

DPC Tax Watch Urged by Priest

By MARTIN TOOMBS

A proposal has been made to the Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) that a network be formed to watch various governmental bodies' actions concerning the taxing of Church property.

Father Charles Bennett, a new DPC member, has made the proposal, which the DPC Executive Committee is asking members to comment on before their first business meeting Sept. 16.

Father Bennett, associate pastor of Old St. Mary's, Rochester, has been involved for six years in discussions concerning charges to city of Rochester Churches for the pure waters program. He and Father John Norris, Blessed Sacrament pastor, have acted as an information service during that time, he notes in the proposal, suggesting that the work be taken over by a diocesan body.

Commenting on the proposal, he noted that

Rochester has now added a special tax for street lighting which Churches must pay. Parishes need to be aware of what is happening in tax laws, he pointed out, so they can be commented on before they become law. He noted in his proposal that "it is better to set up an early warning system than to try to undo the damage after the tax has been passed."

Charging fees to Churches based on their assessment, although they pay no property

tax, has been a specific problem. And the problem is not restricted to Rochester; St. Margaret Mary, Apalachin, has been assessed a fee, based on its assessment, of \$586 this year, to pay for a water plant.

Father Bennett said that the network should be made up of individuals "quite well versed on taxation law," who could constantly be "aware of local legislation" as well as that on the state level. He also would like those involved to be ready to help legislation that is "not going to

jeopardize the work of the Church."

He explained that user charges have the effect of charging Churches for costs from which they were previously exempt. New charges applying to Churches "should not encompass something that we have been exempt from," he commented.

An example, he noted, is the lighting tax in Rochester. Previously, the street lighting was paid for by the general property tax, he noted. Now Churches are being charged the lighting fee. The action removed the exemption for such costs that the Churches previously enjoyed, he pointed out.

Parish Notes Anniversary

Scottsville — Hundreds of well-wishers and parishioners ended recently a long celebration of the 125th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone for St. Mary of the Assumption Church.

The final day of festivities included a concelebrated Mass, presided over by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan. Other priests concelebrating were Msgr. Gerard C. Krieg, pastor; Father John Morgan, pastor of St. Columba's in

Caledonia; Father Robert Collins, chaplain at Monroe Community College; Father Julian McVean, OFM; and Father Robert Baker, SM. Deacon Robert Huerter served as deacon. Others taking part in the liturgy were John M. Loftus, Sister Barbara Baker, MSHS, Mrs. Gerald Saeva, Mrs. George Bischooping, Darlene Keating, Doris Kist, Robin Miller, Stewart, Kathy Amesbury, Jackie Stewart, Terry Popnik, Mary Jo Morris, Peter

Woerner, Dan Meade, Cathy DiNolfo, Jeanne Arthur, Joe Saeva, Jean Sozio, Ellen Woerner, Bonnie Weidert, Marilyn Guck, Fred Plimpton, Fritz and Joe Shero, and Jeanne Arthur.

Following the Mass, a dinner was held. Principals at the event at the Mapledale Party House were Michael G. Miller, Thomas J. Connor, Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, John Loftus, Pat Torpey Przybycien, Glenn

Kist, Fathers Baker, McVean, and Robert McNamara, diocesan historian; Rev. Ronald Sallade, minister of Union Presbyterian Church; Rev. David Edman, minister of Grace Episcopal Church; and Msgr. Krieg and Father Collins.

Father Edward Hartmann, pastor emeritus of St. Mary's, who now resides at St. Ann's Home, was unable to attend the festivities.



Principals for this year's Red Mass include: (seated, left to right) William P. Polito, Father Charles A. Bennett, Joseph G. DeMaria, John F. Burke, (standing) John L. Greisberger, Joseph Fischette, Nicholas Gagliano, and Thomas A. Rohr.

Red Mass Set for Sept. 11

The 33rd annual celebration of the Red Mass, the traditional Catholic liturgy marking the opening of the Courts after their recess, will be celebrated 12:15 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 11, at Old St. Mary's Church.

Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey will be the principal concelebrant. Father Francis Pegnam, pastor of St. Thomas More, and a student of the life of the barrister-saint, will preach the homily.

The Mass has been sponsored, since 1975, by the St. Thomas More Lawyers Guild. John F. Burke, Esq., is chairman of the Mass committee. Joseph G. De Maria, Esq., is president of the guild.

Eucharist

"Focus on the Eucharist" will visit St. Nicholas Church, Remington at Leo Street, tomorrow, Aug. 31. Evening prayer will begin at 7:30 p.m., and Mass in the Melkite Rite, at 8:15. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will follow. The public is invited.

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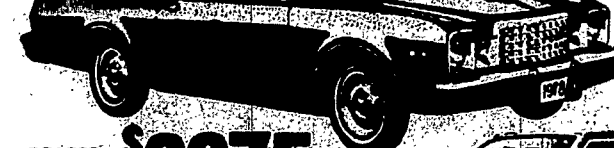
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