

# Priests Council Motion Taken by State Group

By SHARON DARNIEDER

A motion introduced by the Rochester Priests Council asking for a strong state social action committee was accepted by the Priests Councils of New York (PCNY) at their Spring meeting last month.

Father James Marvin, council president, who attended the New York meeting along with Father James Boyle, reported the results at the April 2 council meeting at Becket Hall.

Father Peter Young, Albany, was asked to gather a PCNY committee of priests from each of the eight New York dioceses to work in the area of social action.

Each diocese is responsible for one category within this framework and Father Marvin noted that, "it's hoped that filtering the information back and forth between dioceses will enable us to present a more unified front and help us gain statewide support when we go to Albany concerning legislation we're interested in."

The Rochester Priests Council was appointed to keep abreast of



FATHER JAMES MARVIN

and report on prison reform in judicial process through its social action committee.

Father Young's committee will begin to work more closely with

the Catholic Committee of New York State (which represents the bishops here) and with Charles Tobin, who is the bishops' representative at the State Legislature.

Father Marvin said he was "pleased at the response we received from our council's social action committee before we left," and he added that he thought the New York meeting had gone very well.

"We're very pleased that PCNY is assuming its responsibility to represent the entire priesthood of the state," he said.

Much of the New York meeting was devoted to reacting to the legislative pieces that are important to social justice.

New elections for officers were also held. Father Ignatius Catanello, Brooklyn, was elected president, and Father Marvin, vice president.

Other business included organizing a statewide committee on continuing education for priests.

At the meeting, Bishop Joseph L. Hogan was also congratulated for his recent letter to Governor Malcolm Wilson calling for the establishment by the State University of a college for prisoners at Bedford Hills, N.Y.

The PCNY also endorsed the work of the Bishop in prison reform, including his efforts for the prisoners of Attica.

## Priests Hear Report On Deacon Program

Dr. William Sullivan, in an informational report on a permanent diaconate in the diocese, told the Priests Council that the diocese should be working toward a program "from the element of timeliness, not need."

Sullivan, a faculty member at St. John Fisher College, is in charge of assembling and organizing information on a permanent diaconate for this area. He spoke to the priests at their April 2 meeting.

"We know there's a need," he added.

After some discussion concerning similar programs in other religions and dioceses, Sullivan asked that those priests who object to the program write to him and explain why.

Father Gerald O'Connor, Elmira, and Father Robert Hammond, Newark, mentioned that they had already been approached by parish men who asked when the program would be ready. Sullivan then asked priests who approved of the

program to write and include profiles of actual men who wished to become permanent deacons.

He reminded the priests that permanent deacons do much of the work priests do and asked them to evaluate their feelings on the subject.

In other council business, Father Charles Latus, representing the Priests Council ad hoc committee set up in September to investigate an ecumenical commission, returned to the council for a decision.

Last month Father Latus presented the ecumenical commission proposal and requested members to discuss it with their blocks.

The proposal passed the council with a majority of votes in its favor. Among other things, it asks that each regional conference designate an ecumenical liaison person.

The proposal suggests the commission meet four to six times a year and that its director and members be appointed by the Bishop. The proposed annual budget includes the salary of a part time director at \$1,200 and other expenses for a total of \$3,500.

Father James Marvin, council president, commended Father Latus on the work he and his committee put into the proposal and added that he "sure got a lot of responses on it from the priests."

In his remarks to the council, Bishop Joseph L. Hogan addressed himself to the confusion which exists in some minds concerning the recent appointment of James Noonan as his administrative assistant.

Some priests weren't sure whom to call when they wished to discuss something with the Bishop so he advised them when their problems concerned "priestly matters" to call his secretary, Father Michael Conboy.

"When it concerns organizational or administrative matters, call Jim Noonan," he added. — Darnieder.

## Clergy Invited To Attend April SIDS Conference

The Genesee Valley Chapter of the Sudden Infant Death Foundation, Inc. (SIDS) will sponsor a Clergy Conference for all area clergy April 30 from 1-4 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church, 220 S. Winton Rd.

The conference is aimed at instructing clergy on SIDS (sometimes referred to as crib death) and how to deal with parents who come to them for comfort or help after their child dies from it.

The featured speaker will be Dr. Elizabeth R. McAnaney, assistant professor of pediatrics and psychiatry at the University of Rochester School of Medicine.

She will speak on patterns of grief and the successful management of loss. Reservations should be in by April 20. For more information contact Mrs. Jeannie Healey, 288-6638.

## Priests Council Action

### Priests Council Action ROLE CLARIFICATION COMMITTEE

The following is the continuation of last month's discussion concerning the draft statement on the PC-Bishop relationship. The statement's first 15 prepared motions were passed last month by the majority. Action taken on the remaining nine this month follows:

[Motions are shortened to the basic idea for the sake of brevity.]

**Motion 16:** Concerns the Bishop as overseer of the priesthood and the mutual responsibility for diocesan decisions [passed unanimously].

**Motion 17:** Among the diocesan entities sharing in the Bishop's authority, the PC has a special role. [Passed by the Majority]

**Motion 18:** Concerns the best way of expressing the PC-Bishop relationship, that of "qualified advise and consent" [passed unanimously].

**Motion 19:** Concerns types of interaction between the Bishop and the PC for effective decision making [passed unanimously].

**Motion 20:** Clarifies general situation in which the Bishop elicits the consent of the PC [passed by the majority].

**Motions 21-24:** Concerns sharing responsibility in planning and management; tensions are primarily assumed to be creative and to represent different approaches to the truth; unity between the Bishop and his priests is not compromised by true differences nor guaranteed by false conformism; Vatican II commits the Bishop and the PC to the continuing pursuit of more effective cooperation [passed by the majority].

### PASSED BY THE MAJORITY

#### On Reactivating the Ecumenical Commission

**Motion:** That the PC recommends the acceptance of the report of the ad hoc committee on ecumenism by the Bishop and the reactivation of an Ecumenical Commission not later than July 1, 1974.

#### On Personnel Board Recommendations

**Motion:** When more than one year remains in the term of a member of the Personnel Board whose status has changed, his term will be completed by the priest who received the next highest number of votes.

### PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

#### Financial Priorities Committee

**Motion:** The PC, recognizing the urgency of establishing the budget for 1974-75, commends the steps for streamlining the budget taken by the interdepartmental staff but strongly recommends that in the future, the process of making priorities which has been given to the Financial Priorities Committee, be set in motion immediately for 1975-76.

### PASSOVER - HOLY WEEK PROGRAM ON ATTICA

Rochester Area Liberal Clergy invite the public to a showing of the Cinda Firestone film on Attica at 8: tonight, April 10, in the chapel of temple B'Rith Kodesh, 2131 Elmwood Ave.

A panel discussion will follow, with Alan Newman, civil rights chairman for the Monroe County Bar Association, and Duke Johnson, a former Attica inmate. The theme of the Passover-Holy Week presentation is "Let My People Go."

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## Parish Sets Polish Easter Celebration

The parish council of St. Theresa Church, 14 Mark St., is preparing a Swieconka for April 20 - that is, a Polish Easter dinner and dance.

Following old country custom, the people will bring decorated eggs to the feast, and prizes will be given for the handsomest of these "pisanki."

In Polish churches remembered by many of the St. Theresa community, food was blessed on Holy Saturday to be eaten after the Resurrection Mass of Easter morning. Traditionally, a food basket would contain pisanki, a lamb sculptured in butter, strings of aromatic sausage, ham and horseradish and a well-baked loaf. When the family gathered to eat on Sunday, the father would peel one of the decorated eggs and give everyone a piece, with a wish for health and happiness. This ceremony, described in the council's announcement, will take place at the Swieconka.

### GODSPELL

A multi-media presentation entitled a "Twentieth Century Interpretation of Godspell" will be presented by the Youth Club of St. Paul's Parish, Honeoye Falls, at 7:30 p.m., April 12.

The adaptation directed by Philip Sinaguglia, a seminarian at St. Bernard's, will focus on the 14 Stations of the Cross and the Resurrection. A narration at each station will be combined with short skits and contemporary music including selections from the musical, "Godspell."

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