



OUR PARISH COUNCIL Bernard Lyons

Should there be a liturgy (or worship) committee? I believe there should be, and most parishes have such committees today.

There's a priest in Canada, however, who suggests that there should not be liturgy committees in our parishes.

I can't take his thinking and arrive at his same conclusions, but I believe the reasons why Father John Carley thinks there should not be such committees are stimulating and insightful.

Father Carley is director of the Lay Apostolate Office of the Canadian Catholic Conference. His views were published in the National Bulletin on Liturgy, published by CCC Publications.

"The short history of parish councils has shown that in the first fervor to establish them, there was a ritual reaction to formulate committees to be concerned about activities that take place in the church building," says Father Carley, "We hear of finance (count the collection!), social (bingo, suppers, church basement), spiritual (who is in the hospital, who died, and so forth), education (list of catechism teachers), and liturgy committees (readers, singing, servers)."

Father Carley says that pastors used to be able to pick up the phone and sort out these activities, but now they must contend with several committees a week and direct traffic through the church building.

He believes that the major problem is that both priest and parishioners believe that the life

ST. JEROME ELECTIONS

St. Jerome's, East Rochester, recently held elections for its parish council. For the 1973-74 term, members are Nick Urzetta, chairman; Ed Waud, co-chairman; Al Monohan, Margaret Della Pietra, and Vince Alfieri. New council members are Kay Smallridge and Gordon Vogt.

Also elected was a new parish CCD coordinator, Ray Buonemani, who will be responsible for junior and senior high school religious education. Sister Marie Brown, the parish's religious education coordinator, will work with students in grades K-6.

Steak Out at Home Plate

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of the Church is life in a church building.

"The experience of the parish liturgy committee was to keep informed of new choices of readings and hymns, and to draw up the list of next Sunday's liturgy. It was like putting together a weekly series of half-hour TV shows. It had to entertain, to be different, give everyone a chance, and perhaps have a message."

The first work of the parish council, says Father Carley, is to take the time and the necessary gospel and doctrinal reflections to sense themselves as a community of believers.

Then they have to sense themselves as "the church" which is "being sent" to the community at large, to preach the "good news."

"Finally, the council must divide into committees for this purpose — to know their beliefs and express them, to give witness, and to implant the seeds of justice and charity in this world."

Father Carley suggests that the parish council divide into:

Committee on Faith: To try to identify and understand the basic elements of faith, and to assure their proclamation through teaching, celebration and worship.

Committee of Witness: To reflect and find pastoral expression for public witness in the local community.

Committee of Resources: To become responsible for the resources of people, money and buildings.

Committee of the People of God: To coordinate the variety of individual or group apostolic interests, and assure the free expression of the particular gifts within the larger Christian community.

Parish Council Installed

A noon concelebrated folk Mass was the occasion for installing newly elected members to the Parish Council at Our Lady of Mercy Church, Sunday, July 29.

More than 700 parishioners gathered on the church lawn to celebrate the Eucharist with the principal celebrant, Bishop Joseph Hogan, assisted by Father John Whalen, pastor, Fathers William Amann and Gerard Hafner, associate pastors, and Father Thomas Reddington, coordinator of the Northwest Region.

Missioners Ready To Back Charges Of 'Massacre'

Madrid [RNS]. — A group of Spanish Roman Catholic missionaries which has alleged the massacre of 400 blacks by government troops in Portugal's African colony of Mozambique has offered to send back two of their number to confirm their charges.

The priests, all members of the Burgos Mission Society, whose reports formed the basis of charges first aired in the London Times, July 10, by a British Roman Catholic priest, Father Adrian Hastings, said that two Burgos Fathers would go on condition that they be accompanied by an "international committee."

The committee, they said in a recent issue of Vida Nueva, a Spanish Catholic weekly, should include "a delegate of the Holy See or of the Office of the Apostolic Nuncio in Lisbon, Portugal."

The priests, who were missionaries in Mozambique, said they were ready to identify the area of Wiriyamu in Tete Province, where the killings are alleged to have taken place last December, but whose existence the Portuguese government has cast in doubt.

The Lisbon government has denied the reports, charging, in turn, that they were intended to discredit Portugal and her overseas policies.

The texts and readings for the Mass were those of the patroness of the parish, Our Lady of Mercy

In his homily, Bishop Hogan commented that he once addressed a Northwest Regional Conference as "My fellow bishops..." He said that he had used this form of address earnestly, that it had been used by St. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo in the fourth Century, and reemphasized at the Second Vatican Council.

The hierarchical concept of the Church has given way to the total involvement of the parish community. He exhorted members of the council to begin their deliberations with a period of prayer and suggested they imitate Mary, the Mother of the Church, especially in her humility and complete submission to the will of the Father.

As the new council members brought the offertory gifts to the altar, they were presented with copies of the Council Constitution by Bishop Hogan and Father Reddington.

During the Mass, the parish folk group, under the direction of Ralph Zwald and Janet Andrychuk, led the congregation in the singing of songs highlighting the community role of the parishioners.

Immediately following the Mass, an all afternoon picnic was held on the church grounds.

MINDSZENTY PROGRAM

Miss Eleanor Schlafly, executive secretary of the Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation, will be interviewed by Clarence Manion, former dean of the Notre Dame Law School, on Sunday, August 19, 11:30-11:45 a.m. over WROC-TV, Channel 8. The program will be sponsored by Rochester supporters of the Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation.

FEEL GOOD TODAY

THE HOLY FATHER'S MISSION AID TO THE ORIENTAL CHURCH

This column's happiest readers are the men, women and children who know they're needed. The days we're busiest helping others are the happiest days of our lives. . . . Who needs you most? Surprisingly, God needs you — for instance, to help an abandoned orphan become a God-loving, responsible adult. Lepers need you (there are still 15-million lepers in the world), blind children need you, and so do we. . . . Here in New York we are your agents, telling you where the Holy Father says your help is needed, and channeling your help promptly and safely to the people in need. . . . Want to feel good right now? Do without something you want but do not need, and send the money instead for one of the needs below. You'll feel good, especially if your gift is big enough to mean a sacrifice to you: This is your chance to do something meaningful for the world — it's God's world — while you're still alive.

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