

Long Range Needs Of Ministry Aired At Priests Council

By JOHN DASH

In the last meeting of the Priests Council until September, held last week at Becket Hall, delegates heard a progress report on Study B1, a project of the Long Range Ministerial Needs Committee (LRMNC) which is attempting to study the effectiveness of parish ministries and special ministries in the diocese.

The delegates were presented Chapter Five of Study B1 by a team of Fathers Sebastian Falcone, Daniel Brent and Peter Bayer, members of the LRMNC.

The chapter consists of a number of recommendations designed to make parish staffs more effective in ministry.

The recommendations are based on a study completed about a year ago, Father Brent said. The study consisted of finding out who does a specific job, who ought to do it, and how

personally satisfied the worker, is with his duties.

The sense of the study, Father Sebastian noted, seems to be a basic concern for increasing the quality of impact of the parish ministry.

He noted that there seems to be, though no statistical data is presently at hand, an "over-extension" on the part of parish personnel.

Overall, he said, the committee has the impression that there is a need for a "general ministry" but there also is a need for a "very clear definition" of the several ministries a parish may be doing.

He said that parishes should develop "specific duties" rather than allow a "haphazard redistribution of the work load," when new staffers are added.

The committee presented three overarching recommendations. The report reads:

*Because role clarification, job descriptions, delegation and supportive styles have emerged as important elements in parish staff development, the LRMNC recommends: (1) Appropriate workshops and seminars ought to be provided on a regular basis in various parts of the diocese to assist parish staffs in this area.

*Because parish staff development is a long range project, it is further recommended that: (2) Some diocesan agency should be given the responsibility for gathering available materials, channeling available information and guidance, and sponsoring the programs called for in the previous recommendation.

*Because the instruments used in this survey have not been administered beyond the purpose of this survey, the LRMNC also recommends that: (3) Parish staffs throughout the diocese should be invited to use the original survey instruments as a

starting point for analyzing their own particular involvement, possible re-alignment of ministry tasks, levels of satisfaction, and time investments, all in the interest of more effective ministry.

The committee also requested of the council that it be allowed to pursue a Study C, described by Father Brent as a "blue sky" study which would project its findings well into the future.

The committee further requested that the committee itself be restructured, (a request which was approved) to include representatives from the Sisters Council and Diocesan Pastoral Council. "I guess we want the commission to become an inter-committee committee — God

help us," Father Brent said, burying his face in his hands.

Other business of the council included a report on the state of the Rochester mission of San Jose Obrero in La Paz, Bolivia. Father James Marvin, president of the council, gave the report based on a recent trip there. He made a personal plea for the re-establishment of Rochester personnel in the parish, which was transferred to lay control a year ago.

Father James Hewes reported on a recent conference on abortion and Father Ronald Stacey reported on priorities in the area of social action issued by the Priests Councils of New York State.

ON THE RIGHT SIDE



Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

Are the Irish keeping the Faith? Some are. Some are not. I have an uneasy feeling that the Irish radio tends to under rate the Church. Consequently for 18 months I have quietly worked to get the Archbishop Sheen conferences edited and broadcast over the Radio Eireann. Why? Because in our diocese of Rochester many Catholics have quit going to Mass, thinking that the Church is not the Church of their baptism. After hearing the Sheen tapes, many have had their Faith rekindled, and have returned to Mass. If so in our diocese, why not equally so in Ireland?

An OTRSide article about this hope stirred the interest of Mrs. Colette Martin of Holy Cross parish, Rochester. She wrote: "I have a cousin, Father Desmond Forrestal, in Dublin who is in communications. He might be able to help." Later she wrote: "My sister, Mrs. Brendan Houlihan and her family live in Dublin. If you have time, do call on them." Through an incredible event of Providence, I ran into Colette's sister and her husband Brendan, in front of our Burlington Hotel. Brendan taught in McQuaid High in 1959. He now teaches Gaelic at Maynooth Seminary. With them were Rochesterians Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Brennan, whose brother is Father Thomas Brennan of Corning. We spent the evening in the hotel lounge, but first phoned Father Forrestal about the tapes. "I will leave a set of Sheen tapes with Mrs. Houlihan for you. Will you please listen to them; edit them and if possible get them on the Irish radio?"

Mount Melleray. Among our pilgrims were Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester McGinley, whose brother, Abbot Gerard, founded our Trappist Abbey at Piffard near Geneseo. So I spoke to Paddy Somers, our very considerate guide. Paddy, after touring Waterford Glass Works we go through Dungarvan. That's near Mount Melleray. Could you drive us there?"

"Of course, Father. It will be a treat for me. My wife, Nancy, and I stopped there on our honeymoon 20 years ago." From Waterford he phoned the abbey, arranged for me to celebrate Mass. We had Mass in the

People's Chapel at 2 in the afternoon; then looked around the monastery and grounds where a bus load of children were cavorting about on holiday with some nuns. Our tongues were hanging out since it was near three o'clock; but not a sip of tea did we get. The Brother said: "Had we known you were coming we would have prepared for you; but we are not prepared for such a crowd." There are nearly 100 Trappist monks at Melleray. We stopped at Lawlor's Hotel in Dungarvan for sandwiches and tea. Then on to Killarney.

Killarney This city of some 5,000 people in County Kerry is a tourist center because of the Lakes of Killarney. Most tourists take the day-long drive, called The Ring of Kerry, around the lakes. However two of our party stayed to relax for the day at the comfortable Great Southern Hotel; and so did I. About 3 p.m. I walked to the Cathedral; but was more interested in a school next to it, run by the Presentation Sisters. The principal is a fortyish Sister Bride, a nun of great poise, intelligence and simplicity. From the reactions of the children and the other Sisters, she is greatly esteemed. Sister Bride introduced me to three high school classes. The biology students were dissecting an animal, amid giggles and wrinkled noses. The girls were well-mannered and quite at ease. It would seem to be Ireland would be a good place for a man to find a wife. Then Sister Bride brought me to the convent: to their devotional chapel, and to the dining room for the inevitable cup of tea. It was about 4 p.m. There are 24 Sisters there and a dozen joined me for tea, chirping away as cheerful Sisters do in recreation. Most Irish Sisters have not cast off the religious habit.

Our people returned from the ring about 5 p.m. They washed, relaxed, and we had dinner together about 7 p.m. Then nearly all went off, under Paddy's guidance, to a famous pub, the Laurels, to experience one side of Irish social life. As a man possessed with one idea I returned to the convent with my last set of Sheen tapes. (Father Forrestal had one. Frank Moore, at VERITAS, Dublin, had four. Two sets are with the Society of the Divine Word Fathers, and with Rose Brown, a friend of the Sisters of the Cenacle, in Rome.) On June 5 I wrote: "Dear Sister Bride, A special reason for my repeated returnings to Ireland is to introduce the Archbishop Sheen conferences to Ireland; and hopefully to get them on Radio Eireann. I had intended to give the tapes to the Franciscan Friars, but am pleased that your Sisters have them. Please give them the widest circulation"

Anyone wishing a set of Sheen Cassette Tapes, please send a check for \$20.25 to me at Holy Trinity Church, Webster, N.Y. 14580

Business In The Diocese



Sister DeChantal, administrator and chairman of the Board of Directors of St. Mary's Hospital, today announced the appointment of William D. McGrath (left) and Victor J. Tofany, M.D. to the Board of Directors. McGrath is the first business man and community representative to be appointed to the Board and Dr. Tofany is the first physician to be appointed.

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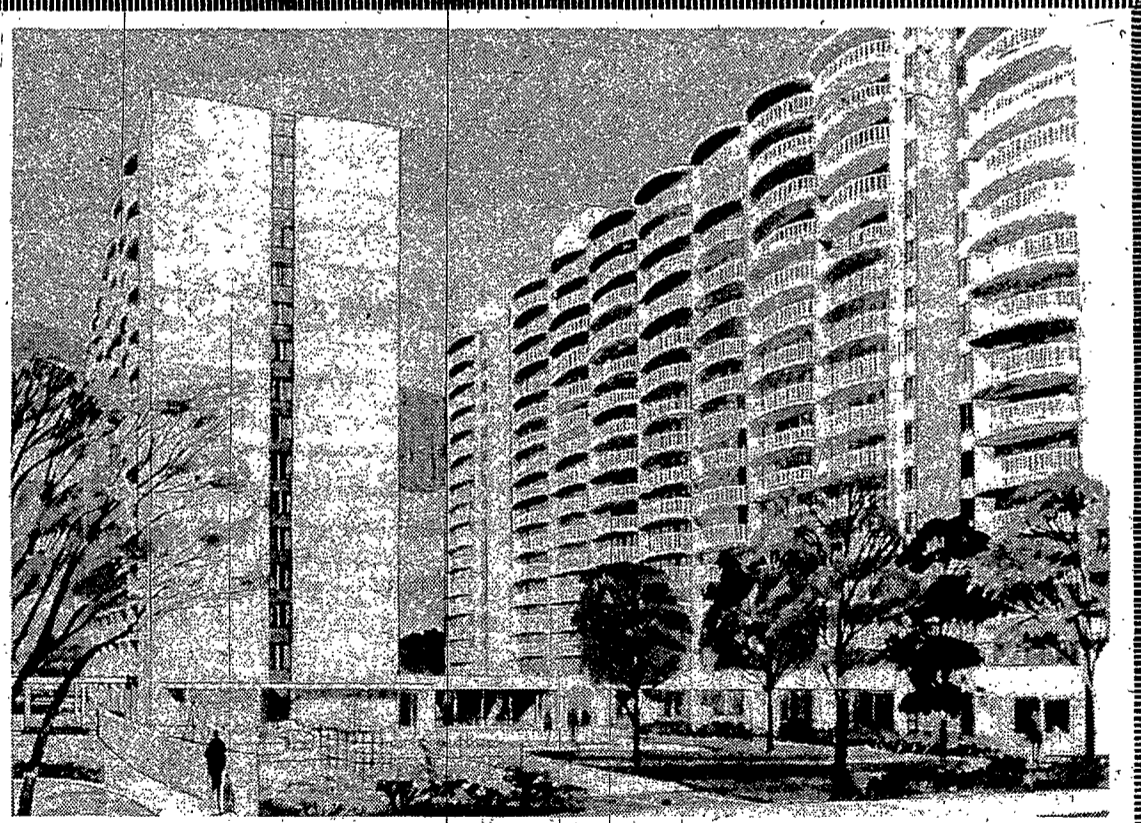
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