



Fathers Wainwright, McGoldrick and Gordinier celebrate the Eucharist.

## A Parish Experiences Its Unity



Father McGoldrick

Julia Catan thinks it's "what the world really needs. It took a little while to get used to," she says, "but it's just beautiful. It's really going to add a lot to our parish as a community."

Mrs. Catan and her husband Paul were recent participants in a unique parish retreat program called Movement for a Better World (MBW).

The retreat, held at St. Joseph's Church in Penfield, drew together more than 130 persons from the parish for a week of prayer and dialog.



Sister Rosalinda

MBW was founded in Italy by Father Riccardo Lombardi, S.J. Shortly before the outbreak of World War II, Father Lombardi began to preach what he called a Crusade of Love. His intention was to overcome what he perceived as tearing the continent apart: internal national divisions and communism.

After the war, with the blessing of Pope Pius XII, Father Lombardi began his Movement for a Better World. Subsequent pontiffs have all given their approval to the movement.



Sister Gemma

Pope Paul has said, "It seems that the movement interprets the genius of our times, i.e., to tend toward progress, to tend toward overcoming, to tend toward something more."

At the center of the program is the MBW team. St. Joseph's team included Father Josh McGoldrick, Sister Gemma and Sister Rosalinda. Father McGoldrick noted that the team is intervocational and that usually a layman would be included, but scheduling precluded the presence of one in Penfield.

Sister Gemma noted that the program attempts to create community. She cited the prayer of Jesus in the Gospel of St. John "That they all may be one, Father, as you in me and I in you. That they also may be one in us," as the heart of the message MBW preaches.

The principal technique used by the team is dialog. "To bring out the unity that exists within diversity," she said.

Sister Rosalinda added that the participants are urged to take

on "coresponsibility" for their parish, "to see that they are responsible to build up unity."

MBW is different from other retreat programs, Sister Gemma noted in that the movement "comes into the community setting," rather than requiring retreatants to leave their community for spiritual renewal.

The program is divided into three general phases. First, a theological basis for renewal is laid. Second, participants are urged to accept the need for personal renewal; and third, plans of action for building unity are set into motion.

According to Father McGoldrick, within this framework "the retreat builds. There's no way of telling who will play what roles. What happens — happens."

A major point stressed at St. Joseph's was that the Church, as the Body of Christ, is a sacrament of unity, the team noted.

They recalled instances where MBW has moved into a parish



James Cassano, Claire Gerber, Paul Catan, Beverly Stutzman and Deacon Thomas Mull demonstrate some of the newer retreat techniques.



Bernard Stukas, Julia Catan, Paul Catan and Andrew Yesul dig in to the Sunday evening meal.

Photos by Susan McKinney  
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