

Priests Council Wide Range of Topics

Following a month's "break" the Priests Council sat in session last week at Becket Hall and considered questions of the establishment of a new office of social ministry, health insurance, finance, personnel procedures and women's ordination.

A meeting which in the normal course would have been held in April was cancelled for lack of agenda items.

In one of the more unusual occurrences at the council session, time was set aside to provide an open forum for priests to question the impending (June 17) shift in diocesan health insurance companies.

At its March session, the Priests Council approved a recommendation that, if all pertinent parties agreed, the diocese would contract with Wausau for health coverage and cancel the 40-year-old contract with Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

Representatives from both corporations were present at the meeting last week to serve the forum which was open to all priests whether or not they sat in council.

The shift has been a source of controversy in several parts of the diocese and the priests spoke to the questions raised in their areas.

Informational meetings on

Wausau coverage are taking place throughout the diocese.

Because of the Spring meeting of bishops in Chicago, neither the bishops nor Father James Marvin, president of the Priests Council, were in attendance at last week's meeting.

In their absence, Father James Lawlor, vice president, read to the council a letter from Bishop Joseph L. Hogan outlining a new office for social ministry in the diocese and naming Office of Human Development head Father Charles Mulligan to direct it.

The appointment becomes effective Jan. 1, 1977.

The priests also heard good financial news at the meeting. If the diocesan Office of Fund Development meets its own expectations, the diocese will be in the black by \$186,029 at the end of fiscal year 1976-1977.

James Noonan, administrative assistant to Bishop Hogan, presented the budget to the priests and said that a projected income of \$400,000 from Fund Development would mean there would be no increase in parish assessments for the year.

Father James Boyle presented a progress report on the work of the Personnel Procedures Committee.

Among the items in his report was the announcement that in June, 50 priests of the diocese, including interns, co-pastors and volunteers, will receive a package of evaluation material.

Part of the package is a self-evaluation form which the priest himself will fill out. Also included are evaluative forms to be filled out by five of his acquaintances, and returned directly to the personnel board.

The council also heard a report from Sister Mary Jane Mitchell and Ada Isasi-Diaz on the Rochester Regional Task Force on Women. The organization, Ms. Diaz noted, is an outgrowth of a Detroit conference held last November on the ordination of women. She gave the priests a brief history of the progress of the movement for ordaining women during the past five years.

"The group, she said, sees women's ordination as a fundamental issue for the Church" and not merely as a women's issue.

A paper distributed to the priests said that the purpose of the local organization is to strive for the reinterpretation of ministry in the Church community and to work for the full participation of women (both lay women and sisters) in the Church community at all levels.

The task force is presently composed of five lay women, five sisters and three priests.



Joseph Neiman making a point to the Diocese's religious educators.



Photos by Susan McKinney



Educators Advised To Be Amateurs

By MARTIN TOOMBS

Parish religious education coordinators should be "professing amateurs" who are competent, but not professional, according to Joseph Neiman, a nationally known specialist in the field. Speaking May 5 to 50 religious educators from throughout the diocese, Neiman defined "professing amateur" as one who professes the faith and is dedicated to the education of others in the faith.

He explained his emphasis on amateur by noting that professionals tend to become "high status" persons who may become withdrawn from the needs of the people they are supposed to be serving. He prefers to describe religious coordinators as ministers, charged with ministering to the needs of others.

"The power of ministry comes from the spirit" and not from the existence of a profession, he said.

Religious education therefore should be run by dedicated, rather than professional, people.

Discussing the administration of religious education programs, Neiman called for priorities determined through faith and a sincere interest in the goal. Financial and other related questions should be addressed from the perspective of their effect on the program's teaching potential, he said.

Capitol Letters

As the State Legislature approaches the end of this session, many bills will be acted upon. We must remember that we are very much a part of this legislative process and must continue to make our voices heard. One bill that needs your immediate support is A 9313 Prohibition of Abortion on Minors Without Parental Consent.

Right now in New York State, abortions are being performed on teenagers without the knowledge of their parents. A girl under 18 needs parental permission to have her ears pierced but not to have an abortion. Children are being taken out of school, abortions are being performed on them and parents are left to cope with their physical and mental problems.

In December, 1974, the N.Y. DAILY NEWS ran a series of signed articles called "Sex and the Teenager" (Dec. 1-5). One of these articles reports a school teacher who arranged an abortion for one of her students. The teacher made the appointment at a nearby Planned Parenthood Clinic, drove

her to the clinic, and wrote a written excuse to be absent from class so that the girl's parents would not find out about the abortion (12-4-74, p. 58). So, neither the school nor the parents know where the girl is or what's done to her. Only the teacher knows! (I personally know that this is not an isolated incident).

Through a present legal loophole, teenaged girls are consumers of profiteering abortionists, and abortion counselors and abortionists are insulated from legal accountability. This important bill will plug this shocking loophole. Although we do not condone abortion, we must act against glaring abuses in the abortion laws.

Write your assemblyman and if you have already written, please write again, urging immediate action to get A 9313 out of the Health Committee and into the Assembly for a "yes" vote. All Assemblymen, Legislative Office Building, Albany, N.Y. 12244.

Compiled by Jeanne D. Sweeney

Nazareth College To Graduate Record Number

Dr. Alice L. Foley will preside over her final commencement ceremony as president of Nazareth College Sunday, May 16, as a record number of 674 graduates receive degrees. The college's 49th annual commencement exercises will begin at Noon on the East lawn of the campus.

Dr. Foley will retire July 1. Her successor will be Robert A. Kidera, president of Sacred Heart University in Bridgeport, Conn.

The record number of graduates, up 143 from last year's previous high of 531, includes the first men graduates to have spent their entire undergraduate careers at Nazareth — Ernest Escell, Glenn Buck, Leo Williams, Gary Besigel, Charles Ciruolo, and Warren Riter. They will be part of a group of 267 who will receive baccalaureate degrees. Master of Science degrees will be awarded to 407 men and women.



Auburn Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop at Holy Family parish in Auburn opened recently in the former school building to provide a source of additional income for the parish while recycling clean and stylish clothing for bargain hunters. The shop is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Clothing may be donated anytime. From left are Zella Bouley, volunteer worker, Joan Ringwood, shop coordinator, and Edie Shippey, customer.

Hit the Road
This Summer
With Your Own
Camper, Trailer or Motorhome from

**Vandermolen
Sales, Inc.**
Route 21, North Palmyra — 596-5388

- TENT TRAILERS
- TRAVEL TRAILERS
- TRUCK CAMPERS

- TRUCK COVERS
- MINI MOTORHOMES
- 5th WHEEL TRAILERS



ALL FAMOUS NAME BRANDS

- BLAZON
- JAYCO
- HONEY
- AMDAS
- SUNLINE
- NOMAD

See them on display at our
SALES & SERVICE
Facility

When You Buy Charmglow... You Buy The Finest
You Can
Grill, Barbeque
Roast & Bake
Outdoors With
Charmglow

\$109.95

Complete
Free delivery and assembly
within Monroe County.
Ask about our
installation service

*We Have Permanent Coals For All
Gas & Electric Grills And Accessories*

K&M INSTALLATION
CORP.

306 NORTON ST. 2 blocks west of Silver Stadium at the R.R. tracks 544-5770

We're Your Gas Grill Specialist
SALES-SERVICE-PARTS-INSTALLATION
Visit Our Showroom Mon. thru Sat. 9 to 5:30