



Photos by Susan McKinney

Fish Story

Father Francis Vogt points out some of the many fish in his collection to Derrek Barksdale in the photo at left. Father Vogt, a member of the Rochester Aquarium Society, gives away four fish every three weeks to youngsters

who raise fish. Some 250 children come to him two or three times a year to collect their limit. At the right, Father Vogt checks over his records to see when Derrek will be eligible to collect more fish for his tanks.



OUR PARISH COUNCIL Bernard Lyons

Do you really know what parishioners are thinking? How much do they know believe about the Catholic Church?

The answers to these and other questions were found out in St. Peter Celestine Parish in Cherry Hill, N.J. More than 1,200 parishioners answered a 68-question pamphlet, which dealt with religious beliefs, morality, and the Catholic Church.

The survey is part of a parish renewal program. Some of the answers were surprising.

Fifty-five percent of the respondents said they felt the Virgin Birth was meant to be taken symbolically, not biologically.

While 94 percent said they believed God created them and 92 percent said they believe Christ is the Son of God, 48 percent felt that it made no difference to their faith whether Jesus rose physically from the dead.

The survey also showed that more than four out of five parishioners sanctioned the use of contraceptives for married couples as "morally right." Nearly three out of five feel the decision to have an abortion is a personal matter, not one of civil law. And more than half of the respondents said that remarriage while the spouse of the divorced party is still alive isn't a violation of God's law.

Crossword Answer

S	M	O	G	L	I	A	R	
S	T	A	G	E	E	N	D	E
C	H	A	R	L	A	T	A	N
R	O	B	E	R	O	S	D	I
A	R	I	L	S	E	A	I	D
M	E	L	O	N	S	E	N	S
I	D	O	L	S	E	C		
M	A	Z	E	O	S	T	O	A
A	L	E	T	A	P	A	U	L
P	O	M	E	N	A	G	E	R
S	U	P	I	N	E	E	R	S
D	A	R	E	D	S	E	E	

In a positive vein, four out of five respondents said they feel they have a moral obligation to support their parish. Nearly the same number indicated their parish council and priest relations were good.

While some of the responses were unexpected, according to an associate pastor, the fundamental mission of the survey had been achieved.

"We now have a point where we can accurately measure what the educational needs of the parishioners are," he said. "We may not particularly like some of the answers, but nonetheless we know where to begin."

The poll results are not intended to be taken at face value.

"The survey results are our guide and tool, but it's not infallible, and that's important to keep in mind," the associate pastor said. "Many of the questions aren't refined and can be taken in many different ways."

He is convinced that a broad use of media facilities, such as diocesan newspapers, are critical to the success of adult education programs.

Some 450 parishioners are presently engaged in a series of meetings in homes throughout the parish to study each survey question individually. If they are as open and frank in these meetings as they were in the survey pamphlet, the poll and the follow-up will surely bear fruit for the parish renewal program.

IRISH FESTIVAL

A day of Irish music and dancing it planned for July 14 at the Monroe County Fairgrounds. The Irish word for it is "feis" (pronounced "fesh"), and the sponsors are the Rochester Feis Committee, putting on their second annual festival.

About 600 dancers and musicians from the United States and Canada will compete for trophies and medals, beginning at 10 a.m. Refreshments will be available.

KEEPING TABS

The children of St. Anthony of Padua School will sell "trash, trinkets and treasures" Saturday, July 14, at 128-134 Spencer St., between N. Plymouth and Lake avenues. Their first lawn sale, a year ago, netted \$109 for the school. Rain date is July 21.

Holy Apostles parish will have a festival Friday and Saturday nights, July 13 and 14, in the school yard, Lyell Avenue at Austin Street.

July 27 and 28 are festival dates at St. Salome's, 4282 Culver. The festival will open with a fish fry, 5-8 p.m. Friday, July 27.

The Catholic Mission Guild picnic will be held July 11 at the home of Mrs. Walter Seleski, 56 Colony Lane. Mass will be celebrated at 11:30 a.m. by Father Elmer Heindl.

The annual installation banquet of Court Our Lady of the Cenacle, CDA, was held June 6 at Pittsford Tavern-on-the-Mall. Guests included State Regent Mary Donahue, the state secretary, Barbara Hennessy, and Monica Rapp, district deputy. The Italian Women's Civic Club provided entertainment.

July 8 will be Our Lady of Czestochowa Day at the Fatima Shrine at Youngstown, near Lewiston.

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