

Priests Council Report

Provided by Father Louis J. Hohman
President of the Priests Council

In the meeting of the Priests Council on Nov. 4, Father James Schwartz, newly appointed director of the Ministry to Priests program, spoke on the work of his office and said that the renewal of the Church should have a new ingredient which reflects the call to holiness and the development of the interior spirit of the priesthood.

He said that this is an area which has been somewhat neglected and is called for by the bishops of the United States in their document concerning the continuing education of priests.

In that document, the bishops indicated their concern was not strictly with the intellectual growth of priests, but rather the total development of the person: spiritual, emotional and intellectual.

Father Schwartz also indicated that the main impetus for the development of his office, came from the machinery set in motion by the Priests Council in 1977.

It was decided then to have Father Vincent Dwyer, a Trappist, from the Center for Human Development at the University of Notre Dame, bring his program to the priests of the diocese.

That council resolution was passed in 1977 and subsequently Father Dwyer gave his program to more than 100 area priests who had enrolled.

The program is ongoing and involves not only individual spiritual direction for priests but also support groups which enable priests to help one another.

Father Schwartz pledged that he would do all that he could to develop the spiritual and emotional lives of priests through whatever means were available.

In his opening address to the council, Bishop Matthew H. Clark indicated that the guidelines for the reception and administration of the sacraments are in the process of being made. He indicated that such guidelines are not set in concrete, but he asked that all the priests stand together in their observance of them.

"We need to do this together," Bishop Clark said, "in the full range of options, while keeping within the laws."

He also asked that the Priests Council hear a report from the director of Fund Development, Father Conrad Sundholm, at the December meeting.

In his report, Father Douglas Hoffman, liaison with the Pastoral Office, spoke of the recent appointment of five new regional coordinators, including Auxiliary Bishop John E. McCafferty.

He also said that the diocesan Personnel Board has reported that within the next five years, 24 priests will be ordained and 40 priests will retire. The problem is being attacked from several angles, he said.

In addition, Father Hoffman reported that the Ministerial Review Committee will present its final budget recommendations on May 17, 1980, for the following budget year.

In other council business, a motion was made by Father James L. Callan to organize a committee to present to Bishop Clark, at the December Council Meeting, the most pertinent questions uppermost in priests' minds, regarding the future of St. Bernard's Seminary in all its aspects. Discussion of the motion revealed that the committee's function would be to set up the machinery for discussion of the issue and would not be an investigative body.

The council also moved to reactivate their standing committees, to better respond to the questions put before the council by Bishop Clark at the September meeting.

Human Rights Denial Hit In Report

St. Louis — Human rights and the denial of them under communism is the most important issue of our times, according to the November report of the Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation.

Pointing out that Pope John Paul II emphasized the

importance of human rights for every human being, in his United Nations address, the report contends that all such rights are systematically denied the peoples of Soviet Russia, Communist China and all others under communism.

Dr. Weeden Named To Additional Post at St. Bernard's Seminary

The Rev. Dr. Theodore J. Weeden Jr., professor of New Testament Exegesis at St. Bernard's Seminary, has been appointed also as professor of Homiletics and Biblical Preaching. The appointment, announced last week by the seminary, is effective Dec. 1.

Asbury First United Methodist Church, Rochester. He holds a doctorate in New Testament studies from Claremont School of Theology in California, and has taught at Colgate Rochester-Bextley Hall-Crozer Theological Seminary.

Sisters Council Report

By John Dash

The Diocesan Sisters Council, meeting last week unanimously approved a motion to send a letter of commendation to Mother Teresa for her work among the destitute of the world, and congratulations on receiving the Nobel Peace Prize.

The sisters also discussed drawing up a list of diocesan women religious for inclusion in the annual Diocesan Directory. Because of the time limits involved for the 1980 publication, the council decided to work on the project for the 1981 edition.

Acting on a motion from the sisters' own social concerns committee, the council unanimously approved a donation from the council treasury of \$150 to Cambodian Relief, the diocesan agency gathering funds for the starving in Cambodia. The sisters also gave the green light for the social concerns committee to ask similar action from each house of women religious in the diocese.

The council donation was understood to be an extraordinary action, done only in view of the enormity of the situation in Cambodia.

Sisters Penance Services will again be sponsored by the council in the Auburn/Seneca Falls/Waterloo, Monroe County, and Southern Tier areas, by a unanimous vote of the council.

The major portion of the council's day was given to discussion of rewriting the by-laws of the organization. It is expected that the sisters will vote on final drafts of their constitution at the December meeting.

In an unusual action, the sisters surprised an observer of their meetings with a birthday celebration. The one-year-old attendant was strongly moved.

Derrick to Be CUF Speaker

The St. Pius X Chapter of Catholics United for the Faith has scheduled a luncheon lecture with Christopher Derrick the speaker at 12:15 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 17 at the Mapledale Party House, 1020 Maple Ave.

Derrick is a British author, lecturer, apologist and Chestertonian. His topic will be "The Anti-Life Society."

Reservations at \$8 each are available through 328-9707 or 244-4308.



CHRISTOPHER DERRICK

Coming Nov. 21, 1979



The Divisions

In the first part of a special series on the administrative offices of the diocese, the Courier-Journal of Nov. 21 will include a special eight-page pullout section containing the diocesan financial statement. It will be accompanied by a message from Bishop Matthew H. Clark.

The section also will include a description of the Bishop's Office with reports on Pastoral Ministry, Urban Ministry, the Tribunal, general administration, the State Catholic Conference, and the bishop's administration.

In succeeding weeks, the series will describe the work of the five diocesan divisions. The schedule:

- Nov. 28 — Social Ministry.
- Dec. 5 — Special Ministry.
- Dec. 12 — Education.
- Dec. 19 — Personnel and staffing.
- Dec. 26 — Support Ministry.

It All Begins In Next Week's

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