

# Priests Council Explores New 'Up-Date' Program

By JOHN DASH

For more than a year and a half, he confessed, Father James Boyle has been looking for the opportune time to introduce priests of the diocese to a program designed to help them spiritually, psychologically and educationally.

That opportunity came last week at the Priests Council meeting. Father Boyle presented the priests with "A Needs Assessment Program," which, according to literature Father Boyle had distributed, "is a comprehensive program to foster the personal and professional growth of clergy and religious." The program is directed by the Center for Human Development at the University of Notre Dame.

Father Boyle had also rallied to his cause Father John O'Connor and Father William Trotter, neither of whom is a member of the council, but both are widely experienced in "priests' update," Father Boyle said.

Both men spoke on the program and described its usefulness to the current diocesan program of continuing clerical education.

The priests, judging from the remarks they made during the discussion following Father Boyle's presentation, clearly were interested.

Father Boyle moved that the council send three or four priests to a training

workshop at Notre Dame. Those priests would be expected to return and inform the council of their judgement on the program.

With one abstention, the council passed the motion.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan described the responses to Track One of the diocesan Call to Action as "an excellent response." He added that he has been in contact with prelates around the country and said, "I think Rochester will be quite unique in the seriousness with which it responded to the Call to Action."

Bishop Hogan also told the priests that a new fund development program for the diocese is presently being worked out by Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, Father William Flynn and James Noonan, in consultation with local fund-raiser John Foley.

The bishop said, "No doubt, fund development has to be a priority."

A paper prepared by Father David Mura on the Justice in the Church section of the Detroit Call to Action recommendations will be forwarded to Father Douglas Hoffman. At last month's meeting Father Hoffman had requested the council draw up such a paper. The council also will prepare a cover letter to Father Mura's work stating that it is a single response

from a member of the Priests Council, and that other papers may be forthcoming from other councillors.

Council also will send to Father Robert Kennedy of the diocesan liturgy office the responses of priests to a proposal that Regional Liturgy Directors be established in the diocese.

A paper on priestly lifestyles was presented to the council by Father Ronald Stacy. The priests are discussing it this month.

No one cracked a smile when the text chosen by Father Robert Beligotti to lead the opening prayer contained the line, "Great is the day of the Lord, and exceedingly terrible. Who can bear it?"

### ERA LOSES

Raleigh, N.C. (RNS) — The North Carolina Senate has refused to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) for the third time in five years, despite appeals by President and Mrs. Carter.

Members of an informal prayer chain composed of women across the state said their marathon praying to defeat ERA appeared to have been more effective than the calls of Mr. Carter and his wife, Rosalynn.

A light moment in the morning's discussions brought laughter from Father James Marvin, council president, and Bishop Joseph L. Hogan.

# Death Penalty Issue Divides Priests Council

Debate in Priests Council last week revealed deep divisions among the clergy over the question of the death penalty.

The occasion of the unusually heated session was a motion from Father Ronald Stacy, of the council's social action committee, to endorse a statement prepared last January by Genesee Ecumenical Ministries and signed by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan and other church leaders in the area.

That statement describes the death penalty as "an act of naked vengeance... an act as inhuman as those to which it is a response."

"We view the seemingly imminent reinstatement of the death penalty as an instrument of criminal justice with a sense of dismay and alarm which leads us to speak out and to urge members of the religious community to declare, with us, a resounding no — it must not be," the statement reads.

Discussion of the motion was complicated by the fact that for a number of reasons the agenda, which includes the motion, was not received by some council members, or received too late for many to call bloc meetings to discuss the issue.

Early in council discussions, Father Bertrand Scully, OFM Cap., made a motion to table the question. That motion was seconded by Father Robert Kanka.

Father James Boyle spoke immediately against the tabling move. "I don't see any reason why we can't take a stand," he said. "I just have trouble with us thinking everything is in neat boxes."

A brief discussion ensued with Father Paul Cuddy speaking for the motion. Father Kanka, who earlier had indicated his approval of the death penalty, stated that he felt it was irrelevant for the council to endorse a statement made some time ago. (The statement had been published in January).

Father Kevin Murphy said that he felt that if the council was opposed to the statement, it should vote down the move to endorse

it. He said that were the motion to be tabled, the council would not face the issues involved.

Father Scully scored the notion of "endorsing every pronouncement," a notion, he said, which springs from what he called "a mania for consultation."

Father Cuddy voiced his concern that there already exists "so much contention in the diocese," that the issue would be "explosive" were the council to endorse the statement.

His remarks prompted Father Eugene Sweeney to comment "Our Lord had to say hard things, and many people turned away."

The motion to table was defeated by a vote of 10 to 7.

This brought back to the floor the earlier motion which also was defeated, 13 to 6, with 2 abstentions.

But the matter did not end. Father Boyle proposed a motion to the effect that the council does not believe that society has demonstrated that capital punishment is an effective deterrent to crime. His motion was scored by Father Stacy on the grounds that it "isn't a moral or religious statement. We're now speaking about something out of our field," he said.

Father Scully questioned the value of the resolution, to which Father Louis Hohman responded, "It does have value. What we're seeing here is a development of theology, of ethics."

## Focolare Foundress Wins 'Religious Nobel'

London (RNS) — Chiara Lubich, the Italian Roman Catholic woman who founded the Focolare movement, a socio-spiritual association with members in 150 countries, has been named winner of the 1977 Templeton Foundation Prize for Progress in Religion.

In naming Ms. Lubich recipient of the \$80,000 prize, the Foundation said she had been helping people of "many denominations" to grow spiritually by emphasizing the Gospel injunction, "Love one

Father Charles Latus said the motion reflected the intentions of his bloc and that he would vote for it.

Father Conrad Sundholm said the motion doesn't "address the real issue of capital punishment."

Father Kevin Murphy then proposed an amendment, "and therefore capital punishment should be abolished." Father Latus seconded the amendment and the amendment passed 11 to 8.

However, Father Boyle's motion failed to carry, 11 to 9, with 1 abstention.

Father James Marvin then moved to rescind the vote, to take the matter back to the blocs and then to vote again.

Father Sundholm voiced his displeasure with the motion.

Father Murphy stated that "people have not talked it over with the people they represent. We do a disservice to the whole issue when we treat it as lightly as we just did."

Father Sundholm charged "We're setting a precedent — to deny the voting when an issue goes down." Father Marvin responded that he disagreed with such a statement.

Father Robert Miller noted that now the council was dealing with "another issue. Some voted for themselves and others for the blocs."

And his point aroused several more speakers to the issue. When the rescinding motion came to a vote it lost.

another as I have loved you." It said Ms. Lubich's contribution to promoting unity among Christians is "one of the outstanding achievements in interchurch and inter faith relations today."

Established in 1972 by U.S. financier John E. Templeton, the annual prize — a kind of "religious Nobel Prize" — is designed to call attention to a variety of persons who have found new ways to increase man's love of God of man's understanding of God and religion.

# COURIER-CALENDAR

**St. Andrew's** — Calling all who have served as den mothers in parish's 36-year-old Cub Scout program, for dinner April 5 at Royal Scot; details from Dietrich, 467-3197; Schoepfel, 467-8928; Meland, 467-5588.

**St. Christopher's** — Pot luck supper 6:45 p.m. Saturday, March 12, with Father Jerome Robinson, OP, as guest; Mass afterward. Reservations: Gaffney, 594-8961.

**St. Mark's** — Sharing supper, stations, slide presentation on Upper Volta, 6:30 p.m. tomorrow, 54 Kuhn Road.

**Catholic Mission Guild** — Monthly meeting 1 p.m. today at K of C, Thurston Road at Brooks.

**Aquinas Parents** — General meeting 8 p.m. Monday, March 14 at school; Bishop Joseph L. Hogan to speak on future of Catholic education in diocese.

**Divorced, Separated, Widowed** — At St. Francis School, Geneva, 7:30 p.m. March 16, Dr. Ellen Becker, psychologist, on Dealing with Loneliness.

**Second Marriage** — Enrichment workshop conducted by Family Service of Rochester with Catholic Family Center; six sessions, beginning March 16, 7:30 p.m. at Family Service, 31 Gibbs. Registration with Don Holt' 232-1840; limited.

**Clover Montessori School** — Open house at St. Thomas More, 2615 East Ave., 2-4 p.m. Sunday, March 13. Further information: 381-0440.

**Antique Sale and Show** — March 26, 27, at Mother of Sorrows, 5000 Mt. Read, 25 Western New York dealers; sponsored by Rosary Society.

**Danish Furniture** — Smithsonian Institution travelling exhibition showing American Shaker heritage in Danish design, at Bevier Gallery, RIT, through March 31. Hours: 9-4 Monday-Friday; and 7-9 Monday-Thursday; 1-5 Saturday, 2-5 Sunday.

**Foreman Center Carnival** — Arranged by students and PTA as fund-raiser for therapeutic swimming pool, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. March 18, 41 O'Connor Road, Fairport.

**Belfast Kids** — To help Buffalo group sponsoring Summer vacations for 160 youngsters from Belfast, a benefit at St. Pius X Seventh Annual Irish Night, March 18.

**Gardening Know-how** — Daylong clinic (third annual) at St. John Fisher College March 19; registration at 8:30 a.m. Sponsored by Continuing Education Division. Details: 586-4140, ext. 365.

**Promenade Concert** — David Zinman conducting Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra in program of American music highlighted by world premiere of Alec Wilder's Entertainment No. 6, 8:30 p.m. Saturday, March 12, Dome Arena.

**Oratorio Society** — Beethoven's Missa Solemnis, featuring Metropolitan Opera soprano Benita Valente, with 250-voice chorus Rochester Philharmonic, conducted by Theodore Hollenbach, 8:15 p.m. Sunday, March 13, Eastman Theatre.

**Take the Money and Run** — Woody Allen film presented by Aquinas Film and Theater Club, 8 p.m. Friday, March 11, at school, 1127 Dewey Ave.

**High Society** — Cole Porter version of Philadelphia Story, starring Bing Crosby, Grace Kelly, Frank Sinatra, Classic Film Series at Rochester Museum, 2 and 8 p.m. tomorrow.

**Relatively Speaking** — Comedy by British playwright Alan Ayckbourn, at GeVa, 168 S. Clinton, tonight through March 12, 8 p.m.; Sunday, March 13, 4 p.m.

**Husbands and Lovers** — Franz Molnar play at GeVa, 168 S. Clinton, 12:15 p.m. today and tomorrow.

**Auditions** — Tryouts for actors, singers, dancers for A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, at theater of National Technical Institute for the Deaf, RIT campus, tonight, tomorrow and Friday, March 11, 7-10.

**The Forgotten Society** — Exhibition of drawings by Alan Cober of people seen in old-age homes, prisons, mental institutions. At Monroe Community College through March 18, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Additional information: MCC Student Activities Department, 442-9950.

**Art Show** — Photographs by Jeanette Klute at Valley Manor, 1570 East Ave., 11 a.m.-4 p.m. daily through March.

Calendar items should be mailed to the Courier-Journal Calendar Desk, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. Deadline is Wednesday noon, one week ahead of the publication date.