

Council Wants More Information On St. Bernard's Difficulties

By MARTIN TOOMBS

Waterloo—The diocesan Priests Council discussed problems and proposals concerning St. Bernard's Seminary at length at its meeting Oct. 10, and requested more information from Bishop Joseph L. Hogan on what has occurred relative to the seminary, and inquired as to the council's role in future deliberations.

Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey told the council that Bishop Hogan has approved scheduling a one-time collection to assist the seminary for December. Bishop Hickey commented on the discussion in the absence of Bishop Hogan, who is recovering from an illness.

Father Louis Hohman, PC president, noted that Bishop Hogan had been scheduled to speak to the council in September on the seminary, but had been unable.

Bishop Hickey described the seminary's problem as being financial, noting that funds have been taken from the endowment to cover expenses. Responding to a question, he assured the delegates that the point at which the seminary will not be able to remain open is not imminent, and no consideration is being made of closing it at the end of the current year.

The seminary Board of Trustees asked for permission to conduct a development campaign and for re-establishment of the annual seminary collection, Bishop Hickey reported. Bishop Hogan, seeking more advice, commissioned a committee headed by Joseph King to look at the situation. The King Committee report has not been made public, he noted.

As for the collection, "It's going to be a one-shot affair. Period," Bishop Hickey stated.

Father Richard Tormey, St. Mary's, Bath, asked if quotas were being planned for each parish; the bishop responded that "I doubt very much there will be a quota."

He also pointed out that the diocese does not subsidize St. Bernard's. The diocese does pay for the board, room and tuition of Rochester students," he explained.

Also raised was the cost per seminarian. Bishop Hickey said that nationally the cost of college education is about \$10,000 a year; he said that St.

Holy Shroud

"The Holy Shroud of Turin," a 25-minute filmstrip, is offered by the local Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation group for showing at meetings or in schools. Arrangements for borrowing the film may be made through 473-7475, according to Mrs. I.B. Newberry.

Bernard's costs are lower, and similar to other seminaries.

Father John Norris, Blessed Sacrament, Rochester, pastor, asked why the collection proposal had not been presented to the council for discussion. Bishop Hickey responded that there was a lack of time, and it was something Bishop Hogan felt had to be done. Father Norris commented that "I guess I have some problems with that."

Father Thomas Statt, Becket Hall rector, noted that Becket also will benefit from the collection, adding that the diocese does pay otherwise uncovered expenses at that facility.

The long-term plans for the seminary also were questioned. Bishop Hickey noted that in addition to continued operation of the seminary as it is, proposals that have yet to be investigated include merger with another institution, greater support from other dioceses, and relocation of the seminary.

Father Hohman noted that the St. Bernard's situation "is something that must not be dropped," and sought suggestions on how to proceed. After further discussion, the

council empowered the executive committee to compose a letter and send it to Bishop Hogan asking for more information, and if the King Committee report could be made available to the council.

The council also considered a response to a request from Father William Amann, Our Lady of Mercy, Rochester, pastor, representing the Ministerial Review Committee (MRC). He explained that the MRC is seeking information on diocesan priorities directly from the three consultative bodies and from the division directors for their work on next year's budget. He recounted that last year, the priorities were taken from existing documents, and presented to the Diocesan Pastoral Council for comment. By going directly to the councils, he explained, the MRC hopes the process will reach the diocese's grassroots.

Each group is being asked to list 10 priorities, he said, with explanations. He emphasized that the responses are due Nov. 15.

After discussion, the council agreed that a letter requesting a response be sent to every priest, and that the council delegates will contact their blocks to

work for full participation. The information is scheduled to be compiled at the body's November meeting.

The council also heard reports from Bishop Hickey on the state bishops meeting; from Father Hohman on current Canon Law proposals affecting priest councils; and from Father Clarence Gardner, liaison to the Diocesan Pastoral Council.

Questions raised by Father Robert Smith, St. Margaret Mary, Irondequoit, concerning purchases from the diocese, sacramental offerings, and the need for a definition of "family" in preparation for the Family Year were referred to committee.

Father Hohman also raised the possibility of the council meeting in the same month as the Diocesan Pastoral Council, reducing annual meetings to six. He deferred discussion until the November meeting.

Deadline!

Deadline for news copy for the Courier-Journal is noon Thursday, the week before the Wednesday publication date.

ST. BERNARD'S SEMINARY
2260 LAKE AVENUE
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our service to you, deteriorate. We must pay the higher prices of our necessities, like it or not. And that's the reason your rates have been going up. The fact is, inflation's done the same to our basic costs as it has to yours. Take a look:

Your basics 1970 vs. 1977		Some of ours	
Food	up 67%	Utility Poles	up 118%
Clothing	up 33%	4" Black Steel Pipe	up 267%
Housing	up 58%	1 0 Aluminum Cable	up 100%
Transportation	up 57%	4" Suspension Insulators	up 30%
Auto Insurance	up 66%	Gas Regulators	up 39%
Medicare	up 68%	5" Galvanized Conduit	up 193%
Home Heating Oil	up 155%	Tractor with Loader Backhoe	up 77%
Residential Electric	up 74%	Gas Meters	up 57%
Gasoline	up 78%	4/0 Copper Wire	up 118%
Residential Gas	up 91%	6 Pin Dist. Crossarm	up 180%
		State and Local Taxes	up 115%

As you can see, everybody pays the high price of inflation.



Shedding light on some subjects that need it.



DSC Approves Proposal for Religious Vicar

By JOHN DASH

The long debated and discussed proposal to update the office of the diocesan Vicar for Religious shortly will be forwarded to the Pastoral Office by the Diocesan Sisters Council.

With minor emendations, the proposal was finished and approved by the council in a unanimous vote last Saturday.

In the new design, the office will be staffed by a team of two directors, a sister, full time, and a priest, part time. In addition, the design calls for secretarial help in the office. The bottom line on the proposed budget is \$29,009.

The council has long looked at the question of re-designing the vicariate. Initially, it was brought to the council by Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, who at present holds the title of Vicar for Religious.

The design calls for the new team to establish renewal programs, counsel, and be a communications link with various bodies in the diocese. In addition, the head of the office will be an "ex officio" member of the DSC.

The proposal will be presented to the diocese in November, for inclusion in the 1979-80 budget. In March, it is expected, a search committee will be established

and the notice of the job openings will be published. In May, the recommendations of the search committee will go to Bishop Joseph L. Hogan for approval.

The new design is principally the work of a DSC committee whose members are Sisters Mary Mercy Baßler, RSM; Nancy DeRycke, SSJ; Ann Mary Dooley, SSJ; Rita Kaufman, RSM; Mary Patrice Messner, SSJ; Mary Loretto Reynolds, SSND; Betty Rogers, RC; Dorothy Schlueter, RSM; and Marlene Vigna, RSM.

Research for the new design, however, has been in the works for nearly two years. Even prior to that the idea of revamping the office has been under council discussion. Heading the research team for the initial work was Sister Mary Patrice.

In essence, the proposal calls for shifting the traditional focus of the office from the strictly canonical duties outlined in the Code of Canon Law to a much broader, service-oriented dimension.

Such revamping has become commonplace in the U.S. in recent years. It is estimated that nearly 40 per cent of the dioceses in this country have reconstructed the office in ways similar to the DSC proposal.