



## OUR PARISH COUNCIL Bernard Lyons

"Balancing the budget has become our goal," writes a parish council member from Minnesota. "People have heard so much about money, they are being turned off."

"Am I wrong in believing if we concentrated as much on bringing to the people the message of God's love (instead of we want your money), that God would provide answers to the money problems? I'd like to see Parish Councils and Divine Providence commented on."

After reading this note, a cartoon from the old *Integrity* magazine popped to the front of my mind. It showed a cheerful, small monk, dressed in his plain robe, walking through a men's department of a large store. It was labeled simply, "Freedom from want."

The question of Divine Providence suffers in the parish council from both a lack of faith and a misunderstanding of what our needs are.

Once, while in a rectory, our conversation with a priest was interrupted with a sales call. I overheard him try to ward off the hard-sell of a lady on the other end of the phone. Finally, he said, almost in exasperation, "Lady, we have to make a difference between our needs and our wants."

A parish council must make that sometimes fine distinction. If we really opened ourselves up to trust in God and concentrated on the mission of Christ that is all of our callings, would there also be money for paving the parking lot and air conditioning the church?

I know of two parishes where the council budgets 10 per cent (or a tithe) to the poor. In addition, one of the parishes gives any surplus funds at the end of the accounting period to the poor, so that they start the new year trusting that their budget will be met if they go ahead with their parish mission.

Financing the parish in this way can not be implemented with a simple vote. In both parishes that I mentioned above, the ground work was laid by months of discussions and prayer, considering the parish as a steward of the time, talents and money of its parishioners.

Just as one person's needs and wants are not exactly the same as another person's, so one parish will not duplicate another in this regard.

Parish council leaders might insist that their priests give them

### Pastoral Office Reports Changes

The Pastoral Office has announced two temporary changes in assignment.

Father William Call, who has been associate pastor of St. Patrick's, Mt. Morris, will be summer assistant at St. Michael's, Penn Yan, and St. Andrew's, Dundee. Father Patric Doyle has been given a leave of absence from Holy Apostles, Rochester.

### Crossword Answer

R	A	F	T	A	F	A	R		
A	R	R	O	W	M	A	R	I	A
M	O	A	E	R	I	E	A	D	Z
S	M	U	G	A	L	I	N	E	E
A	D	E	P	L	A	N	K	S	
U	R	N	S	I	D	I			
L	O	N	E	T	I	N			
R	E	N	E	W	S	A	C	T	
B	I	N	D	E	O	N	E	R	O
R	A	T	E	R	N	E	N	I	P
A	T	L	A	S	T	A	S	T	E
D	A	Y	S		B	E	E	N	

guidance on this matter. The laity will be better prepared to do this if they spend some time themselves reading the Gospels and then discussing and prayerfully considering what it means in their own lives and in the community of the parish.

The ability to trust in Divine Providence does not come from exercising our own will power alone, but it is principally a gift of the Holy Spirit. To change a parish from a history of money-grubbing will take an interior renewal. It will take some planning, education, discussion, listening, and openness.

But most importantly, it will take the willingness of the parish leaders to set an example of being open to the whispers of the Holy Spirit. He may not lead you where you want to go, but He will lead you where you need to go — where Christ wants you to go.



### Special Vocation

Father Fredrick Eisemann discusses religious vocations with John Till, left, and Geoffrey Gabriel. The club which plans visits to seminaries offers a first hand look at religious life to high school and junior high boys and girls.

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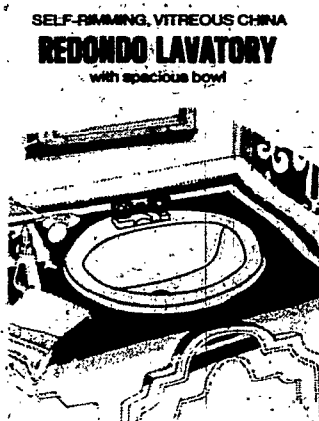
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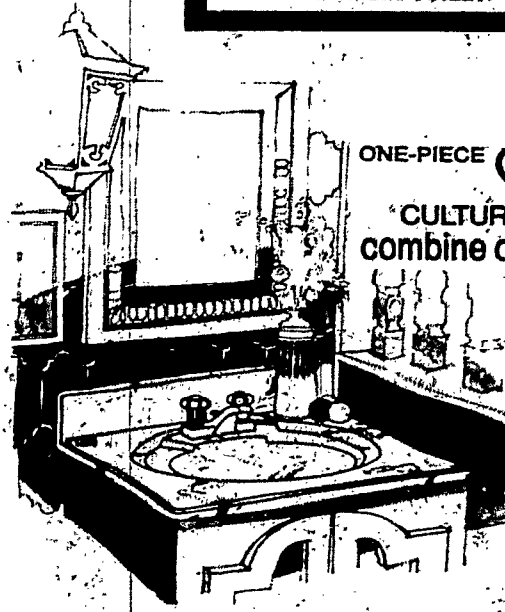
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