

Time of Renewal

priests and sisters aiming the poor to organize and learn to help themselves indicates that the people are conscious of Jesus' own example—helping the social outcasts of His day. Eight priests and twenty sisters work full-time at this in our Diocese. In addition, most parish priests are organizing committees of parishioners to share Church responsibility toward the spiritually or materially poor in every neighborhood.

importance, both among individual Catholics and in the parish as an organizational entity. But, the survey revealed a shift has apparently occurred since Vatican II. Previously, the parishioner and his priest served the Church and Christ. Now, the role of the Church is perceived as to serve the needs of the parishioners, so that they in turn may serve Christ better. This requires still greater dedication and effort on the part of the clergy than ever before.



Nuns arrested in civil rights march. (Religion News Service photo)

The more liberal and independent Catholic tends to believe the clergy should play an activist role as leaders

seen as basic ingredients of a successful relationship between parishioners and priest. Many Catholics perceive that increased lay participation in parish administration should remove time-consuming burdens from the parish priest, permitting him to deal more effectively with the human problems and concerns of individual parishioners.

A priest in the modern world, reflecting today's varied lifestyles.

