

At Priests Council

Bishop Outlines 'Reconstruction' Plans

By JOHN DASH

At a special session of the Priests Council, Bishop Joseph L. Hogan last week outlined for that body "four items of reconstruction" of Pastoral Center services, which, he believes, he said, "will have great significance for our future operation."

The items include a "restructuring of Pastoral Services to make them more efficient, more accountable and more accessible to the public."

The restructuring takes the form of grouping all diocesan departments under the aegis of five divisional directors.

The bishop also noted the

development of the Stewardship program "to strengthen the solid base of our parishes on a long-range basis."

He also outlined for the council diocesan financial projections for the next three years, and gave the priests an update on the diocesan Fund Development Program.

On the Stewardship program, the bishop noted that it is "primarily concerned with supporting our parishes." He cited examples of the success of the program and predicted greater success for the coming year.

On the diocesan financial scene, the bishop said that

Happy are the slave-drivers: for they get results.

Happy are the knowledgeable men of the world: for they know their way around.

Happy are the trouble-makers: for they make people take notice of them.

But Jesus said: how happy are the humble-minded; those who know what sorrow means; those who claim nothing; who hunger for goodness; who are merciful, sincere, peacemakers.

A doctor one day said to a friend, "I wish I could remove the heads of some of my patients, doctor those heads, and then replace them."

What he meant was that too, too many sicknesses are in the head, in the way people think. Muddy thinking, worry, bad decisions, seeking happiness in wrong ways, low self-esteem, approval-seeking, dead conscience—all these can lead to physical disorders and unhappiness.

There was a widow in a Midwestern town. She lived alone. Though old, the singular beauty of her womanhood lingered about her like the fragrance of a faded rose. Rich and poor, young and old alike esteemed her. Depletion of her once ample fortune and old age never quenched her charm.

One day in a high school assembly at Thanksgiving time, the principal of the school asked her to tell the young people, "something that life had taught her." With expectation, everyone listened to what this woman, distinguished for her grace of mind and goodness of life, might say.

She stood before the assembled youths and with a gentle smile told them simply, "My young men and women, when I was a girl I was taught that I was a body and had a soul. Life has taught me that I am a soul, and have a body." That was all. She sat down. Everyone knew she had given in a few words the secret of her unfading life.

Life's battles are won and happiness comes through good thinking and sane reasoning. Character is nothing more than a bundle of habits, springing from one's habitual thoughts. What are our thoughts about happiness? Our recipe for happiness? Is it the non-Christians' or Jesus'? Is it of the body or of the soul?

"We decided to meet our present operating projections through our Parish Assessment Resources." The diocesan projections, he cautioned, "do not include major financial difficulties at St. Bernard's Seminary and Catholic Charities. We are studying their situations and have not arrived at a solution at this time."

The bishop said that his Financial Advisory Committee has recommended a three-year balanced budget. That body has devised a plan to accomplish this by eliminating more than \$150,000 from present

budget requests and the initial raising of \$200,000 a year more from the parishes.

The bishop also noted that he expects the Fund Development Office will have built an Endowment Fund of at least \$10 million within the next 10 years.

During the afternoon session of the council, Frank Staropoli, director of the diocesan Office of Family Life, headed a team presentation on the Natural Family Planning services in the diocese.

Councilmen were urged to acquaint themselves with the sympto-thermal method of family planning and to encourage the use of NFP while counseling young married couples and those about to be married.

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Rush, Henrietta Parishes Plan Consolidated School

Three Monroe County parishes south of Rochester will begin operating the Rush-Henrietta Catholic School System in September 1978.

Involved in the proposed reorganization are Good Shepherd and Guardian Angels parishes, which have schools in East Henrietta Road, and St. Joseph's, Rush, which has no school. A single school board comprising representatives of the three parishes will oversee the consolidation, according to a release submitted by Sister Joseph Mary Switzer, principal at Good Shepherd.

schools will have grades 2 through 6. Kindergarten and first grade will be at Guardian Angels; seventh and eighth grades, Good Shepherd. Registration for the 1978-1979 school year will be taken Monday through Wednesday, Jan. 30-Feb. 1, from 9 a.m. until 1:30 p.m., and on Monday only, from 6:30 until 8:30 p.m. Visitors will be welcome at both schools during these hours.

Children who will be five years old by next Dec. 1 may be enrolled in kindergarten. Parents are reminded to bring birth certificates and immunization records for these children.

The consolidation of classes is planned in three phases, to be complete by the school year 1980-1981. It was undertaken on the recommendation of the Committee on Interparish Cooperation, after a general study had been made by people from the three parishes.

Lunchtime Program Set For Thursdays in Lent

The Church of the Ascension on Lake Avenue at Riverside will serve a hot, home-made lunch at noon each Thursday in Lent. A program of talks has been arranged within the limits of the noon-hour, so that people from Kodak Park and others who work in the neighborhood will be able to attend.

Ronald O. Weinraub, recent area chairman for the National Council on Alcoholism and a director of the Health Association (Feb. 9); Robert E. Bonn, executive director of the Rochester Interfaith Jail Ministry, Inc. (Feb. 16); The Rev. Gordon Gilbert of Calvary Baptist Church, a representative of the American Baptist Convention to the Genesee Ecumenical Ministries (Feb. 23).

NFP Session Scheduled

An Information Session on natural family planning, sponsored by the Human Development Committee of the parish, will take place from 7:30 to 9 p.m., Monday, Jan. 30, at St. Jerome's in East Rochester.

Douglas and Nancy Osborn, trained instructors in natural family planning, will present the program and answer questions.

No registration is required and the session is open to the public. More information is available from the NFP office at 716-464-8705.

Father William B. Holberton is the Catholic chaplain at Strong Memorial Hospital. Highland Hospital is one served by a cooperative amalgam of several parishes.

WORD FOR SUNDAY Fr. Albert Shamon

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mt. 5:1-12. (R1) Zep. 2:3, 3:12-13. (R2) 1 Cor. 1:26-31.

What do most kids want? What do most parents want for their kids? To be happy!

Once upon a time, most parents wanted their children, and most children wanted, to amount to something.

It's time to demythologize this "happiness" that is bamboozling so many.

Today, instead of saying "Goodbye" (God be with you), people are saying "Have fun." They talk of "fun time," "fun places," "fun things."

The word "fun" comes from the medieval English "fon," meaning "fool." No people are more miserable than those seeking fun or happiness in things, in the frivolity of night clubs, which someone called "communal lunacy."

Our Lord in Sunday's Gospel gave us a recipe for happiness. As kids, we called this recipe "The Beatitudes." The word "blest" is almost the equivalent of our word "happy."

J. B. Phillips, the translator of The New Testament in Modern English, tried to show the revolutionary character of Jesus' recipe for happiness by drawing up the non-Christians' recipe for happiness. The worldly think that

Happy are the "pushers" for they get on in the world.

Happy are the hard-boiled: for they never let life hurt them.

Happy are they who complain: for they get their own way in the end.

Happy are the blasé: for they never worry over their sins.

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