

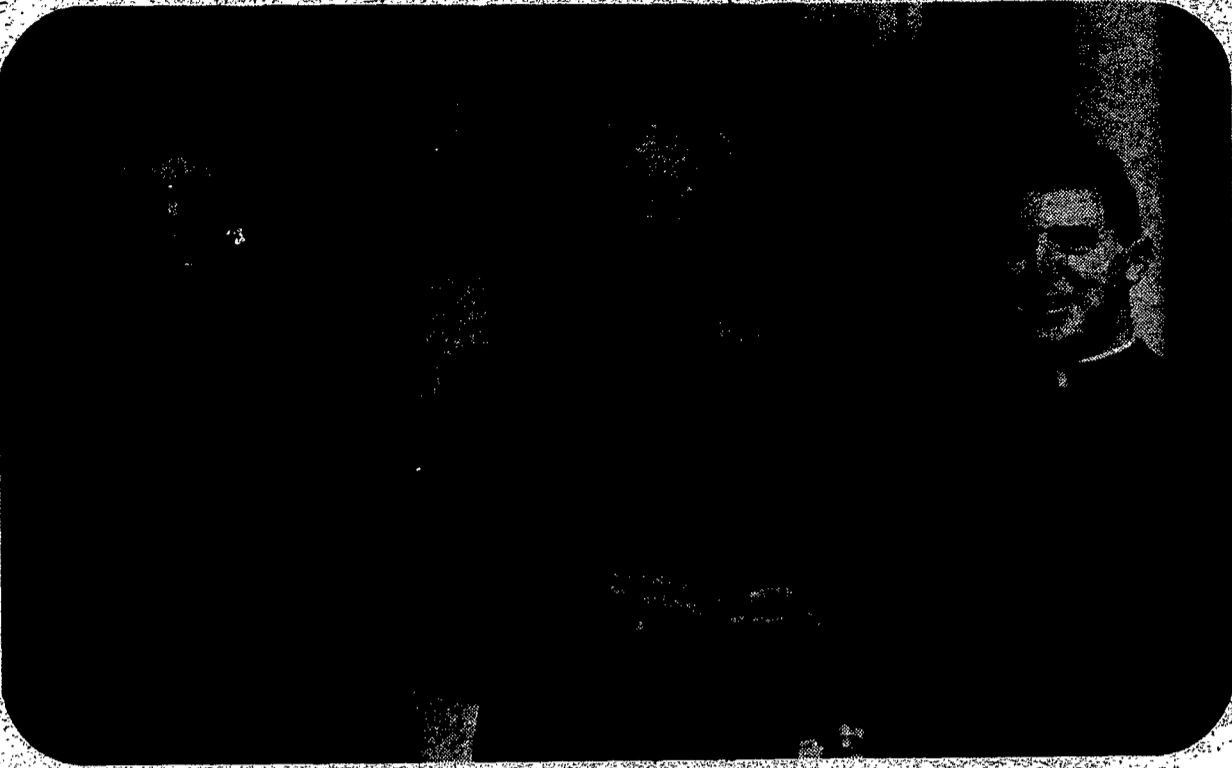
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Father Douglas Hoffman, Bishop Joseph L. Hogan and Father Robert Kennedy, just before the opening of the Parish Council Congress.

900 Attend Congress Of Councils

[See centerfold]

By MICHAEL GRODEN

More than 900 parish council members, priests, sisters and guests representing approximately 80 parishes throughout the diocese attended the Diocesan Parish Council Congress last weekend at Our Lady of Mercy High School.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, Father Douglas Hoffman, director of Pastoral Ministry, and Father Robert Kennedy, guest speaker, all expressed delight with attendance.

Father Hoffman said that it showed "a real hunger among the leadership in parishes for learning more about how to serve Christ as parish council members and learning how to meet the demands which the Church places on them."

Participants attended lectures given by Father Robert Kennedy, a canon lawyer from Catholic University, Washington, D.C., and Father Ernest Larsen, a Redemptorist of St. Gerard's Parish, Minneapolis, Minn., a noted author and speaker.

On Friday evening, Father Kennedy spoke on the "Emerging Council Leadership Role." He said that the idea of a parish council is not a new one. The very early Church believed in a "common priesthood." "We are all priests in Christ's Church," he said.

The idea of parish councils, Father Kennedy continued, is deeply rooted in four related Church teachings. "The Church is a union of persons, that all the baptized, are baptized in the priesthood of the faithful, all are

called to an equality of persons in the building of the body of Christ and that the Holy Spirit distributes His gifts to all manner of people."

Father Kennedy said that at present there are no formal canon laws in regard to parish councils. Now is the time for experimentation, he said. Parish councils have the enviable position of beginning programs and making laws through experimentation.

Later in his presentation, Father Kennedy pointed out that each parish council member has to be able to bring his particular talent together with other PC members. "Data people," who can easily find and report facts, must join with the "idea people," who in turn should cooperate with the "choice makers" who have the ability to decide whether a program will work.

Father Larsen, speaking Saturday morning, began by asking the audience to write to two severely handicapped persons he knew in Minneapolis. He described Sandra Susan Smith, who can't speak or walk but is able to write poems with a special typewriter, and John Hennamson, who spent the first 18 years of his life in a mental hospital although he was not retarded, as people who truly live as Christians and have "tremendous power" for ministry.

"True ministry does not come from our strength, but rather our brokenness," Father Larsen said.

Father Larsen said that a major problem most parish councils face is that they don't pray together. "All renewal must begin with Jesus Christ. Councils who pray

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Fr. Coonan Dies at 55; Clyde-Savannah Pastor

Father John L. Coonan died Sept. 7, 1976, in church, as he was preparing to celebrate the 8 a.m. Mass for the people of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Clyde. He was 55 years old.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Friday at St. John's by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, with burial in the family plot in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Auburn. Father Robert C. MacNamara of St. Ann's, Hornell, gave the homily. Bishop Dennis W. Hickey was principal concelebrant of the Mass of the High Priest on the previous evening.

Father Coonan, onetime vice-chancellor of the diocese and

secretary to Bishop James E. Kearney had been pastor at Clyde and of St. Patrick's, Savannah, since 1967.

He was born in Auburn, May 15, 1921, and reared in St. Mary's Parish. He attended Auburn High School, St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries and was ordained June 13, 1947. His first assignment was at St. Ann's, Hornell.

Before and after his chancery service, 1953, and 1954, he was assistant pastor of Blessed Sacrament, Rochester. He later served at St. Patrick's, Mt. Morris, and then was chaplain at St. James Mercy Hospital in Hornell for the



FR. JOHN COONAN

three years preceding his appointment to Clyde.

Father Coonan is survived by a sister, Mrs. Robert Belknap, and her four daughters, all of Auburn.

Martin Toombs Named Southern Tier Editor

In order to provide full-time news coverage of Southern Tier diocesan activities, the Courier-Journal has established a new position, Southern Tier editor. Martin Toombs, who has been a staff writer with the Courier, has been named to the position, according to Anthony J. Costello, general manager.

Until now the diocesan newspaper has covered events in the Southern Tier by using three part-time correspondents based in Elmira, Ithaca and Hornell. They will be replaced by the new position which will be responsible for coverage of the Livingston-Schuyler-Chemung and Tompkins-Tioga regions with

emphasis on the geographic centers of Elmira, Corning, Ithaca and Hornell.

In addition, Mary Ann Ginnerty, the Courier-Journal correspondent in Auburn, will assume responsibility for coverage in the city of Geneva.

"We have been working toward this kind of coverage at the request of Bishop Hogan," Costello said. "The first step was the establishment of the bureaus some five years ago. The system worked well but with increased regional activities, the time has come for more complete and coordinated coverage in the Southern Tier. We at the Courier-Journal are pleased to be able to provide such diocesan-wide coverage."

Toombs will report directly to the editor of the Courier-Journal, Carmen J. Viglucci. He will be responsible for all news and photographic coverage in the Southern Tier, being able to draw upon the rest of the Courier staff.

"We think we have made the proper choice in Toombs," Viglucci said. "He has already demonstrated competence in the handling of several key beats as well as on general assignments. In addition, he has had photography training. He

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MARTIN TOOMBS



Kolping Man of the Year

Archbishop Joseph I. Bernardin, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, congratulates Frank E. Wolfe in Rochester, for winning the National Kolping Society's Man of the Year Award. The presentation was made during Kolping's convention. Story, Page 24.