

CYO Takes New Direction With Recent Board Election

By CHARLES RANDISI

The Catholic Youth Organization has announced a major change in direction, along with the election of a new president of the board of directors.

Thomas Banaszewski, at a May 30 meeting, was elected to the position of board president. He succeeds Richard Stillman.

The change will be the decentralization of CYO from the facilities in the Columbus Civic Center, 50 Chestnut St., to regional activities within the five diocesan regions of Monroe County.

Father Joseph D'Aurizio, diocesan director of Catholic Charities, which is the parent organization of CYO, said that the change comes at a good time, when "the community of the Church realizes the lack of services available for youth. . . . It has been the sincere desire of society to work here (with the young), but in reality there never seems to be the full investment of resources."

Banaszewski listed four major reasons which prompted CYO's decentralization. First was the Cresap Report, made by the Community Chest, the umbrella organization which sponsors Catholic Charities.

Banaszewski said that the report "evaluated and placed priorities on the needs of the Rochester community."

The second reason was the regional plan of the Rochester diocese, into which structure the CYO's decentralization process appropriately and conveniently fits.

Third was, according to Father D'Aurizio and Banaszewski, "a desire on the part of the board of Catholic Charities to better serve the needs of youth."

Last was the sale of the Columbus Civic Center to private investors last year. Effective July 1, the CYO will no longer have the use of the building's recreational facilities, such as the swimming pool and gymnasium. CYO will use the building only for office space, and is currently in the process of moving its offices from the sixth to the third floor.

The move should not be mistaken for a last-ditch effort to keep CYO in operation after the sale of the 50 Chestnut St. building, which has housed the CYO, formerly the Columbus Youth Association, since 1932.

Banaszewski emphasized that the move was a long time in the making. He said that the CYO board "for five years had been contemplating the decentralization."

Along with regionalization come new program objectives. "Our objectives," said Banaszewski, "are to develop character and leadership abilities in the young, and to improve the relationships between adults and youth."

Father D'Aurizio stressed the importance of communication between adults and young people. "There should be a two-way communication," he said, "both telling and listening."

"We are not, however, going out of the recreation business," said Banaszewski. CYO will continue to make use of already existing programs, such as the day camp, the basketball league, cheerleading and summer aquatics.

Paul Schmidt, executive director of CYO, will continue to direct ongoing programs.

To put the new ideas into action, the CYO will use the existing resources of parishes and regions. Trained youth workers will be hired to go into regions and identify both adult and youth leaders, and will train them to bring together the youth of the individual community.

Parishes and regions will develop their own youth programs, according to the individual needs of each. Banaszewski suggested that one parish might need a coffee house, another a drug program, another "just a place to rap."

Father D'Aurizio also mentioned plans for weekend retreats for youth using places like Camp Stella Maris, which, like CYO, is sponsored by Catholic Charities, "on a year-round basis."

He cited Father Timothy Weider, assistant director of



Photo by Susan McKinney

Father D'Aurizio and Banaszewski.

Catholic Charities, as being largely responsible for CYO's new direction. "Father Weider was instrumental," he said, "in the formulation of our youth development programs for the five Monroe County regions."

An administrative assistant, not yet named, will work closely with Father Weider.

Banaszewski also pointed out that the CYO board is looking to have regional committees, and to have each region represented on the board.

With Banaszewski's election,

the CYO board also announced its new members for the year 1973-74. They are: Frank DeRicco, Martin Weingarten, Raymond Grandchamp, Kevin Considine, Vince Stanley, Frank Starpoli Jr., Robert Hargarther, and Charles Wetmore.

Those continuing on the board from last year are Banaszewski, Mrs. Donald (Judy) Bardell, Adrian Hanna, Charles Reller, David Springett, Robert Nastanovich, Jack Palvino, Robert Ridley, and William Quenan.

Ex-officio members are Father D'Aurizio, Schmidt, and Father Daniel Brent.

Holy Cross Parish Celebrates 100 Years

Holy Cross Parish held a gala celebration last weekend with a Mass concelebrated by two bishops and a score of priests and a huge party noting 100 years of growth for the church.

Bishop Lawrence B. Casey of Paterson N.J., former pastor of the parish and Bishop Joseph L. Hogan attended the festivities:

The parish actually goes back to 1863 when Father Louis John Maurice, a French missionary who had been sent by Bishop John Timon of Buffalo to minister to what is now Our Mother of Sorrows Parish, established, in the shadow of the Charlotte lighthouse, another light, to guide the souls of men.

It was Father Maurice who purchased the land and recon-verted existing buildings to house the infant congregation, which became Holy Cross.

Father John Donnelly became the first resident pastor on July 7, 1873 and was stationed at the church until August of the following year. He was succeeded by Father Thomas A. Hendricks, who in later years was to become the pastor of St. Bridget's Church and then the Bishop of Cebu. Father Hendricks, in his two years as pastor, organized a club for the young men of the parish and was remembered as an outdoorsman, with a special interest in boating.

In December 1876, Father Simon Fitz Simons became pastor

and remained until July of 1877. While stationed at Holy Cross, he also had charge of the Cemetery Chapel and Excelsior Farm, opposite Riverside Cemetery, a project worked by orphan boys under the direction of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Father John M. FitzGerald succeeded Father Fitz Simons, launching a number of programs to raise money for the building of a new church. The cornerstone of the present building was laid in 1881 and Bishop Bernard McQuaid of the fledgling Diocese of Rochester officiated. The

church was dedicated in the fall of 1882.

Among Father FitzGerald's other accomplishments were the construction of a school building opened by the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1887, construction of an addition to the school, installation of a new bell, and the construction of the present rectory.

A fire destroyed the school in June 1895. In October of that year Father William Payne was named pastor. He served in that post for nearly 18 years.

He made many improvements on the church property and built a new school which opened in 1906 under the direction of the Sisters of Mercy.

Father Payne is remembered as working not only for the benefit of the parish community but for the village as well. He assumed the post of pastor of St. Mary's, Auburn, in the summer of 1913.

In that same summer Sister Mary Borgia, RSM, who had served as principal of Holy Cross School, was elected Mother

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Brother Tracy 'Citizen of Year'

The Kiwanis Club of Eastridge has chosen Brother Edward M. Tracey, CFC, as its first "citizen of the Year."

The club will fete him at 7 p.m. Friday, June 15, at Valle's Steak House on E. Ridge Road.

Brother Tracey, principal for the past six years of Bishop Kearney High School, will teach next year in a Christian Brothers school in the Bronx.

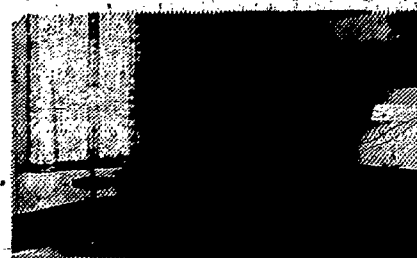
Noting that he "his leadership will be missed in Rochester, the award announcement attributed to him a genuine and realistic approach to problems" and said he had made "an immeasurable contribution to the field of education, both parochial and public, with his service on endless committees, seminars and workshops."

The citizen award is planned as an annual affair. Tickets may be obtained from Lou Piazza, 342-3077, or Joe Mileo, 467-0532.

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