

Change Method Of Levies, Unit Asks Pure Waters

By MARTIN TOOMBS

A change in the method of levying Pure Waters charges in Rochester has been recommended by a task force established by the County Legislature. Meeting June 9, the committee approved a proposal to the legislature that a charge based on square footage of the property be substituted for the charge now based on assessed valuation.

Pure Waters charges are assessed on all property, including that exempt from taxes. Assessments are high for churches, schools, and other institutions, such as the YMCA. As a result, the churches in the Rochester district pay Pure Waters an average of \$2,500 per year. In contrast, churches in suburban Pure Waters districts, where levying methods vary, pay an average of \$400 per year.

Presently, the Rochester district is the only one in Monroe County using assessments to calculate a portion of the Pure Waters rates. That method has received wide criticism and has been the cause of legal efforts and a payment boycott by some churches.

In March, the County Legislature commissioned the Pure Waters Task Force to examine the rate structure, seeking a more equitable method of raising funds for the \$700 million project. The proposal approved last week is the first from the task force.

If the legislature approves the

proposal, the new system would be in effect for 1977. Further studies are planned before rate structures are determined for following years.

The task force's proposal would continue the charge based on water consumption and calculate the other portion of the bill according to the square footage of the property. That will charge parking lots and other open areas for their use of the storm sewer system.

The proposal includes the use of different rates for commercial and non-commercial property. Tax exempt and public institutions have been included in the non-commercial category with the residential property at a lower rate. Under the plan, the charges to most tax-exempt institutions would decrease.

The task force had been moving toward the square footage method, according to Father Charles Bennett, pastor of Old St. Mary's in downtown Rochester and a member of the task force, as an acceptable interim rate structure that could solve many of the problems caused by the assessed valuation charges.

He noted that the task force approved the concept of the change, not specific rates, and is awaiting a study of the statistics involved. Father Bennett pointed out that the plan is "far from what I want," but that significant progress has been made, especially with the recognition of the special position of the tax-exempt institutions.



Photo by Susan McKinney

Blessing the Boats

Father Robert H. Fennessy, pastor of Holy Cross, Charlotte, blesses the fleet of pleasure boats heading down river into Lake Ontario June 12. The ceremony is an element in the St. Anthony Day celebration, which includes a Mass, a parade and fireworks.

OAS Commission Assails 'Persecution' in Chile

Santiago [RNS] — The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights has accused Chile's military government of continuing "arbitrary jailings, persecution, and torture" while issuing decrees and statements to "tranquelize or confuse" world opinion.

human rights situation as "intended more as instruments of propaganda than as effective measures for the protection of human rights."

These accusations were contained in a 191-page report distributed here by the commission at the annual meeting of the general assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS).

On the eve of the opening of the assembly of foreign ministers, an official of the U.S. Catholic Conference (USCC) announced in Washington, D.C., that documentation of violations of human rights in Chile, prepared by an agency of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Santiago, had been turned over to the OAS human rights commission for study and action.

Father J. Bryan Hehir, associate secretary for International Justice and Peace of the USCC, said that "abundant documentation" prepared by the Vicariat of Solidarity of the Santiago archdiocese, contained the "experience and information" collected by Chilean Churches "regarding the violation of individual human rights."

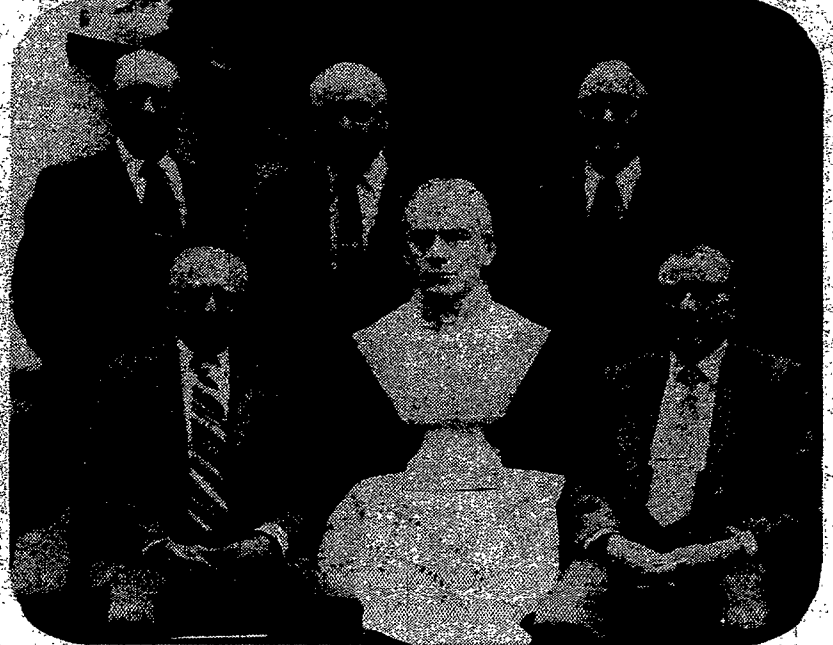
(The Vicariat of Solidarity was set up by Cardinal Raul Silva Henríquez to replace the interreligious Committee of Cooperation for Peace in Chile (COPACHI), established by Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish leaders in the aftermath of the September 1973 coup that toppled the Marxist government of President Salvador Allende Gossens.

(COPACHI, an organization of clergymen, lawyers and social workers which provided legal aid to political prisoners and their families, was dissolved in 1975 under heavy government pressure.

(The vicariat has continued to provide legal aid to political prisoners and economic assistance to their families and other needy persons.)

The OAS human rights commission, in its report, cited specific instances of killings and torture of prisoners and charged that there had been "a very high number" of arbitrary arrests up to March of this year.

The commission criticized recent junta decrees to improve the



50th Anniversary

Fifty-year members of Rochester's Catholic Kolping Society were honored at a banquet June 13. In this photo, the co-founders, Adolf K. Rister, left, and William Wittman, flank a bust of Father Adolph Kolping, "the journeyman's father," who established a young men's club in 1849 in Cologne, that gave rise to an international network. Standing at rear are Egidius Gessner and Kilian J. Schmitt, charter members, and William Roeger, right, whose half-century in the organization began in his native Germany.

Sister Helene Dies, Was SSJ Head

Sister Helene Garvin, who was superior general of the Sisters of St. Joseph when that position included the presidency of Nazareth College, died June 8, 1976, at the Motherhouse, her home for nearly half a century. She was 75 years old.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan celebrated the Mass of Christian Burial last Friday in the Motherhouse chapel.

Sister Helene held a variety of administrative posts in her order from 1938 until July 1973, when a severe heart attack necessitated her retirement.

She joined the congregation in 1920 and taught at Blessed Sacrament School, Nazareth Academy and Aquinas Institute until 1938. She then served as assistant to two successive major superiors until her election to the top post in 1951.

During her 12 years as superior general, 12 new elementary schools were staffed by the Sisters of St. Joseph, and St. Agnes High School was constructed and opened. The library and two additional residence halls were provided at Nazareth College, the presidency of which became a separate position in 1960.

Sister Helene launched a diocesan-wide appeal for funds for an infirmary for the ill and aged members of her order, and helped plan the building, which was opened on the Motherhouse grounds in 1961. She also spurred the expansion of St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira and appointed the first administrative staff of the new St. Ann's Home in Rochester. It was through her efforts that the local congregation achieved the status of a Pontifical Institute in 1957.



SISTER HELENE

From 1963, when her term of office ended, until her retirement, she worked in various enterprises within the order and also with the Diocesan Education Office. She was one of the original members of the Sisters Council organized in 1970.

Survivors are a brother, Stephen H. Garvin, and his wife, Elma; another sister-in-law, Mary Louise Garvin, a niece and a nephew, all of Rochester.

Father Marvin Re-elected by State Priests

Father James Marvin recently was unanimously elected to a second term as president of the Priests Councils of New York (PCNY). Father Marvin also heads the Rochester Priests Council and is pastor of St. Ambrose Parish.

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