

Editorial

Constitution A Big Step

The Constitution of the Pastoral Council of the diocese, printed in the center section of this newspaper, represents a milestone in the history of the Church of Rochester.

Needless to say, every diocesan interested in the welfare and progress of the Church should save this pullout, read it and save it. As the guideline for action by the Pastoral Council to be established, the Constitution is significant not only in providing the nuts and bolts for the council but also because it provides its animus. Prayer will be a council keystone, it is evident from the Constitution which declares: "... the Pastoral Council must create a prayerful atmosphere which calls forth from each member his or her particular faith insights and gifts."

More than three years of study bolster the Constitution which will now go through the diocesan decision-making process before it is finalized as the basis for the formation of the Pastoral Council, perhaps by late Spring 1975.

Collegiality is the hallmark of the Constitution and thus of the Pastoral Council. More than half of the members of the committee which drew it up are laity. The Constitution provides the machinery whereby the majority of the Pastoral Council members will be laity. Some of the membership will be appointive; the majority elected, thus providing all of us stronger representation in diocesan matters.

It should be noted that the new Pastoral Council will not supplant such bodies as the Priests Council or the Sisters Council but with them will form a collegial team of consultative bodies. Indeed the Constitution provides for close liaison with these established panels.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan gave the leadership and impetus in establishing the Pastoral Council to offer all of us the opportunity to take a greater role in our Church. This is a privilege and a duty which diocesans should pursue, perhaps starting at the Parish Council level, proceeding up to the Regional Conference level so that a truly broad base will be provided for the Pastoral Council.

Members of the committee which framed the Constitution deserve a vote of thanks not only for the long and arduous work on behalf of all but also because they have come up with a clear, lucid document which will be easily understood by all. This in itself invites participation.

Thus the Constitution is at once a culmination and a beginning. It has provided the vessel for the Pilgrim Church now it is up to all of us to set direction and head confidently, hopefully, and prayerfully into the future.

Work for Peace

The Peace Apostolate of the Third Order of St. Francis in sponsoring its sixth Ecumenical Week of Peace, Sept. 30 to Oct. 6, makes a valid point which applies to all Americans.

One of the areas on which it suggests we concentrate our concern is Latin America and to bolster its position the apostolate notes:

"More knowledge and understanding of the tensions and problems in the conflict areas of the Americas" should be fostered and "ties of friendship through contacts, visits and correspondence with peoples and groups in the conflict areas in the Americas" should be developed.

It may seem difficult for each of us to do something truly constructive about Latin America. But this is not the case. Because of some farsighted and long-range planning on the part of the diocese, we have nuns serving in Brazil and Chile. We also have established the parish of San Jose Obrero in LaPaz, Bolivia, which, although returned to local control, still depends on the diocese of Rochester for assistance. Anyone wanting to help should contact the diocesan Missions Office on East Avenue in Rochester.

Such action combined with a positive effort to learn more about our Latin neighbors and their problems will be one step toward establishing peace and justice in the Western Hemisphere.

CCD Does Christ's Work

Editor:

I read with some sadness and some consternation the letter from a Pittsford reader (Courier-Journal 9/11/74) who was enraged by being asked to teach in a CCD program. She felt that since her children were all in Catholic schools, CCD was beyond her concern.

Well, I'm not the head of any CCD program, I'm simply a CCD teacher. But I've been close enough to see our CCD principal almost sweat blood trying to find enough teachers (as of this writing we still need two more). The difficulty is all because of attitudes like those in that previous letter. Saying "let the parents of the CCD students do it" is tantamount to saying "I don't care."

Where is the point where you can say "It's time to stop. I've given enough of myself to other people." Even when Christ was tired he asked the children to come to him. Responsibility to the Christian Community doesn't stop at the collection basket, nor does it end because your kids are in Catholic universities, Catholic high schools or parish schools. You must give of yourself as much as you can. If you do, then you'll feel satisfied with your contribution and there's no guilt to feel.

CCD is an important work of the Church. It's Christ's work really—teaching the Word. And it's caring about the kids. In our parish the CCD teachers are a diverse lot. We're married, single, young, middle-aged, high school students, housewives, workers, male and female. We're parents who may have our kids in Catholic schools or maybe in public. My own children are too young to go to any school yet. Some of us are childless. Yet we're all called together for a common purpose, not by Father, not by the principal, but, I believe, by Someone higher.

So, why should Sister ask a person with all those children in Catholic schools to teach CCD? Maybe Someone left a message.

Mrs. Agnes Case
50 Oberlin St.
Rochester, N.Y. 14622

Magazines Needed

Editor:

Readers may like to mail their used Catholic pamphlets and magazines direct to the Foreign Missions.

COURIER-JOURNAL

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"THAT WAS FIRST-RATE, TIM! TELL YOU WHAT... IF THE CHURCH ORGAN ISN'T FIXED BY NEXT SATURDAY, I'LL GIVE YOU A CALL."

If those who wish to do so will please send me self-addressed envelopes, I will give them the addresses of missionary priests and nuns who need Catholic literature.

Write direct to me.

Mary Conway,
14, Castle Street,
Cork,
Ireland.

LCBA Sponsored Event for Deaf

Editor:

In the Aug. 14, 1974 issue of the Courier-Journal much space was given to the deaf who had a Leadership Cursillo week in Rochester, and I understand from Father Erdle that it was quite successful; however, no mention was made that the benefactors of the Retreat were the members and officers of the LCBA (Loyal Christian Benefit Association) who sponsored it.

We were disappointed that no mention was made of our interest in and support of this special week.

Bertha M. Leavy,
National President, LCBA
305 West 6th St.
Erie, Pa. 16512

Mason Ruling Attacked

Editor:

It was with a great sense of trepidation that I read in this newspaper that the Vatican will permit Catholic lay people to join the Masons. Perhaps to the uninformed it is high comedy to suggest that the Catholic Church has anything to fear from secret societies.

Freemasonry has, since its inception in the 16th Century, wielded tremendous influence in the highest circles of government and finance. Its power is derived not from bribery, deception and murder, although these are its tools, but from kabbalistic magic. "Outstanding is freemasonry and numerous other secret societies whose members are adepts at phallism and practitioners of magic. They encourage profanity of Our Savior's Passion in some of their odious ceremonies; to hold in contempt the Sacraments of the Church to which, in a

sacrilegious manner, they substitute sacraments of their own invention and they treat with derision the Mysteries of the Catholic religion" (Pope Pius VII, Encyclical "Ecclesiam a Jesu Christo"). For Catholic lay people to be allowed to receive Communion and frequent an organization whose great heroes are perfidious devil worshippers is a travesty of the gravest kind.

These are unsavory facts that will be rejected by polyanina Catholics desirous of sugar coated surrealism. "Pop" believers of the "with it" faith are interested in investigations sanctified by the news media and Hollywood. But to the few Catholics unafraid of the uncomfortable realization that the loudest voice is not the truest one I strongly recommend the following: The Plot Against The Church, available for \$6 from The Christian Book Club of America, Box 638, Hawthorne, Calif. 90250.

Michael Hoffman
White Springs Road
Geneva, N.Y.

'Chaff' Gone, Let's Move

Editor:

Re: On the Right Side by Father Cuddy. No you don't exaggerate when you say, "Read a list of the ultra-liberals of a decade ago and your heart will weep." This concerning Cogley, Shannon, McCormack et al. who quit the Church. Best thing that has ever happened! The chaff has been separated from the wheat. The dead elms have been uprooted. What remains are the stalwarts. The men have been separated from the boys—the girls from the women. This is a new decade and I don't weep—I rejoice! The mixed-up people got out. I see nothing but great strength, dedication and responsibility among the men and women who are still with us. I see great strength among those yet to come. Thanks to the "dead wood" we now can move in a responsible direction.

Clarence J. Styza
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Brookport, New York

Opinions to the editor should be addressed: Letter to the Editor, Courier-Journal, Richford Building, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. They should be no longer than 1-1/2 pages, typed double-spaced. Names and addresses should be included. The paper reserves the right to edit all letters.