



## OUR PARISH COUNCIL Bernard Lyons

There have been some big changes in the parish in the last decade. Most obvious has been the renewal of the liturgy.

There has also been the closing of many parochial schools. And most parishes today have councils.

There will be many more changes.

One of the changes that is coming is a trend toward bigger parishes and toward regionalism — grouping parishes to share staff and resources.

This is a trend whose time has come, but there will be resistance. A chancery official in a southern diocese told me that his bishop is creating a number of new parishes. The bishop's ideal is that every Catholic ought to be able to walk to a church building.

Occasionally you can get glimpses of the trend in isolated news stories.

In a large midwestern city, a church building burned. It will not be rebuilt. The parishioners will join with the nearby parish.

In a neighborhood that has recently changed from an all-white to an all-black population in another large city, a cooperative ministry has been established between two parishes (four blocks apart) that have been left with huge buildings that are no longer needed for the much smaller congregations.

In still another city, four parishes have begun operating almost as one in order to conserve staff time and resources.

There is a priest shortage. And this slack, in terms of numerous parishes, will not be taken up by the permanent diaconate. Rather,

### 7th Grader Wins Prize For Poetry

Deirdre Day, a seventh grader at St. Louis School, has taken third place, among 50,000 entries in the Family Circle magazine poetry contest.

Deirdre's poem is entitled Butterflies. The results of the contest will appear in the June issue of Family Circle.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Day of Pittsford-Mendon Road, Pittsford. Her teacher is Sister M. Robert, RSM.

# Steak Out at Home Plate

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the permanent deacons, working under the direction of a pastor and council, will make larger parishes possible.

Decentralization in the Church should not be understood to require smaller parishes. Rather, the principle must be to centralize things and decentralize persons. The object is to make use of the best of technology and the new arts of administration while granting persons and groups the fullest autonomy and greatest number of options.

The idea of bigger parishes is in no way a retrenchment. It is a way of gathering the resources and using them most efficiently to serve the greatest number of persons.

Parish councils will become more involved with the issue of bigger parishes in the next few years. And this involvement will increase dramatically with the growth of diocesan pastoral councils, vicarate councils, and inter-parish councils.

### At St. Andrew's

## 'Good Things Are Happening'

"Good things are happening" is more than just a motto at St. Andrew's parish. It reflects an attitude growing throughout the parish.

When the church's Parish Council, now in operation for six months, meets Monday, June 18, parishioners will be given the opportunity to see how a meeting is conducted. They also will be allowed to ask questions and offer suggestions.

To help them in this, written reports from each of the council's standing committees will be available for all. The committees are liturgy, youth, community relations, parish life, education, finance, buildings and property, and North Region Council.

Dennis (Andy) Merritt, president of the council, says the parish has adopted a one-for-one mode for inviting parishioners to take part in activities. He feels this has increased communications and cooperation among the people.

Reeling off the events that reflect a busy parish, Merritt

points to coffee hours, family breakfasts, suppers for men, mother and son-daughter breakfasts, the Spring Dance, and the buffet and dance for workers.

A parish census, says Merritt, is now in its final stages and looks successful. For this he praised the work of the parish Life Committee.

Through the efforts of the Buildings and Property Committee and members of the parish, new electrical installations and lights have been installed, the school auditorium has been painted, the school office has been relocated and enlarged, and custodian quarters completed, Merritt reports.

The adult choir has been reinstated and individuals and families take part in the weekly Offertory procession.

The parish has scheduled its annual festival for June 15-16 and Merritt says it will provide "an open expression of the cooperation and understanding that has appealed to more than 200 individuals, to do their share of promoting the goodwill at St. Andrew's."

Father Bernard F. Dollen is pastor of St. Andrew's and spiritual adviser to the Parish Council. Vice president of the council is Peter Patoski; secretary is Connie Lambiase.

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