

Priests Council to Begin Action on New Programs

By JOHN DASH

Last week's Priests Council Meeting saw the inauguration of several new programs which are expected to have a wide-ranging impact on the life of the diocese.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan announced that he had approved "as of this hour" a proposal submitted to him by the Diocesan Sisters Council on sisters' living needs.

That proposal incorporates a salary increase, a lodging allowance from "employers" who do not provide housing and a provision for transportation needs.

The bishop, in announcing his approval, called for two priests from the council to work on a task force which will determine both the annual salary increase and the maximum lodging allowance.

The bishop also announced the imminent publication of a major pastoral work, Pastoral Directions, "which represents a summary of things I have written and spoken about in my six years as Ordinary."

(The document was presented to members of the bishop's staff last Thursday. It will be published in the Dec. 17 issue of the Courier-Journal.)

The bishop expects the paper to be used in the goal planning process under way in the diocese.

In addition, the bishop an-

nounced that he had called for a re-designing of the planning process. The new process, he said, requires a Ministerial Review Committee to work with him from January 1976 through June 1977 (when the committee's work will be turned over to the Diocesan Pastoral Council).

Bishop Hogan called for the presence of two priests from the council on the committee. The purpose of the committee will be "to work along with me, using consensus as a basis, as field advisers in reviewing the goals and objectives of the departments."

Among the committee's specific duties will be to review "scopes of accountability" among the departments, review goals and objectives and make recommendations on major budget commitments.

"You know that I am committed to have a planning process work," the bishop told the council. "You know from the mandate of the Ministerial Review Committee that I want consensus in the process. I am looking for your cooperation. We cannot have consensus without your valuable participation."

In his exhortation, the bishop referred to the variety of objections raised during past Priests Council meetings over the Lopez planning system — objections which eventually resulted in the death of one phase of that program.

The bishop noted that the priests' earlier objections to the program had been met in that the review committee would have no staff members on it, and the time expectations had been reduced. He said he would be present at the meetings.

The bishop quipped that he wanted the Courier-Journal headline on the story recounting the council's deliberation to read: Priests Council Says Yes. The council will move on the bishop's request at the January meeting.

In council action, following a lively debate, a presentation by

Sister Judith Keger, and a compromise amendment, the priests voted to accept a listing of Minimum Sacramental Standards for Nursing Home Ministry, prepared by the nursing home task force.

The amendment to the standards reduced the expectation of celebrating Mass in the nursing home from twice a month to once a month.

In almost unanimous action, the priests also approved that the Priest's Personnel Board should commission a task force to develop an updated and enlarged personality and aptitude profile for each priest; an outline for self-evaluation for each priest; an outline for parish profiles.

The proposal was made by the Joint Committee on Personnel Procedures. A second proposal from the group, dealing with local and foreign missions, was tabled.

Mass stipends also drew the attention of the priests at the meeting. A vote of ten ayes, six nays, and five abstentions passed a resolution that the council's finance committee initiate a study of whether "priests' incomes should be separated from the acts of their ministry, especially sacramental." A report on the issue is expected in March.

Other business included a report from Father Donald Schwab on the SALT program and its relationship to both the priest intern program and deacon intern program in the diocese.

Father Schwab, an intern himself, acknowledged difficulties with an evaluative tool which he had helped to draw up, but was able to identify several areas of concern in the working of the programs. He noted that the relationship between the internship programs and seminary training was unclear in the minds of participants, especially in regard to assignment procedures.

He noted that concern had been voiced over setting up an evaluation procedure at the end of the internship. He said participants wanted the Personnel Board to have a role in the process.

Knights Council Gives Aid to Various Causes

The Pope Pius XII Council 4691 of the Knights of Columbus held their Christmas dinner Saturday, Dec. 6, at Christ the King parish hall. Awards were given to five charities, including a \$100 check to the Courier-Journal Christmas Fund.

Bernie Bromka, grand knight, also handed checks to Bishop Kearney High School, Becket Hall, Holy Childhood and the Teen Seminar.

Brother Edward Connors, CFC,

accepted a \$500 award to be used as a full scholarship at Bishop Kearney for a student who couldn't afford to go otherwise. Rev. Mr. Thomas Valenti received two checks; one for Becket Hall, for a deserving seminarian, and one for the Teen Seminar. The latter will be used to send needy young people to the Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua. A \$200 award was also given to the School of Holy Childhood for their work with exceptional children.

DPC

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for handicapped persons' access to church buildings. The council endorsed the idea.

Each of the five standing committees reported on their progress. They are continuing the process of goal review, contemplating the rewriting and addition of new goals, and working on plans for implementation.

After the reports, Father Hoffman, director of Pastoral Ministry, pointed out that the DPC is consultative body, and the implementation of the goals is up to the staff of the diocese. He also was concerned that the committees were getting too

involved in review of the tentative goals, and were not moving on to plans for their implementation.

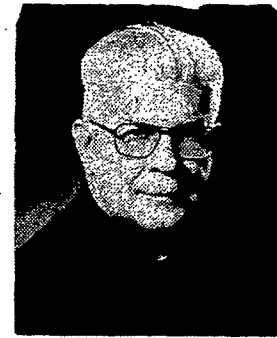
Procedural items continually caused problems, such questions were part of every discussion. An attempt to solve the problem was offered — a task force dealing with DPC procedures. The motion was passed.

During an open forum at the end of the meeting the procedural issue resurfaced. One member said he felt that the meeting needed a parliamentary, and some question was made about the necessity for the council to always reach a consensus.

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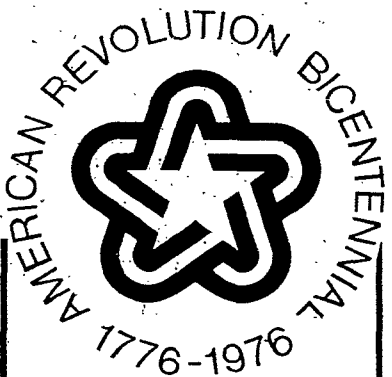
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Your Heritage

Dec. 15, 1791. The "Bill of Rights" — the first ten amendments to the American Constitution — goes into effect. Several of the original States enacted "bills of rights" in their state constitutions. This was in keeping with English legal tradition; and the Continental Congress, sitting in 1774, had of course declared the Colonies' rights in the face of their curtailment by the British government. Although a federal Bill of Rights was not included in the original Constitution in 1787, Congress decided to provide one in 1789, at the request of a number of the states.

The Bill of Rights appeared in the form of the first ten amendments to the Constitution. Through it the people of the United States were guaranteed protection from various types of legal political and social oppression. Amendment I completed the Constitution's statement regarding religious liberty. Article VI of the Constitution itself had said "No religious test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office of public Trust in the United States." Amendment I now declared, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

— Rochester Diocesan Bicentennial Commission.