



Father Sundholm, left, and Father Brown, right, await the election results.

Priests

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review of salary structure especially in relation to cost of living increases. It will hear on questions of inequity brought before it by any individual priest."

Further, the report states, "we are looking for a cost of living adjustment — to bring the value of today's salary in line with what the salary was in 1973, when salary scale was accepted."

The committee's recommendation is "to re-establish the salary to the buying power of the 1973 salary. Since then the cost of living has gone up 37.31 per cent (consumer price index). In this time we have had a 3 per cent raise in salary which means that it takes \$1.37 today to buy what it cost one dollar in 1973, and our salary has been adjusted to only \$1.30.

"Therefore, we would like to recommend a 34 per cent adjustment in salary. However, our adjustment is an immediate 17 per cent adjustment," the report states.

That latter adjustment would become effective Oct. 1, the report states.

With but one abstention, the report was accepted unanimously. In the discussion of the matter, both Fathers Paul Freemesser and Robert Kreckel raised philosophical questions on the idea of priests encouraging salary raises.

Sass noted however that the percentages spoken of represented adjustments to just living wages and not salary increases.

Also in the debate, the council had appeared ready to take the report back to its respective blocs for discussion, until it was pointed out by Father George Wood, also a member of the committee, that the work of the group and its recommendation had already been mandated by the council in 1973 and that the report was fit subject for vote at the present council meeting.

In other matters the council heard reports from

FESTIVAL

Friday — roast beef; Saturday — spaghetti; Sunday — lasagna! That's the eating program this weekend at St. Jude's parish festival. Dinners will be served from 5 until 8 p.m. the first two days, Sept. 16 and 17; from 3 until 8 Sunday. The festival paraphernalia will include carnival rides for children. An auction of new merchandise will begin Sunday afternoon at 1 o'clock.

GEM

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other covenanting communions."

The constitution also states, "The voting members of the ESB shall expect each other to be empowered by the communions who choose them to act on behalf of those communions within the policies of their respective denominations or groups."

In an interview last week, Msgr. George Cocuzzi, vicar for Urban Ministry, and his associate, Sister Mary Wintish, convener of the diocesan ecumenical commission, explained that diocesan dissatisfaction with the workings of the GEM operation has been brewing for some time.

It had been agreed that the GEM covenant would be reviewed and evaluated a year after its signing. On May 26 this year a paper was put on Bishop Hogan's desk by Father Charles Mulligan, convener of the bishop's Staff Caucus, which detailed "operational suggestions for GEM prepared by the Staff Caucus."

The paper stated that given the diversity of structure of decision-making for each denomination in GEM, "we believe that the Ecumenical Strategy Board, as presently constituted, should be dissolved." To take its place, the paper states, "we should establish a trading center where people with the following qualifications can meet:

- Skillful knowledge of the workings of their own denomination;

- Ability to forecast what the denomination will or will not do;

- Thus with a great degree of accuracy be able to bargain and trade on behalf of their own denomination;

- Be able to reach cooperative agreements at that table with other denominations."

The paper also stated:

"We do not feel the appropriate role of GEM to be one of producing, deliberately and/or directly, organizational offspring which then, for whatever period of time, become attached to it. Nor should Gem develop formal relationships with already established bodies. To proceed in either fashion is to become a community organizational mechanism or a manager/partner in coalition — rather than a free-wheeling coordinating process — and to incur the responsibilities of program development, monitoring, evaluation, funding, and staff liaison."

The relationship of

Church Women United and the Judicial Process Commission to GEM were specifically excluded in the paper from that statement.

The whole effort of the Saturday meeting, Msgr. Cocuzzi noted, "is to review and assess cooperative work during the first year of operation under a new constitution and then to see if we can come to better ways of cooperative effort."

"For the diocese at least, a great deal hinges on this meeting."

He noted that for some time meetings with other GEM members aired the "shared feeling that the present structure of GEM was difficult to operate in."

GEM rose, he said, after the demise of the old local Council of Churches. While the CC was established to bring denominational units (like parishes) together, GEM was organized on a judicatory basis.

However, he said, the diocese wants "a process for cooperation, not spawning projects of its own."



Nun Held

Sister Janis McLaughlin, 35, a Maryknoll nun from Pittsburgh, Pa., was arrested Sept. 1 by police in Salisbury, Rhodesia, along with three other members of the Rhodesian Roman Catholic Justice and Peace Commission, on charges of violating the official Secrets Act. Also charged with causing "alarm and despondency" among the population were John Deary, a white Rhodesian citizen who is chairman of the commission; West German Father Dieter Scholz, SJ, vice-chairman, and Brother Arthur Dupius, a Canadian, organizing secretary.

Adult Education Series Offered in Victor

A religious education program for adults, including high school juniors and seniors, opens Sept. 26 at St. Patrick's School of Religion, High Street, Victor. Dr. Nathan A. Kollar will speak on American church history at the first two of seven Monday evening meetings.

Other speakers are Sisters Michael Lappetito, RSM, and Catherine Heverin, SSI; Fathers Jerome Robinson, OP, Ronald Harley and William Graf. All sessions begin at 7:30 p.m. Participants may register by calling Mrs. John Clarcq, 924-3890, or Sister M. Perpetua McHale, director, 924-2800.

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