

# Priests Council Votes To Expand Membership

The constitutions for both the Priests Council and the emerging Pastoral Council were scrutinized by the members of the Priests Council at their Oct. 1 meeting at Becket Hall.

With discussion centering primarily on the article concerning membership, the priests approved their constitution and voted that it be sent to all the priests in the diocese for approval.

At the November meeting "pertinent by-laws" of the constitution will be discussed, said Father Richard Torrey, council vice-president and chairman of the constitution committee.

Under the new constitution, the membership of the council has been increased from 20 to 24. In a 13-2 vote the priests approved the amendment to Article II, section 1A suggested by Father John Mulligan. The 24 members shall comprise: ten age block representatives, ten regional representatives and four religious who are directly elected by the proportionate block of religious priests whom they represent."

The membership from the age blocks has been decreased from 12 to ten, while the membership from the regions has been increased from six to ten. Five of the regional representatives will

be from Monroe County. The number of religious order representatives was increased from two to four.

The priests also voted that all order priests elected to the council must be "assigned and residing within the boundaries of the diocese for the exercise of their apostolate."

Commendation was given to the members of the Pastoral Council Formation committee for their work on their constitution, which has undergone "comprehensive revision" since its original draft in 1973. Joseph Mercier of the pastoral council formation committee fielded questions from the priests, who were asked to approve the constitution in its "conceptual sense."

Major changes in the constitution included an expansion of the nature and purpose of the council as "consultative." Consultative implies that the group's advice must be sought by the bishop, Mercier explained.

The constitution also expands the number of pastoral council members from 17 to between 52 and 57. Five priests and five sisters will be elected through procedures determined by their respective councils. Four youth members will be appointed by the bishop because of the difficulty of electing them, Mercier said.

The constitution will be sent to the other consultative groups in the decision-making process. All votes must be submitted by December.

Sister Mary Bonaventure R.S.M., inaugurator of the Sisters Maintenance Committee, presented two proposals concerning the continuation of the present lodging policy. They would include a fixed annual assessment on employers for the lodging of income-producing Sisters and the payment of costs for their ordinary transportation needs. The Priests Council added an amendment stating that any employer who does not house the Sister in his employ must be consulted about the assessment.

The amendment was added in March when the original proposal was brought to the council for affirmation. The new proposal was reaffirmed by a majority vote of 10-4-1.

The proposals state that \$600 be added to an income-producing Sister's salary to cover lodging costs, but where the situation is not standard, the amount is negotiable to \$480 per year. This amount would be paid to whoever provides the housing.

The maintenance policy must now get the approval of the Sisters Council, the interdepartmental staff, the Sisters of St. Joseph, the Sisters of Mercy and the school Sisters of Notre Dame before final ratification by the bishop.

Father Peter Bayer, director of the Office of Planning, introduced Dr. Felix M. Lopez, an organizational psychologist and consultant, who explained his diocesan goal-setting process to the council in a slide-tape presentation.

The council moved that further consideration of taking up the program in the diocese be tabled until the next meeting.

The council reviewed a report on the status of the permanent diaconate by Dr. William Sullivan. The problems of establishing the diaconate will be investigated by the council. These problems include the education of deacons, finances and the creation of full time or part time positions.



Anniversary Year

The year 1974 marks anniversaries for Mr. and Mrs. Arthur P.J. Heberle and their twin daughters, Sisters Mary Judith [I] and Rita. The parents celebrated their golden anniversary June 10 while Sister Judith, superior general of the Sisters of Mercy was honored Sept. 7 for her feast day and silver jubilee. Sister Rita, principal of St. Joseph's, Penfield, celebrated hers Oct. 6



Photo by Susan McKinney

Father Bayer and Lopez

## Their Goal: Goal-Setting

By MOLLY JUDGE

Dr. Felix M. Lopez, an organizational psychologist and consultant, explained the overall approach to a diocesan goal-setting program to the Priest Council members during their Oct. 1 meeting at Becket Hall.

Dr. Lopez was introduced to the council by Father Peter Bayer, director of the Office of Planning.

According to Dr. Lopez, the program, if instituted, would be spread over a three year period beginning in May 1975. The Diocesan Convocation and diocesan agencies would establish the purpose and goals of the diocese. Goals are usually in terms of five years and consist of

several smaller objectives leading up to the major goal. From September 1976 to June 1977, 10 prototype parishes would implement the goal program. If the program is successfully evaluated after a year, the program would open to all diocesan parishes.

"The Church in its present situation is dysfunctional. It needs a meaningful purpose and clear, concrete goals if it wants to continue and become a healthy, dynamic, viable organization," said Dr. Lopez.

The goals, based on current trends in the church, could consist of betterments in the liturgy, education and family life, for example. The development of a particular goal would involve the work of both lay and religious church members.

"Goals must be realistic targets for self-improvement of the parish which can be changed and modified if circumstances warrant such a change," said Dr. Lopez.

Dr. Lopez has developed goal programs successfully in the dioceses of Providence, R.I., Portland, Me. and Camden, N.J. He is presently working with dioceses in Erie and Harrisburg, Pa.

The average cost of Dr. Lopez's services is estimated between \$12,000 and \$15,000, depending on the time spent in the diocese.

According to Father Bayer, the funds for the program would be obtained from money already in the budget.

Voting by the council on the program was tabled until their meeting next month for further consideration and clarification.

## Unconditional Amnesty Urged

**Green Bay, Wis. [RNS] —** The Priests' Senate of the Green Bay Catholic diocese has passed a revised resolution calling for "immediate, universal, and unconditional amnesty because we value the need for reconciliation and the need for healing wounds."

The resolution says the senate will "encourage an intensive program of education" to "sensitize Catholics to the dimensions of the question of amnesty."

Father James Feely, president of the Priests' Senate, said the National Federation of Priests' Councils passed an amnesty resolution at its convention in March. He said this resolution was "adapted" by the local Priests' Senate after the group "hashed it over."

## WORD FOR SUNDAY

Father Albert Shamon

Sunday's Readings: (R1) 2 Kgs. 5: 14-17. (R2) 2 Tm. 2: 8-13. (R3) Lk. 17: 11-19.

Lepers have the stage this Sunday — Naaman, nine Jews, and an alien. In the movie, you who saw it, did not wince when Papillon came face to face with a leper — and arrested leprosy at that? Perhaps not even cancer can rival leprosy for sheer hideousness. Rightly, therefore, sin has been often likened to leprosy.

St. John Bosco, the founder of the original Boystown in Italy, had a dream one night (Dec. 6, 1876). In it he saw one of his boys who had died at the age of fourteen — Dominic Savio. Dominic is now a canonized saint. In this dream Bosco asked Dominic, "Are all the boys in my school on the right path of salvation?" Dominic gave Bosco two slips of paper: one slip had the names of those who would never fall from grace; the other slip had the names of those who would fall but would repent, confess, and be healed.

Dominic had a third slip which contained the names of those who were in God's disgrace. Bosco reached for the slip to discover who these boys were that he might help them. Dominic, however, warned Bosco that if he opened this slip such a stench would be emitted that neither one of them could stand it. Bosco insisted. He took the slip. Dominic fled away, and Bosco opened it. "I saw all the boys listed in it," wrote Bosco. "Most of them I knew. But as I unfolded the paper an unbearable stench was released. I got violently ill and thought I would die. When I awoke from the dream, the stench had penetrated the walls, my clothing so that I could smell it for days. Even to recall that odor now nauseates and sickens me."

If the names of sinners are so foul to God, what a stench must rise from this earth from the leprosy of sin! **The great tragedy of the world today is that its concern is with ecological pollution; whereas it is not only indifferent to moral pollution, but actually condones and encourages it.** Within the last month three incidents occurred which evidence that state taxes are used to subsidize moral pollution under the aura of learning.

Syracuse University's Sol Gordon at the New York State Fair was dumping such garbage into the minds of the young as this:

"There is no harm in masturbation no matter how often you do it."

"A few homosexual experiences don't mean you will become a homosexual." "Pornography is harmless." "Having an abortion is more normal than having an unwanted baby." "Advice for girls: No sex with a guy without reliable birth control." (Gordon, *Zing Comix*).

Cornell University's Professor Eleanor Macklin avers "Campus Cohabitation seen here to stay." One third of Cornell's undergraduates cohabit, says the renowned professor approvingly. Cohabitation is defined as sharing a bedroom and/or bed with someone of the opposite sex four or more nights a week for three or more consecutive months without being married.

Now mind you, the august professor also states that the problem in this matter is parents: they are opposed to cohabitation. Imagine! Undaunted by this opposition, the renowned professor concludes, "Parents might just as well get used to it. It's happening not only in Cornell, but City College of New York, Arizona, California, Pennsylvania and many other state universities."

A third item appeared in papers recently (9/21/74) about a textbook controversy. It seems parents protested the purchase of one half million dollars of textbooks for the school system of Charleston, West Virginia. The books simply generated doubts about God, the historicity of the Bible, moral and pro-American attitudes. They offered such paragonis of English writing as activist Eldridge Cleaver and shameless Allen Ginsberg. Just two lines from a Ginsberg story in these texts to show how uplifting his rot is — "A tall, red-headed chick. She had been mainly a whore, actually with expensive Johns, who would pay a hundred dollars a shot. And she was a very lively chick, who took a lot of pot." ("Pot" rhymes with "shot" so, I suppose, that makes it poetical prose.)

Good God, how long shall the patience of the common-sense of Americans be abused! Lepers got me into this diatribe. Who will deliver us from this moral stench smothering our youth? Who cured the leprosy of Naaman? Who cured the ten lepers?