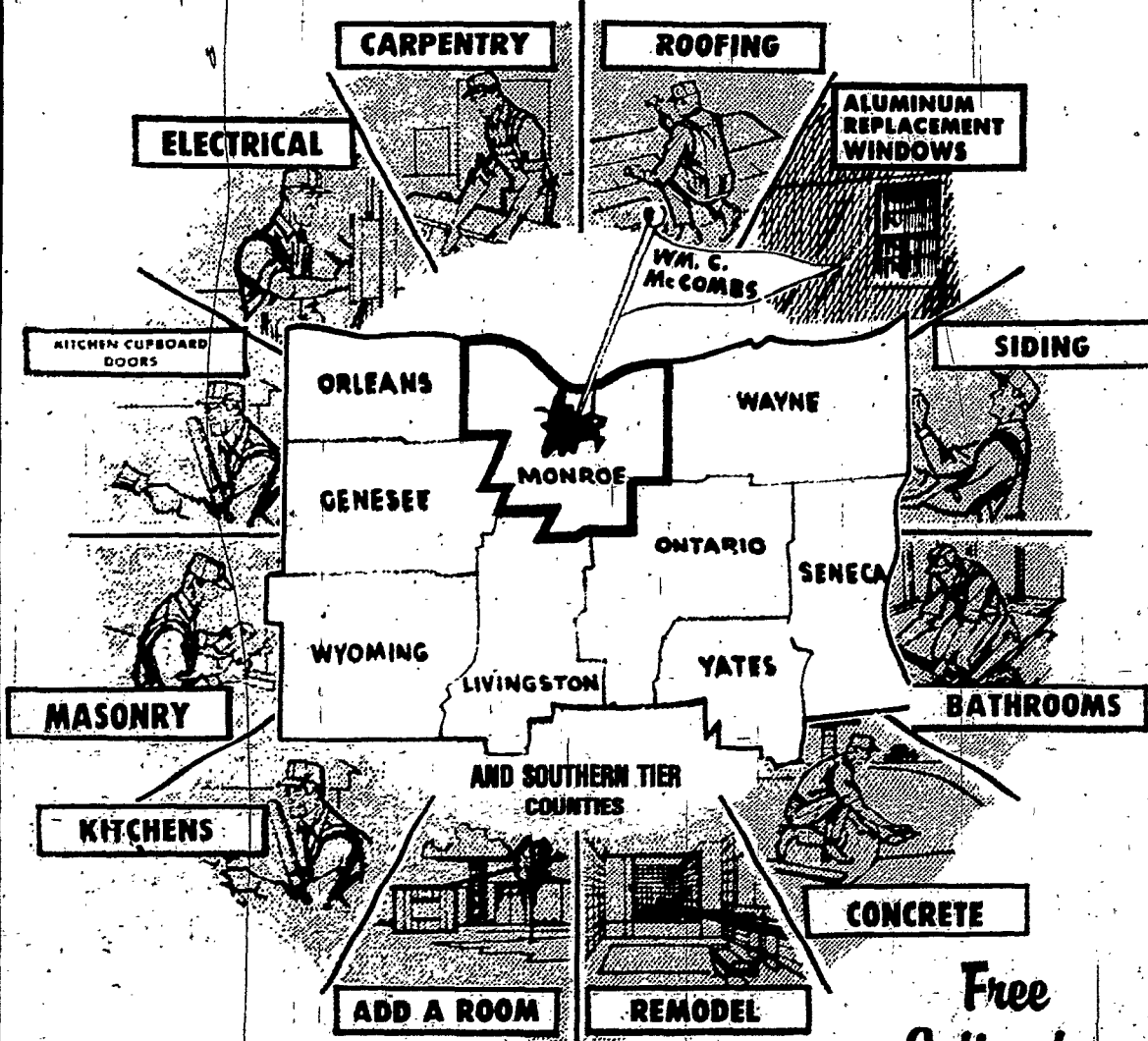
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