

Priests Council Ponders Financial Policy Matters

Priests around the diocese are this week discussing several matters raised at the October meeting of the Priests Council. Included in their discussions is a question of setting a policy eliminating "church usage" fees for sacramental assemblies.

An ad hoc committee looking into the practice of charging these fees for such assemblies as weddings returned last week with the proposal that the Priests Council recommend dropping them and establishing diocesan policy to that effect. Father Kevin Murphy was spokesman for the group.

Councilmen and their constituents also are discussing the part the council should play in reviewing diocesan departmental finances.

Earlier in the year, at the request of Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, the council was represented on the Bishop's Ministerial Review Committee, a group charged, primarily, with investigating the "scopes of accountability" in the

present goal setting process in the diocese.

This group too reported in last week. It was noted by Fathers Conrad Sundholm and James Lawlor of the committee, that the mandate of the unit did not cover departmental budgets — a point challenged by council president Father James Marvin, who encouraged the council to assert a role in reviewing such budgets.

The first report from a task force looking into the feasibility of an Urban Catholic School System for Monroe County also was given last week by Msgr. George Cocuzzi, vicar for urban ministry, and Sister Roberta Tierney, superintendant of schools.

The task force hopes to present the council with a formal report on its work shortly after the first of next year.

Among other matters brought to the attention of the Priests Council:

* Bishop Dennis W. Hickey revealed that 60 priests have

volunteered to partake in a program of self-evaluation of their ministries; forms were mailed on Monday, Oct. 4;

The proposal, approved by the Sisters Council, which would establish the five Diocesan Pastoral Council committees as joint committees of all the consultative bodies, has been "put on the back burner" according to Father James Marvin. Following a "tableing" vote by the priests council and an unusual defeat and then tableing vote by the DPC.

* Bishop Joseph L. Hogan has given the nod to parts of a new process for the selection of bishops, and so has approved of a standing diocesan committee which will survey the needs of the diocese and will draw up a list of those qualities needed in persons to head it.

ND Women Set Luncheon

The University of Notre Dame Women's Organization will hold its Silver Anniversary Luncheon on Tuesday, Oct. 19 at the Century Club, 566 East Ave.

The club had its beginning in 1951 with a group of five and has today grown to more than 100 members. In November they will begin their annual fruit cake sale. This event had a modest beginning 16 years ago and this year the club hopes to net more than \$1,000 for the Scholarship Fund of the Notre Dame Club of Rochester. This fund annually gives four partial scholarships to local high school seniors.

seriously when they stated in the "Abortion Decision" those trained in the relative disciplines of medicine, philosophy and theology are unable to arrive at a consensus (concerning the beginning of human life.) Man does know when life begins. He has even photographed the phenomenon. It begins when the sperm and the ova are fused. It is not potential human life as Daniel Callahan of the Institute of Society, Ethics and Life Sciences stated in his classic misnomer; it is human life, period.

I grant that at the moment of fusion the new life may be of little or no value to the state; it may be severely defective and therefore seen by the state as a potential drain on the economy; it may harbor a future of evil and destructiveness and therefore a potential threat to the state; it may be unwanted by the mother or a potential threat to her life-style; but the unchangeable fact remains that it is human life. Man knows.

UNICEF knows when life begins. Planned Parenthood too. And the Rockefeller's, ZPG, Catholics for a Free Choice, AASECT and SIECUS (sex "education" societies) the Methodist and Unitarian Churches, the Population Councils; all the abortion supporters know and they do not deny it. But their dreadful little phrases, neatly articulated to eliminate guilt by disguising reality, have led many thoughtless and lazy people to an island of acquiescence.

Catholics have no right to remain on that island. Catholic leaders, Catholic nuns, Catholic writers, teachers, parents, doctors, seminarians, none has the right to sit silently while the state and industry encourage the guiltless destruction of 1,000,000 unborn human lives a year in this nation alone.

I urge you — I challenge you — to read and study the facts. To think and then to act on behalf of this world's unborn children. It's not too late. It's never too late. The exhaustion and frustrations of the good fight are lighter to bear than the guilt of apathy.

NEXT WEEK: Continued

Life, Liberty and Law



Nancy Murphy

Bertrand Russell once said, "Most people would rather die than think and many, in fact, do." Unfortunately in this pluralistic, technological, instant educated, plastic, exciting and innovative world it is increasingly important that we do think and that we do understand some unchangeable facts. One of those facts concerns the beginning of human life.

"Human life begins when a sperm fertilizes an ovum. To say that it starts at any other time is biological nonsense. It is when the two are fused." Andre Hellegers, MD, professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Georgetown University. "The moment of fertilization is, strictly speaking, the point where in the sperm nucleus coalesces with the female nucleus in the ova. At that moment a new individual's life has begun. Its genetic endowment is then complete, determined, unique and distinguishable." David Procaccini, Ph.D. Professor of Developmental Biology Emanuel College, Boston. "When the male and the female pronucleus meet it is called conception and when this occurs, life begins." (Malloy, Legal Anatomy and Surgery, 2nd edition.)

"Studies in embryology and genetics have proved conclusively that the embryo from conception to birth is a living human individual." Micheline Matthews-Roth, Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, Harvard University.

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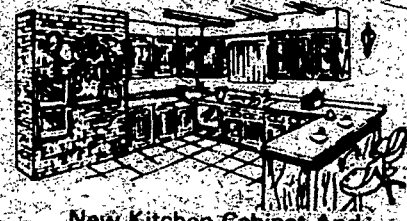
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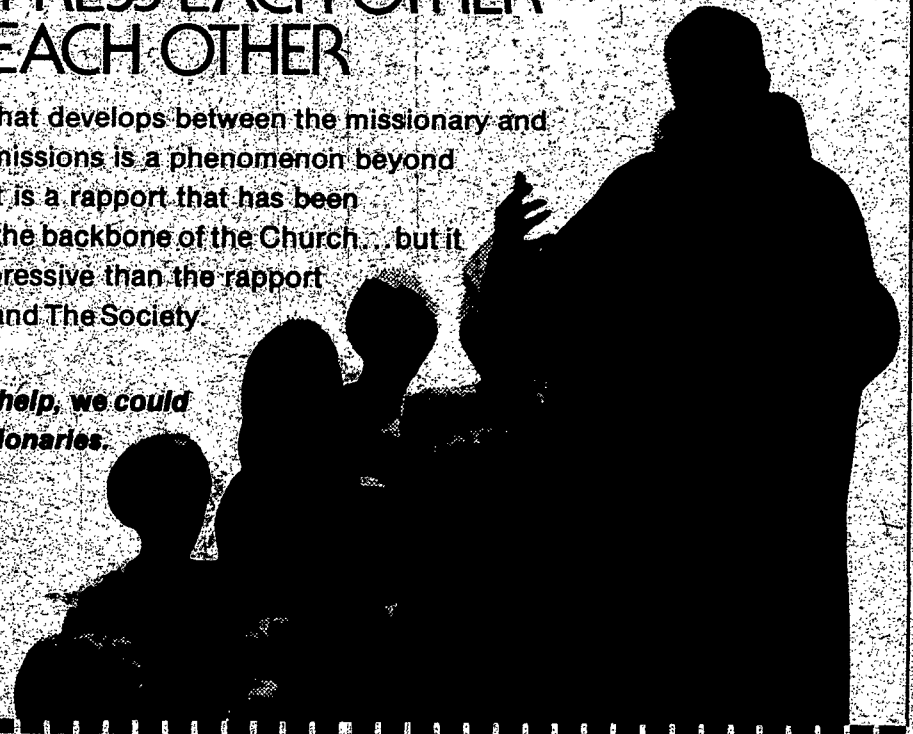


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