

Shun Side Issues, Push Amendment, Pro-Lifers Told

St. Louis [RNS] — A meeting of Roman Catholic pro-life organizers from across the country was told to get busy immediately to pass some kind of pro-life amendment to the Constitution, and to avoid wasting time and energy in subsidiary issues such as the U.S. presidency and the Equal Rights Amendment for women.

"Don't spin your wheels. Time is of the essence. People are getting used to looseness. The longer you wait the harder it's going to be," said Missouri Attorney General John C. Danforth, proponent of strict abortion regulation in Missouri who will defend the Missouri law now being challenged before the U.S. Supreme Court.

He specifically warned the 175 state and diocesan Pro-Life/Respect Life coordinators against two distractions.

"Some people support Reagan for president. I myself am for Ford. But the presidency has absolutely nothing to do with an amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Nothing. Zilch!"

Similarly, he said, "There is no logical connection between the ERA and abortion. The fetus is something different from the mother, and we are concerned with the state's legal interest in protecting it. Don't alienate others unnecessarily or dissipate your energies in opposing the ERA."

An ordained Episcopal priest, Mr. Danforth said he supports the "Buckley II" and other all-inclusive types of a Human Life Amendment, that protect the unborn person from the moment of conception.

"But what, practically, can we hope to do?" he asked. "I'm a politician, and I believe in fighting only winnable political battles. We have to make a decision about what accommodations we have to make in order to get from nowhere — which is where we're at now — to somewhere."



Regional Coordinator

A sixth regional coordinator was named this week by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, Father Foster P. Rogers, associate at the Church of the Assumption in Fairport will succeed Father Thomas Burr in the Northwest Region. Father Rogers, ordained in 1966, has served as assistant at Christ the King, Irondequoit; St. Christopher's, Chili; St. Patrick's Elmira; and St. John the Evangelist, Greece. His appointment will be effective on July 1.

Mr. Danforth indicated he could accept a so-called "states' rights" amendment, which would allow each state to decide abortion law for itself.

"I suggest you decide on what kind of amendment can get passed, and then start working to get it passed," he emphasized. "If you put it off any longer, I am very pessimistic."

Pope Cites 'Common Good' To Unionists

Vatican City [RNS] — Labor union members, in the pursuit of their own interests, should always be aware of the "common good," Pope Paul told officials of the Belgian Christian Trade Union movement here.

At an audience with some 30 Flemish secretaries of Belgium's Labor Syndicates, the Pope emphasized the challenge to the labor movement to make the world "more human, more fraternal, closer to God."

The pontiff reminded the group that the "social doctrine" of the Roman Catholic Church "constantly provides the faithful with the orientations and directives necessary to understand and realize in accord with the dynamism of the Gospel (the importance of) participation in efforts for the common good."

Priest Joins Red Party, Is Criticized

Rome [RNS] — In a strongly worded statement, Pope Paul's vicar for the Diocese of Rome has condemned a decision of Dom Giovanni Franzoni, controversial former abbot of a Benedictine community here, to join the Italian Communist Party (CPI).

Cardinal Ugo Poletti said that Dom Franzoni's declared intention of functioning as a Catholic priest, while joining and working for the CPI, placed him in "an evident contradiction." The Catholic Church and its basic doctrines, said the cardinal, are in clear opposition to Communist ideology.

The papal vicar also noted that Dom Franzoni had been suspended from his priestly functions by the Vatican in April 1974. The 47-year-old priest, resigned in 1973 as abbot of the Benedictine community of the Roman basilica of St. Paul's Outside-the-Walls to live and work among the poor in a workers' district near the basilica.

Dom Franzoni's suspension by the Vatican came at the height of the church-backed — but unsuccessful — campaign to revoke Italy's divorce law. The priests had been arguing publicly that the "pressure" of the Italian hierarchy for repeal of the law violated freedom of conscience and represented "clerical meddling" in secular matters.

BLACK BISHOP

Vatican City [RNS] — Pope Paul has appointed a black bishop to succeed British-born Archbishop William Markall, SJ, 70, of Salisbury, Rhodesia, who has resigned for reasons of health, the Vatican announced. He is Bishop Patrick Chakaipa, 43, a native of Rhodesia, who has been auxiliary to Archbishop Markall since 1973.



Nat O. Lester, Sr., Class of 1906

100 Years of Catholic Schooling

By FRANK WELCH

From far and near they came back recently to mark the 100th anniversary of the opening of the School of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Brockport, one of the first parochial schools of the diocese.

A Mass of Thanksgiving was said in the Church of the Nativity and

the host of faculty, former students and friends moved to the Seymour Union Ballroom at the State University College at Brockport for a reunion and gala dinner program.

Toastmaster was Father William Graf, a 1948 graduate of Nativity. After a survey of alumni present, Nat O. Lester Sr., a Brockport attorney, was recognized as representing the earliest class, 1906.

Centennial greetings from Gov. Hugh Carey were conveyed to Sister Carole Proia, school principal, by Assemblyman Andrew Virgilio.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan brought the program to a close with brief remarks following reviews of Nativity Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow given, respectively, by Father Edward J. Lintz, pastor emeritus, Sister Carole and Father John J. Philipps, pastor.

Other guest clergy included Father Michael E. Conboy, bishop's secretary; Father John Quinn, chaplain at Newman Oratory, S.U.N.Y. Brockport; Msgr. William M. Roche, pastor of St. Mary's Church in Canandaigua and former diocesan superintendent of schools; Father Robert Gaudio, associate pastor, and three former associate pastors, Father James C. Burke, U.S. Army; Father L. John Hedges, pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Church; and Father Robert F. O'Neill of the diocesan Marriage Tribunal.

A committee of parishioners who had planned the program for more than a year recently made available a souvenir booklet outlining the school's history and containing pictures and notes from 100 years of school and parish records.

14 Basilians Note Silver Anniversaries

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan will concelebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving with 14 Basilian priests who are observing the 25th anniversary of their ordination to the priesthood.

Of the 14, five priests are either Rochester natives or have strong Rochester associations.

The Mass is slated for 10:30 a.m. Saturday, June 26, at St. John Fisher College.

The silver jubilarians are Fathers Richard Sheehan, James Terence Forestell, William Young, Walter Scott, Robert Ritz, John Polukis, Donald Mooney, William Hodgson Marshall, Eugene Malley, Richard Jeffery, Gerald Gregoire, James Enright, James Bowie and Michael Biondi.

The Mass will highlight a weekend of festivities for the priests which includes a dinner and reception, golfing, and a cookout.

The priests were ordained by Cardinal James Charles McGuigan on June 29, 1951, in St. Basil's Church, Toronto, Canada.

The Rochester priests are Fathers Ritz, professor at Aquinas and associate at St. Bridget's and Holy Redeemer; Jeffrey, serving with a Latin American Apostolate in Houston, Tex.; Malley, brother of Father John Malley and dean of Arts at the University of Windsor, Canada; Young, who taught at St. John Fisher, and is now in Toronto; Biondi, professor at Aquinas; Polukis, professor of mathematics at St. John Fisher.

Mendon Weekend Offers Something for Everyone

Mendon — They've got a whole lot of a weekend lined up at St. Catherine's Church, a weekend that includes a three-day festival replete with a 50-fire engine parade, an out-door Confirmation, and the dedication of a span across Irondequoit Creek.

Bishop Dennis W. Hickey will be the confirming prelate for rites in St. Catherine's pavilion on Sunday, June 27, at 3 p.m.

Following Confirmation, Bishop

Hickey will dedicate the bridge, which unites two parcels of St. Catherine's property divided by Irondequoit Creek. The bridge will be named the "DeVoldre-Weber Bridge" in memory of Robert J. DeVoldre, president of the parish council who died June 26, 1974, and Debbie Ann Weber, who was killed in an automobile accident Sept. 27, 1975.

From June 24 through 26, the parish also will host the Mendon Firemen's Carnival.

Foster Homes Needed

The New York State Division for Youth needs foster homes in Rochester and surrounding areas. Lita Gonzales, staff member, reported last week that six children were in need of immediate placement, and that she had been unable to accept other referrals due to the shortage of homes.

The Division is always looking for

interested and capable persons to be foster parents, particularly in urban areas. Foster parents should be emotionally stable individuals, capable of a great deal of patience with young persons. Ms. Gonzales said. Financial remuneration is made to foster parents. Interested persons should contact Lita Gonzales, New York State Division for Youth, 2325 Elmwood Ave., Rochester 14618. (716) 461-4300.

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well as making the liturgical forms more familiar to the children so they can relate to them when attending services. Sunday School has grown from a program aimed at children to one with family education emphasis.

Since Sunday School became affiliated with the Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN) it can be heard everywhere in the diocese. The CBN stations are: WLEA and WHHO, Hornell; WAUB, Auburn; WCUA, Geneva; and WCCR, Canandaigua.

Father Brown explained why he began the program — "I like the opportunity to provide positive, wholesome, imaginative statements about God and life and Church. It is my way of contributing to the Church's mission and educational effort while being creative and versatile. The children's hope and optimism speak loudly. A good theme might be the title of the song, 'The more I hear the word of God, the more I want to know Him.'"