

Seminary Faculty Answers Queries By Priests Council

By Michael Groden

Discussion centered on St. Bernard's Seminary at last week's Priests Council meeting. Seminary faculty, headed by Father Frank Lioi, rector, answered questions on subjects ranging from the financial stability of the seminary to the subject matter taught.

Council members asked questions raised by other priests during separate block meetings held earlier.

The seminary information session opened with Father Lioi saying that he firmly believed St. Bernard's to be "one of the best seminaries in the United States," and that his staff was dedicated to keeping it that way.

Father Robert Smith inquired about the financial feasibility of running St. Bernard's taking into consideration the declining enrollment and today's spiraling costs. He also said that members of his block wanted to know if it would be less expensive to have Rochester seminarians trained at another facility, outside the diocese.

Father Lioi said that he didn't look at the seminary in totally financial terms but rather as a program which is very good and quite beneficial to the diocese. In those terms he feels that the diocese should look at ways to keep the school going and that there are ways to raise the needed funds.

Father Joseph Brennan added that should the seminary be closed the diocese would lose many other worthwhile programs which contribute significantly to the diocese.

Father Donald Schwab reported that his block felt the seminary was worth the money spent each year and asked the members if there was anything we can do, as diocesan priests, to help the students at the seminary.

Father James Callan questioned the staff members on curriculum. He observed that St. Bernard's only required 96 credit hours in its program while the guidelines normally call for 120. He also asked if the focal point of courses offered at the seminary still adhered totally to the Magisterium of the

Church, the authority and power of Rome to teach religious truth.

Father Joseph Hart responded that although it may appear there is less time spent in credit hours, all areas in current requirements are covered. Some subjects listed separately by other seminaries are combined at St. Bernard's.

He said that "yes, definitely," the basic premise at St. Bernard's is the Magisterium, and will always be.

Father Callan said that some members of his block voiced concern in this area and this response was "a real assurance."

Father Thomas Valenti asked the seminary panel if they thought some courses taught might not "go as far as they should" for those studying for the priesthood. He said that some of his block wondered if the courses were not as comprehensive because of other individuals taking the courses, for other ministries.

Father David Kelly responded that it was his experience that laypersons who take courses at St. Bernard's "actually enriched" the programs taught.

Only half of the council members were able to ask questions at the meeting due to time limitations. All questions raised during the block meetings were given to the seminary panel in written form and will be addressed by them.

In other council action Bishop Matthew Clark commented on last month's clergy meeting held at the Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua. Bishop Clark thanked all the priests who participated for the "beautiful and fraternal spirit that was demonstrated during the meetings," and for all the thoughts and suggestions the priests gave him. He also asked the council for their

prayers and support for a mutually acceptable solution to the problems at St. Bridget's parish.

The bishop said that meetings had been set up with all the parties involved and he hoped a solution could be reached.

A question and answer period with Bishop Clark was begun that dealt with continuing education for priests in the diocese and the bishop's role in major decisions made by parish councils.

The questions will continue at the April meeting.

Family Camp Has Reunion

Father David Mura, spiritual director of Family Camping Renewal, celebrated Mass recently at Sacred Heart Rectory for a reunion of 19 families and staffers of last year's camp.

Arrangements for the reunion were made by Dick and Carla Falzot, James and Pauline Dobbertin, John and Pat Young, and James and Phyllis Hopkins. The group gathered from as far away as Hornell and North Rose.

In his homily, Father Mura spoke of the preparations being made for the coming summer's program, and spoke of the benefits to his own-life of the event.

The reunion also featured a pot-luck supper and games for the children.

Renewal Day Arranged By Charismatic Group

Father Richard McAlear, OMI, of Our Lady of Hope Center in Newburgh will conduct a day of renewal March 15 at Holy Spirit, Penfield, under the aegis of the diocesan Catholic Charismatic Service Com-

mittee. The event, open to the public, is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Participants should bring lunch. On the previous evening, at 7:30, Father McAlear will celebrate Mass at the Church of the Resurrection, 63 Mason Road, Fairport.

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Sisters Support Stevens Boycott, Tackle Lettuce

By John Dash

After months of deliberation, the Diocesan Sisters Council last week approved a motion of support for the boycott of products made by the J.P. Stevens Co.

The sisters approved of boycotting the textile manufacturer's products, "until collective bargaining begins," with its employees.

The sisters' resolution expressed support for the workers in the matter.

The council also resolved to promote the boycott among its constituents.

In an allied matter, the council has written a letter to the head of a large supermarket chain, Robert Wegman, asking that Red Coach Lettuce, distributed by Bruce Church, be removed from the markets' shelves.

The letter, signed by Sister Shirley Pilot, as chairman of the council's Social Concerns Committee, states that Church refuses to enter into negotiations with the United Farm Workers, representing the harvesters of that lettuce.

Sister Shirley's letter also details sources for lettuce which are other than Red Coach.

In the Stevens matter, the sisters have been deliberating the boycott since late last year. The question was first raised in council by Sister Ann Urquhart of the social concerns group. She has since shown films, held panel discussions and distributed literature on the question.

The council also heard a report from its executive committee on the inclusion of smaller communities of sisters into council deliberations. The report stated that while nearly all

such communities responded favorably to the invitation to council membership, time commitment made attendance at council meetings impossible for the members of those communities.

Following the meeting, Sister Jane Hasbrook, the council's secretary, reported that Bishop Matthew J.H. Clark is planning visitations with communities of sisters, starting next fall. She said that he is open to ideas on how best to conduct those visitations.

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