

The Challenge Of Lent 1975

My dear People,

Lent 1975 will be upon us next week with its insistent call to conversion and reconciliation. It is our challenge to stop and ask ourselves, especially during this Holy Year, what, honestly, are the implications of this call for each of us.

We must be aware that the political intrigue, military violence and economic greed which we have all witnessed in recent months spring from a warped value system that affects not only our public and international leaders but all of us. Daily, we see more clearly in our streets and on our television sets how we are influenced by this value system. It pervades the whole texture of our American way of life. I have already written about this threat in my Pastoral Perspective column in the Courier-Journal of Sept. 19, 1973, entitled, "The Draining of America."

The challenge of Lent, the challenge to "change our lives," is much needed in this world of 1975 which cries out for healing. The traditional Lenten duties of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, are essential if we are to accept the challenge seriously.

May I ask you to consider with me these important ingredients for a profitable Lent:

I Prayer. Prayer encourages us to stop and look. We look at the Lord and the values of His gospel. We look at ourselves and our values. In our confused and pressured world it is impossible to keep our vision clear if we do not keep in touch with our God through prayer and reflection.

II Fasting. We have to continually remind ourselves that we in the United States, who constitute only 6% of the world's population, consume 40% of the world's goods and resources. In this time of crisis in world hunger, fasting should be a way, not only of disciplining ourselves to use less, but of uniting ourselves in spirit with our suffering brothers and sisters. At our November Conference, my fellow Bishops made a resolution to fast at least two days a week. I urge you to join us in this fasting during this Lenten time.

III Almsgiving. Everything that we have has been given to us by our Creator. To realize this is to know that we are all equally poor before Him, and that we all need to share our gifts with one another. Especially during this time of renewal, as we struggle to work together on parish councils and committees, we need to know how to share our best qualities with one another — not only our money, but our skills, our talents, and our personal gifts.

As we begin this Lenten season together, let us recall what Archbishop Helder Camara spoke to his people in Recife, Brazil when he first joined them as their leader: "I pray that we be given grace to read rightly the signs of the times, to keep up with events, to fall in with God's plans the more we advance in material progress, the more we need a strong, enlightened faith to build a new world."

Lent is the time to strengthen our faith for our task of building a strong and faithful community of believers whose light will shine out to all men of good will.

With every best with I remain

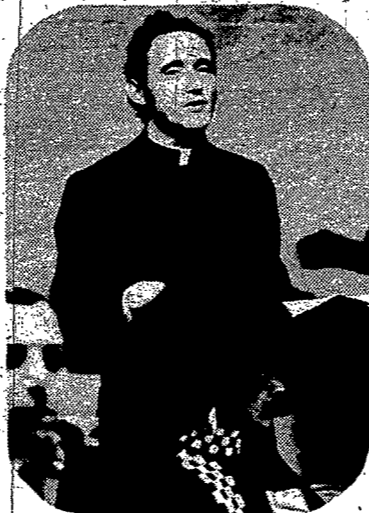
Devotedly yours in Christ,

Joseph L. Hogan

†Most Reverend Joseph L. Hogan, D.D.
Bishop of Rochester

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Photos by Bruce Genut

Father Brent, diocesan superintendent of schools, talks at meeting with CICIP. In foreground are CICIP officials Father Anthony Valente and Mrs. Patricia Walker. At right, part of the crowd at the informational meeting hear of financial bind.

CICP: 1-School System?

The Council of Inner City Parishes School System, already reduced to three schools, probably will be forced by poor finances into a one-school system for the 1975-76 school year. The original six-school system already has seen the closing of St. Francis Xavier and St. Bridget's. Immaculate Conception is scheduled to close in June.

At an informational meeting last Friday night at St. Michael's, an ad hoc committee appointed by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan told the CICIP that it recommends a one-school, 300-pupil system for next school year.

Father Daniel Brent, diocesan superintendent of schools; Father Douglas Hoffman, director of Pastoral Ministry, and Father Charles Mulligan, director of Human Development, presented a report prepared by the staff at the Pastoral Center to the CICIP executive committee at a public meeting attended by about 100 teachers, parents and parish priests.

Father Brent used charts comparing projected income and costs to make the point that lack of finances made even two schools "not realistic," not even mentioning as a possibility continuing the present three-school system. Until just two weeks ago, there were four schools in CICIP but Immaculate Conception has already decided to close its school. St. Bridget's closed last year.

The diocesan charts predicted that even under the most optimistic projections, the CICIP could only hope to raise \$338,000 and that after subtracting the \$75,000 debt that would leave just \$263,000. These figures include a \$65,000 grant from the Marie C. and Joseph C. Wilson Foundation which will be jeopardized if there is any change either in the number of schools or number of pupils.

Father Brent also showed diocesan figures showing that it would take \$274,639 to run a two-school system, making it financially unfeasible. The diocesan report said that a one-school system, accommodating 300 pupils would cost \$189,876 and is possible.

Further complicating the financial picture, however, the committee said that the diocesan commitment of \$200,000 which provides most of the CICIP income, might not be forthcoming. Father Mulligan said that CICIP parishes must contribute \$30,000 to show their commitment in order for the diocese to continue its annual payment.

He revealed that four parishes

have already reported that they cannot afford any contribution — Holy Redeemer, St. Bridget's, St. Francis, and St. Michael's. It was revealed that the St. Michael's Parish Council has voted to reject even the one-school plan because the expense would prevent the CICIP from developing other inner city ministries.

The diocesan report, declaring that "every effort should be made to retain some presence of Catholic school education in the inner city," recommended the one-school, 300-pupil system as the way to do it.

Presently there are 750 pupils in CICIP schools at Holy Redeemer, St. Michael's, and Mount Carmel.

"Our recommendation is that an admissions committee be established to work out an allocation of places in the school for each CICIP parish. This allocation would be based on considerations of the percentage of students now in the system from each parish and of the equity involved for St. Francis Xavier and St. Bridget's whose

building have already been closed."

As criteria for admission, the report suggested three considerations: 1. need (financial and educational); 2. parent support (involvement in school activities), and 3. religious commitment.

The report made no recommendation as to site but recommended a committee be formed to choose a building with criteria being availability of the facility; adaptability of the facility to an educational program; overall condition of the facility; accessibility to the students to be served; accessibility to various community instructional resources; visibility as a Church service to the poor.

While the Friday night meeting was calm there nonetheless was strong criticism of the diocesan plan.

A member of the CICIP executive committee said that the one-school plan was "tokenism." Another said that the \$200,000 annual diocesan

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Fr. Margrett Dies, 50 Years a Priest

The Mass of Christian Burial for Father J. Norman Margrett was celebrated this morning at St. Ambrose Church by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan.

Father Margrett, 50 years a priest, died Sunday, Feb. 2, 1975, at St. Ann's Home, where he had lived for the past few years.

Father Herbert Sturmer of Cohocton gave the homily at the funeral Mass. Bishop Dennis W. Hickey celebrated the Mass of the High Priest last night at St. Ambrose.

Father Margrett was pastor of St. Patrick's, Cato, from 1937 until 1944, and then of Holy Angels, Nunda while at Cato, he formed St. Mary Magdalen parish in Wolcott, and built a church

He stepped down from the pastorate of Holy Angels in 1957, thereafter serving as assistant at two Rochester parishes, Immaculate Conception and St. Ambrose; as chaplain at the infirmary of the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, and as assistant at St. Joseph's Wayland. He retired in 1970.

His early assignments were at Holy Cross, Rochester; St. Patrick's, Mt. Morris; St. Joseph's, Livonia; St. Mary's, Auburn; St.

Agnes, Avon, as administrator, and St. Mary's, Rochester.

He was born in Rochester March 5, 1900, attended Blessed Sacrament School and the diocesan seminaries and was ordained June 7, 1924.

Father Margrett's interest in public celebrations on his own behalf was minimal, even before his retirement. In answer to a Courier-Journal query as to his 40th anniversary plans, in 1964, he wrote that he had no plans. "I had a big party for my 35th," he explained.

He added that if the Courier needed his photograph probably it could be found in the files "I had it taken some eight or nine years ago," he said, "and that is recent enough, I am sure."

When his Golden Jubilee came around last June, he planned to say Mass at St. Ann's for his relatives, and perhaps have a luncheon party on June 9. A few days before that, however, he fell, breaking a hip.

Survivors are a brother and three sisters, Raymond Margrett, Mrs. Catherine Nicolas, Sister Margaret Joseph, SSJ, and Mrs. Andrew (Helen) Peer of Atlantic Highlands, N.J.; also, several nieces and nephews.