



OUR PARISH COUNCIL Bernard Lyons

In March of this year, the Sacred Congregation for the Clergy called a plenary congregation to discuss pastoral councils. They invited the Sacred Congregation for Bishops, the Sacred Congregation for Religious and Secular Institutes and the Council of the Laity to participate. Later they issued a paper of conclusions, which were approved by Pope Paul VI.

Here are some of the principles for pastoral councils drawn from the views of the combined plenary congregation.

* The replies received and the deliberations held show that it was the common opinion of congregation that the establishment of a pastoral council is important and helpful.

* Although the members of the council cannot be called representatives of the total diocesan community, nevertheless, as far as possible, they should present a witness or sign of the entire diocese. Therefore, it seems extremely proper for priests, religious and laity who offer various experiences and needs to take part in the council.

* All members of the council should be in full communion with the Catholic Church and able to accept and properly exercise this function in the Church.

* Most of the members should be laymen since the greatest part of the diocesan community is made up of the laity.

* The number of members of the pastoral council should not be too great so that it is able to carry out effectively the work that is committed to it.

* It is advisable that for its renewal of membership, a system of rotation should be employed in such a way that at stated times a certain number end their membership and new members are named in their places.

* The pastoral council enjoys only a consultative voice.

* It is the function of the pastoral council to investigate

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Boys' Town Contributions Decline

Boys Town, Neb. (RNS) — Contributions to Boys Town in 1972 were nearly \$15 million less than the total received in 1971, according to a report issued by the institution.

Nonetheless, the net worth of Boys Town investments and property increased by \$9.2 million.

The annual Easter and Christmas appeals were suspended last year after local newspapers disclosed that Boys Town had a net worth of over \$200 million, including \$180 million in investments.

The current report shows the net worth at \$217.3 million.

Boys Town, which currently takes care of some 700 homeless boys, had an operating loss of

almost \$5 million in 1972, according to the report.

Total expenses for the year, it said, were just over \$10 million, with the income of about \$5 million coming from contributions (\$3.6 million), educational income (\$1 million) and such miscellaneous sources as farm income.

The deficit of almost \$5 million was erased by Foundation Fund, which had a total income of \$14.1 million. A breakdown of the Foundation Fund income showed bequests of \$4.8 million, interest and dividends on investments of \$8 million, rental income of \$150,000 and gain on sale of investments of \$1.6 million. Investment expenses brought the net total down to \$14.1 million.

A press release reporting the


1972 financial picture of Boys Town marked the first time in recent years that the institution had volunteered a public report.

The 15-member board approved release of the information. Archbishop Daniel E. Sheehan of Omaha, chairman of the board, said the firm was expected to complete a study of "present and future directions for Boys Town" by late Summer.

Two major new projects are being planned. One is a \$30 million Institute for the Study and Treatment of Hearing and Speech Disorders in Children. The other is a proposed \$40 million Center for the Study of Youth Development, a research complex with headquarters on the Boys Town campus here and branches at one East Coast and one West Coast university.

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