

Priests Vote Extension Of BMRC's Charge

The Priests Council last week recommended to Bishop Joseph L. Hogan that he extend the term of office of the present Bishop's Ministerial Review Committee (BMRC).

The BMRC is an arm of the re-vamped diocesan planning process charged with reviewing the scopes of accountability, goals and objectives of the diocesan departments in light of their budgetary requirements.

Originally, the group was to have ceded its work to the Diocesan Pastoral Council in June.

For a number of reasons, the desirability of such a turnover is a moot question.

Fathers James Lawlor and Conrad Sundholm spoke to the issue last week at the April Meeting of the Priests Council. Both men are members of the BMRC, Father Lawlor as the Priests

Council representative and Father Sundholm as a regional representative.

They both expressed reservations about the function of the BMRC as it relates to determining departmental budgets. Father Lawlor noted that the most recent meeting of the group was vocal in its disapproval of budget items proposed for next year.

Father Sundholm noted that, because of the difficulties involved in learning the processes used by the BMRC, the DPC might not yet be mature enough to take on the task.

The vote to recommend the extension of term was unanimous.

appropriate today: "The Lord preserve him and give him life and make him blessed upon the earth and deliver him not into the hands of his enemies." Viva II Papa!

Signed, L.F.Z.

Dear L.F.Z.,

May I join you in saying "Viva II Papa"! However, there are certain things which I would like to take up with you regarding your letter. You're absolutely correct in saying that our final human obedience is to the Pope as over and against our bishop and pastor. But I am afraid you are not talking about obedience at all, but rather disagreement.

You make the statement that our church is the weakest it has been in the 20th century. I would like to ask you what is your justification for that statement? Do you really think that the vitality of the church has to do with numbers? Is it not quite possible that many of those Catholics who do not attend Mass anymore do not do so because they are now convinced that they won't go to hell if they don't? Isn't it possible that they weren't all that good christians in the first place? What justification do you have for blaming the "problems" in the church on disagreement with the Holy Father?

I have a feeling that in making your claims you are being highly emotional and minimally intellectual. I would like very much for you and those who think like you to do just one thing: do not assume that people who disagree with various statements of the Holy Father, especially professionals, are being disloyal and do not love him. That is a judgment which at least in most cases does not have any kind of verification.

P.S. I rather dislike the idea of someone calling for the courage to leave the church as Martin Luther did, but signing the letter with only initials.

THE OPEN WINDOW

Fr. Louis Hohman

Dear Father Hohman:

Let me preface my remarks by saying I am in full agreement with St. Thomas Aquinas when he said "I believe every thing the Son of God has said." It was my privilege to give the homily at a Mass in my church last year. I used the 16th chapter of St. Matthew "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, etc." And I further stated that if the time ever came when the laity would have to obey either their pastor, their-bishop or the Pope I told them to obey the Pope. For throughout the church the cry has been "Where Peter is, there is Christ." Today our church is the weakest it has been in the 20th century. Many of our Catholics do not attend Mass anymore or at least not regularly. And many of the young could care less if the church existed or not. At least that is what I think. Missionaries used to tell us years ago "anyone who misses Mass on Sunday soon becomes a fallen away Catholic." It is the Mass that helps us to carry on and keep our faith. Let all who seem to delight in tearing apart everything the Pope says pray for him instead. Someone said recently the Pope should talk to some good woman. I am sure he does; everyday he talks to our Blessed Mother. I never had much love or respect for Martin Luther, but one thing he did. When he did not like what the Holy Father said or did, he left the church. He did not stay in the church and try to tear it down. I love our Holy Father very much and I think the ancient prayer of the church is very

Bishop Head To Direct State Unit

Albany — The State Catholic Committee, a group of some 60 bishops, priests, religious and laity from the eight dioceses of the state, has a new chairman, Bishop Edward D. Head of Buffalo.

A new episcopal member also was added — Bishop Howard J. Hubbard of Albany.

Bishop Head succeeds Bishop Edwin B. Broderick who left the Albany diocese to become director of Catholic Relief Services. Bishop Hubbard will serve as vice chairman of the committee. The committee has two other episcopal members, Bishop John E. McCafferty of Rochester and Bishop John R. McGann of Rockville Centre.

College Ups Tuition

Tuition at Nazareth College for full-time undergraduate study has been increased from \$2,500 to \$2,700 a year, and room and board from \$1,550 to \$1,620. The increases will become effective with the fall semester.

Charges for Continuing Education and graduate students will be raised \$7 per credit hour and \$82 for graduate courses beginning with the 1977 summer session.

Under the new schedule, the maximum cost of tuition, room and board will be \$4,320 yearly.

The Council also heard that the restructuring of the Priests Personnel Finance Committee is proceeding apace, from Msgr. Leslie Whalen.

Father James Boyle again brought up the subject of the Needs Assessment Program. He noted that Clergy Conferences are scheduled in May for the diocesan clergy.

The priests presented Father Ron Stacey with written reactions to his paper on Priestly Life Style. (A full report on this paper will appear in the April 20 edition of the Courier-Journal).

Father Stacey also reported to the council on the present, objectives of the diocesan international justice and peace group.

Father Charles Bennett reported to the council on present and proposed retirement benefits for diocesan clergy. Father Conrad Sundholm reported on the new property insurance coverage for the diocese. In both reports questions arose on the relationship of the diocesan finance office to the consultative bodies. Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey volunteered to question Thomas Weber, the finance officer, on the matter as quickly as possible and report back to the council at its May meeting.

ELECTION

The Rosary Society of Holy Family Church meets at 8 tonight to elect officers, after church services at 7:30.

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