

Fr. Robinson

From 7

two fulltime sisters. The amount of work generated couldn't be handled. We lost the sisters but got no one to follow through on the work opened up. We are no more fully staffed than when I came . . . we have no more money, less money actually, and there have been no increments enabling us to move forward in what we generated. This is not growth, it is programming ourselves for failure and mounting frustration.

If the executive secretary is to be a paperwork administrator let's establish this. But if he is to be a walking program, to share his skills . . . in other parts of the country I have been able to do things I can't do here. When it comes to the local area I am saddled by voluminous paperwork that insults my intelligence and talents. If you want a person with resource and talents he should be treated as such.

The office has been tolerated to exist but I'm not sure to be allowed to grow and be creative. The budgetary and personnel factors speak as evidence.

How will your successor be chosen?

A search committee of the Board of Directors (of the OBM) - I have been absenting myself to leave them free -- has met twice now to ascertain what direction to take. They will take similar action to what brought me here -- ads in the National Catholic Reporter, the NOBC's Impact, the newsletter of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus and in local publications describing qualifications and salary. Any applications will be screened by the search committee to determine who is to be interviewed and hired by June 15, before I leave at the end of June.

Do you have advice for him or her? What pitfalls lie in his way? What will be his greatest problems? What advantages will he or she find?

To establish immediate rapport with diocesan personnel to enable an early working together. To watch for and decipher limitations regarding how much paperwork - to have some emphatic no's to some levels of paperwork, or he ultimately will be a paperwork individual.

My own failure to offer emphatic no's to paperwork was to my disadvantage.

Another disadvantage was the geographic size of the diocese and the variety of unrelated black pockets within the diocese prison, rural poor, urban affluent, central city -- all needed response but resources and personnel limitations held us back.

As for advantages, in some ways he won't have it as difficult as I, perhaps because the office has been minimally established. All the growing pains and embattlements of the last three years don't have to be repeated if he accepts the insights made.

He, or she, will not be starting from nothing.

Because some initial contacts have been made, there are some people aware of what the new director will need. In addition, I along with the Detroit OBM set up the National Conference of Black Administrators, thus he will have others with common interest for reference and support, for meetings and discussions.

I also have been editor for the group's first six proceedings and he can glean information from the documents of progress and accomplishment. Although there will be new struggles and hassles all is not lost or in vain.

Once a group of tourists were passing a garden in Norfolk, England, which was filled with blooms and plants. They noticed a gardener tending a certain group of plants with no flowers and one asked him what they were. He replied that they were century plants and bloomed only once every hundred years. Asked if he had ever seen the flower, he replied, "No, neither has my father, but my children will."

The Open Window

By Father Louis J. Hohman

Too Many Goals Set For Councils

Dear Father,

I am a member of our parish council. We have made some progress in planning and goal setting and have kept in touch with the diocesan priorities. It was just a very short time ago that Fr. Hohman the family was made a national and diocesan priority, and then the diocese made stewardship a priority, and this year we are being told that nationally and in the diocese evangelization is a priority. The whole thing becomes terribly confusing, because if these things are to be regarded with any seriousness and taken as important points of focus, then we are simply overwhelmed and will not be able to do a good job with any of them. How do you think this should be handled?

(Signed) N.J.

Dear N.J.,

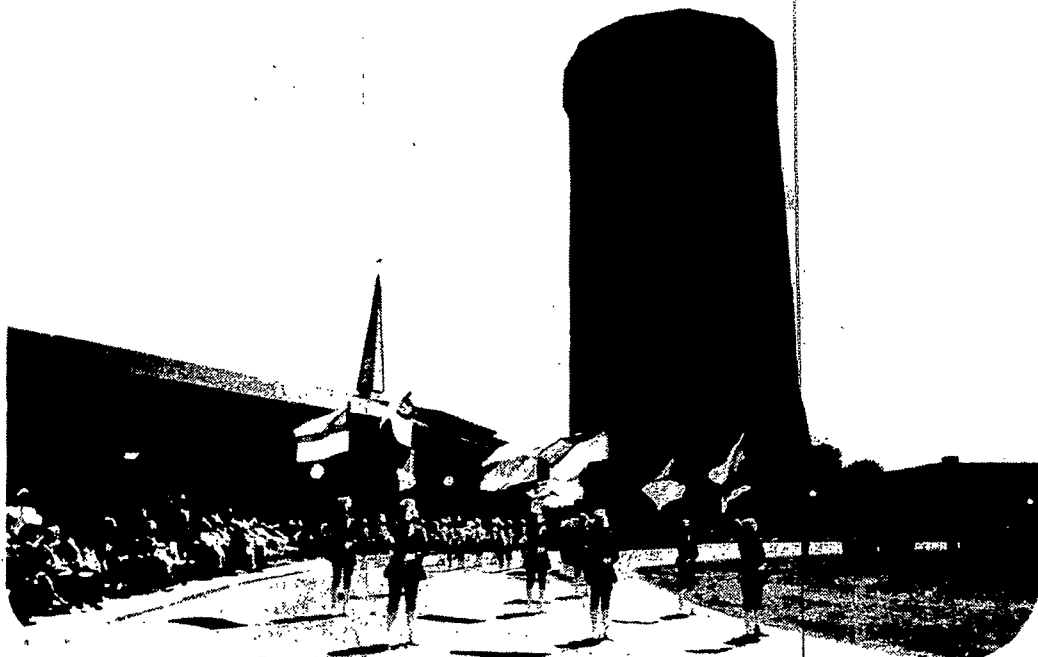
It is with satisfaction that we view the increasing

number of parishes that are getting involved in planning and goal setting. But I share your concern over this multiplication of goals and points of focus because the whole thing could get to be quite ridiculous and therefore dropped.

One of the developments which we will be seeing very soon is the elimination of annual long-range planning and the development of specific plans relative to any one of these three subjects over a period of three or five years. It is unrealistic to think that a parish can conduct extensive and intensive programs in all three areas in any given year. Therefore, we will have to change our planning process to a more infrequent one, with an annual review of where we're at relative to objectives.

At the evangelization workshop, Father Alvin Illig, who is national director of evangelization, indicated his concern for this situation. He also thinks we should latch onto a central focus and let our goals flow from that over a longer period of time.

This is part of our learning process and as such will take some time to be settled. I hope you will be patient.



At St. Ann's

In the name of National Nursing Home Week, an elaborate program of entertainment was stretched over the past two weeks at St. Ann's Home and The Heritage. Pictured are the color guard, majorettes and marching band from Bishop Kearney High School, and, below, some of the residents, staff members and friends who gathered for the band concert. At right, John Canepa and Irene Schantz get ready for the annual Mulcahy Memorial Putting Tournament, which was won by Frank Mance, with Norman Robinson and Father Nicholas Alletto in second and third places. Among other events were a bingo party put on by Aquinas students and Italian music and dancing presented by costumed students from East High.



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TEEN BOARD TRY OUTS
Saturday, June 2

**Third Floor Community Center,
McCurdy's Midtown**

If you're interested in . . . self improvement, representing your school, learning the latest fashion trends, assisting in store-wide promotions, meeting students from other schools . . . and if you will be a sophomore, junior, or senior this fall . . .

COME TO THE TRY OUTS!!!

If your last name begins with A through H come to McCurdy's Community Center, Third Floor Midtown at 10:15 a.m. on Saturday, June 2. If your last name begins with I through Z come to McCurdy's, Community Center, Third Floor Midtown at 1:15 p.m. Saturday, June 2.

YOU MUST BRING A RECENT PHOTOGRAPH

There is no cost involved. If you're the enthusiastic person we're looking for, GET INTO THE ACTION with McCurdy's Fall '79 Teen Board!