

Pastoral Changes

Father Hempel Accepts West Coast Chaplaincy

Father John J. Hempel, a World War II veteran and a seasoned chaplain, has accepted a chaplaincy with the Veterans' Administration in San Francisco, the Pastoral Office announced last week. His place as chaplain at St. Ann's Home will be filled temporarily by Father Thomas F. Nellis, who has been associate pastor of St. Alphonsus, Auburn, since October 1976.

Father Raymond G. Heisel, who resigned the pastorate of St. Margaret Mary, Irondequoit, last May and went to St. Mary's, Dansville, as associate pastor, moved to St. Anne's, Rochester, on April 17, the Pastoral Office reported.

Father Hempel was in the Army for five years before he began studying for the priesthood. He served as a medical corpsman on the battlefields of Europe for 21 months. As a diocesan priest, he was with the Secular Mission and the Office of Human Development that grew out of it, and later, rector of Becket Hall. He was

chaplain to a National Guard unit for many years.

Father Heisel, many times a pastor, also has a background of Army service, as a chaplain at overseas posts. He was pastor at St. Margaret Mary for nearly nine years.

The Pastoral Office reported also that Father Francis Taylor, who is ill, resigned the pastorate of St. Boniface some time ago. Father Winfried Kellner is the temporary administrator of the parish.



FATHER HEMPEL



Cherry Blossom Ball

An Oriental theme has been chosen for the third annual Spring dance sponsored by Concepts '79, a group of friends of Nazareth College, that is scheduled for Saturday, May 19, behind "The Great Wall" of the Nazareth campus in the "House of Lourdes." The Cherry Blossom Ball will begin at cocktails at 6:30 p.m., followed by 8 p.m. dinner and dancing to the music of Len Hawley's Kabuki Band. Dedicated to bring Nazareth and the community together, the dance is open to the public. Reservations may be made by contacting Mrs. Richard Lewis at 244-5117. Planning the event, above, are Mrs. Leon Skinner, Mrs. Albert Thomas, Mrs. John Coleman.

Diocesan Appointments

FATHER JOHN HEMPEL to service with the Veterans Administration chaplaincy in San Francisco, from chaplain, St. Ann's Home.

FATHER RAYMOND G. HEISEL to associate pastor, St. Anne's Church, Rochester, from associate pastor, St. Mary's, Dansville.

FATHER THOMAS F. NELLIS to chaplain, temporarily, of St. Ann's Home, from associate pastor, St. Alphonsus, Auburn.

Conference Scheduled For Clergy

Clergymen throughout Western New York have been invited to the 14th annual Western New York Clergy Economic Education Conference, slated for April 29-May 2 at the Hilton Inn-on-

the-Campus.

The conference is sponsored by the Economic Education Foundation for Clergy, and the College of Continuing Education at

Rochester Institute of Technology, and is designed for clergymen of all faiths. Further information is available by contacting RIT's College of Continuing Education (716) 475-2142.

Will U.S. Bishops Change Methods?

Chicago (RNS) - The U.S. Catholic bishops will examine their two national-level organizations which have been under fire from some of their own bishop-members and from both conservative and liberal circles of the Church.

At their semiannual meeting here May 1-3, the 250 bishops will take a look at the purpose, goals and operating procedures of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the United States Catholic Conference. Both are governed by the same officers.

The bishops also will elect delegates to the 1980 international Synod of Bishops in Rome to discuss family life.

Several prelates have complained that the twice-yearly meetings of the bishops have become cumbersome, non-productive and too expensive. Following the last meeting, an editorial in the Philadelphia Standard and Times, the archdiocesan newspaper published under Cardinal John Krol, said, "The results of the recent bishops' meeting in Washington seem to indicate that the U.S. bishops could cut back on the number of their meetings without diminishing the impact of their statements and decisions."

More substantial criticism of the operating procedures was voiced at a closed session of the bishops 48-member executive committee last November. The committee reversed a high-level decision to force the early retirement of social action leader Msgr. George Higgins and close the NCCB's human values offices without prior executive committee approval.

In a recent editorial, Father

Kenneth Baker, editor of the Homiletic & Pastoral Review, a conservative theological monthly, complained that the bishops, influenced by "left-leaning social activist," have taken positions - usually "liberal-chic," ranging from the Vietnam War and the Panama Canal to the boycotts of lettuce and Farah slacks."

At the other end of the ideological spectrum, the liberal National Catholic Reporter charged that the NCCB-USCC "is so busy loading down the troops with 'new directions' that there's a 'new direction' every few months before the old 'new direction' has been implemented."

Bishop Thomas Kelly, general secretary of the two organizations, said, "The bishops will come to grips with the question of what kind of leadership and service their episcopal conference should provide for the Church in the United States in the post-conciliar age. It may well be that in the years ahead the session will be seen as a landmark in the development of the U.S. episcopal conference."

Nursing Program

The St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association will sponsor an in-service education program today dealing with cardiac drugs. Marie Bunce, a cardiac clinician and a pharmacist, will give the presentation beginning at 1 p.m. in room 206 of the Bishop Kearney Education Building. All are welcome.

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