

Priests Council Endorses Fund Development Office

By SHARON DARNIEDER

The Priests Council unanimously endorsed the rewritten proposal for the Diocesan Fund Development Office at their Becket Hall meeting Feb. 5.

The move to endorse it, introduced by Father Raymond Heisel, climaxed months of discussion by members and their blocks about the original proposal and its eventual rewriting which took place in December.

It was rewritten by a Priests Council ad hoc committee with representation from the chancellor's office and the Diocesan Sisters Council (DSC) to clarify objections and questions raised by both councils when the original was presented to them last Fall.

The rewritten proposal states that care is being taken to keep expenses in the diocese within reason "but rising costs in the economy continue to cause an ever growing deficit merely to maintain the present programs and services of the Pastoral Center."

A Diocesan Fund Development Office will enable the establishment of new programs and services requiring additional funds because a "further drain on parish funds to support the Pastoral Center is becoming unfeasible," according to the proposal.

It points out that "the certain knowledge of a deficit of \$77,828 for the Pastoral Center for the past fiscal year, ending in June 1973, and an anticipated deficit of at least \$134,524 for the current fiscal year is the prime reason why the diocese must seek new funding."

The recommended implementation program for the office in the rewritten proposal asks for a full-time, experienced development director. In addition professional counsel on a per diem basis will also provide assistance.

To quell any doubts remaining in members' minds about the position of fund development director, Bishop Joseph L. Hogan hastened to assure them that whoever gets the job will work closely with the Pastoral Center and be "surrounded by men with a deep sense of the mission of the Church."

The proposal also provides for a Steering Committee for Development which will serve as consultant to the Bishop and the chancellor in the recruitment of the development director who will, hopefully, be hired in the Spring.

In further remarks concerning the new office, the Bishop announced that he was pleased members had endorsed the proposal and that evaluation of the fund-raising operation when it begins would be an ongoing thing.

According to the proposal the director's responsibilities include finalizing a "case statement" for diocesan fund development, and seeking new sources of revenue through continuous solicitations of special and deferred gifts, bequests, etc.

The director, who will be accountable to the chancellor, Father James Moynihan, also will maintain permanent and detailed records of each donor and prospective donor and provide counseling services for the financial needs of parishes and institutions in the diocese for long range development programs.

The estimated fund office budget in the proposal for the first year from July of this year until June 1975 is placed around \$48,095. However, the proposal adds that the \$9,000 cost of counseling service budgeted for this year may be drastically reduced, if not eliminated, from future budgets.

The two professionals who conducted the diocesan survey on which the Fund Development Office proposal is based are William Freyd, regional vice president of New York City's C.W. Shaver Co. and George Holloway, executive secretary of the National Catholic Development Conference, also of New York City.

CICP Reports on Plans

In response to a request from the Priests Council last month, spokesmen for the Council of Inner City Parishes (CICP) came to the Feb. 5 meeting to inform members of their current status, the proposed solution to their current fiscal crisis and an overview of their organization.

Father Benedict Ehmman said that those who work in inner city parishes regard it as "a real mission and challenge, not a threat."

He emphasized that although education was their main priority, they were deeply concerned with other inner city needs, too.

"Sometimes the schools are the only way the presence of the Church is felt by inner city residents," he said.

Many of the children who attend CICP schools are not Catholic.

Addressing themselves to the financial plight of CICP were Robert Molineri, executive director of CICP and John Schmitt, one of the co-chairmen of the proposed fund drive.

A financial summary distributed to members pointed out a deficit of \$55,244 as of January. It also broke down into individual areas the total expected income for 1973-74 including the \$200,000 from the diocese and the rest of the money which comes from the parishes themselves and other sources.

Phase A of the proposed financial plan, according to Schmitt, is to raise \$100,000 to cover the current deficit and other immediate costs. Phase B is a long range plan offering financial stability.

All of the spokesmen tried to impress on council members the immediate financial need of CICP and its desire for a more stable future financial plan.

Although members agreed on their financial need, they also pointed out they couldn't make any recommendations to CICP at this time.

"We realize they need money for their schools," said Father James Marvin, council president.

"We're not against it and we're not for it" (the proposed financial plan) he continued, "we just want to know more."

Responding to a request from the Bishop, members voted to send two priests to the joint committee of CICP and Pastoral Center personnel so a process can be worked out to visit the five regions in Monroe County and get diocesan and community leader reactions to a CICP fund-raising operation.

If approved by the Bishop, the drive would eventually come under the newly authorized diocesan Fund Development Office.

Others who attended the meeting on behalf of CICP were Father David Heinsler and Father Charles Mulligan. Father Douglas Hoffman and Father Peter Bayer from the Pastoral Center also were there.

In other council business it was announced that Father Sebastian Falcone has completed his transition from a Capuchin to a diocesan priest. Because of the change, he no longer represents order priests on the council. His alternate, Father Albert Reiser, CSSR, will replace him and Father Cyril Guise, OCD will become the new alternate.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan also announced that James Noonan, director of the diocesan Office of Communications, would become

full time administrative assistant to the Bishop.

"The duties of office are so involved today," he said, "that I felt I certainly needed around me someone with ability in management and administration."

The council also voted to endorse three of the four penal reform bills presented by Father John Mulligan, council liaison for the penal reforms committee, at last month's meeting.

The bills, which have been in the state legislature for a year, involve mailing privileges of inmates (defeated), determinations of the parole board, parole revocation proceedings and visiting privileges.

The endorsed bills will now be referred to the newly formed Priests Council Standing Committee on Social Action.

Priests Council Action

PASSED BY THE MAJORITY
Pastoral Council Formation Committee

Motion: To change motion passed last month to allow PC members to read finished parts of the pastoral council constitution before it's completed and sent to the rest of the priests, to read:

1. To continue monthly reports to the PC through Father John Mulligan, PC liaison to the committee; 2. PC members can give input on any particular section to Father Mulligan and he will pass information on to the committee; 3. One copy of the still unfinished constitution is available to any PC member through Father James Marvin, president.

Penal Reform Committee

Motion: To endorse legislative Bills 2, 3, 4 with regard to penal reform:

2. Bill S-3824, A-5805 — to amend the correction law in regard to determinations of the parole board; 3. Bill S-3831, A-564 — to amend the correction law in relation to parole revocation proceedings; 4. Bill S-3910, A-5803 — to amend the correction law in relation to visiting privileges of inmates.

Social Action Committee

Motion: That the PC establish a standing Social Action Committee charged with the responsibility of suggesting constructive action and response on the part of the PC and the presbytery of the diocese to the contemporary needs of mankind in light of the demands of the Gospel.

Sabbaticals

Motion: That the question of priests' sabbaticals be remanded to the newly formed PC committee on continuing education for priests.

The Bishop's request of the PC on the Council of Inner City Parishes (CICP) report.

Motion: That two members of the PC get together with the committee made up of CICP and Pastoral Center personnel to work out a process of going to the five regions in Monroe County to ask diocesan and community leaders their reactions to the CICP fund raising operation.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

The rewritten proposal for a Diocesan Fund Development Office

Motion: Accepting in total the rewritten proposal as explained in pages 5-7, or numbers 1-7 of that paper.

DEFEATED

Penal Reform Committee

Motion: To endorse legislative Bill 1 with regard to penal reform: 1. Bill S-3821, A-5969 — to amend the correction law in regard to mail privileges of inmates.

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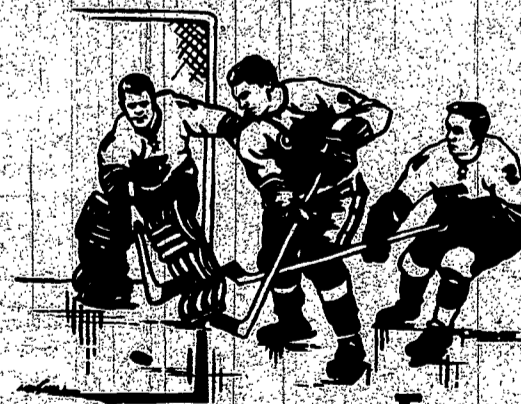
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