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not kill

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The Electronic Church

Monsignor-Guest Gives Viewpoint

The Courier-Journal, in its March 5 issue, ran a story describing some of the misgivings many feel concerning what is becoming known as "the electronic church." In it, a theologian described the brand of religion exhibited in the many television and radio as "cheap." Defenders of such programming also were heard from. Now, a highly respected Catholic journalist, Msgr. John P. Foley, editor of the Philadelphia diocesan newspaper, describes his personal involvement.

By Msgr. John P. Foley
Religious News
Service Special

Philadelphia — What is it like to become a messenger of the "good news" in the electronic church?

As one who had served as English-language press liaison for the journey of Pope John Paul II through the United States, I considered the opportunity to participate in the "700 Club" both a privilege and a revelation.

The call from the Virginia Beach headquarters of the Christian Broadcasting Network, producer of the "700 Club," came only days after I had returned from accompanying the pope.

The public affairs office of the U.S. Catholic Conference, the caller said, had recommended me to participate in a special one-hour segment the "700 Club" was doing the following week on the papal visit. Would I take part?

My affirmative response produced a flurry of activity. I was transferred to a travel coordinator, who made arrangements for my flight to Virginia Beach, my transportation from the airport and my hotel accommodations; I was then transferred to an interviewer who asked about my life, my work and my experiences on the papal trip; then I was transferred back to a producer who assured me that all would be ready for my appearance with Pat Robertson, "700 Club" host, the following week.

Everything went as planned.

The young man who met me at the airport was polite and efficient, but he made no secret of the fact that he was a former Catholic who found more fulfillment with CBN than he had in the Catholic Church. Several others at CBN later made the same point — although several

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Timothy J. McCluskey To Be Ordained

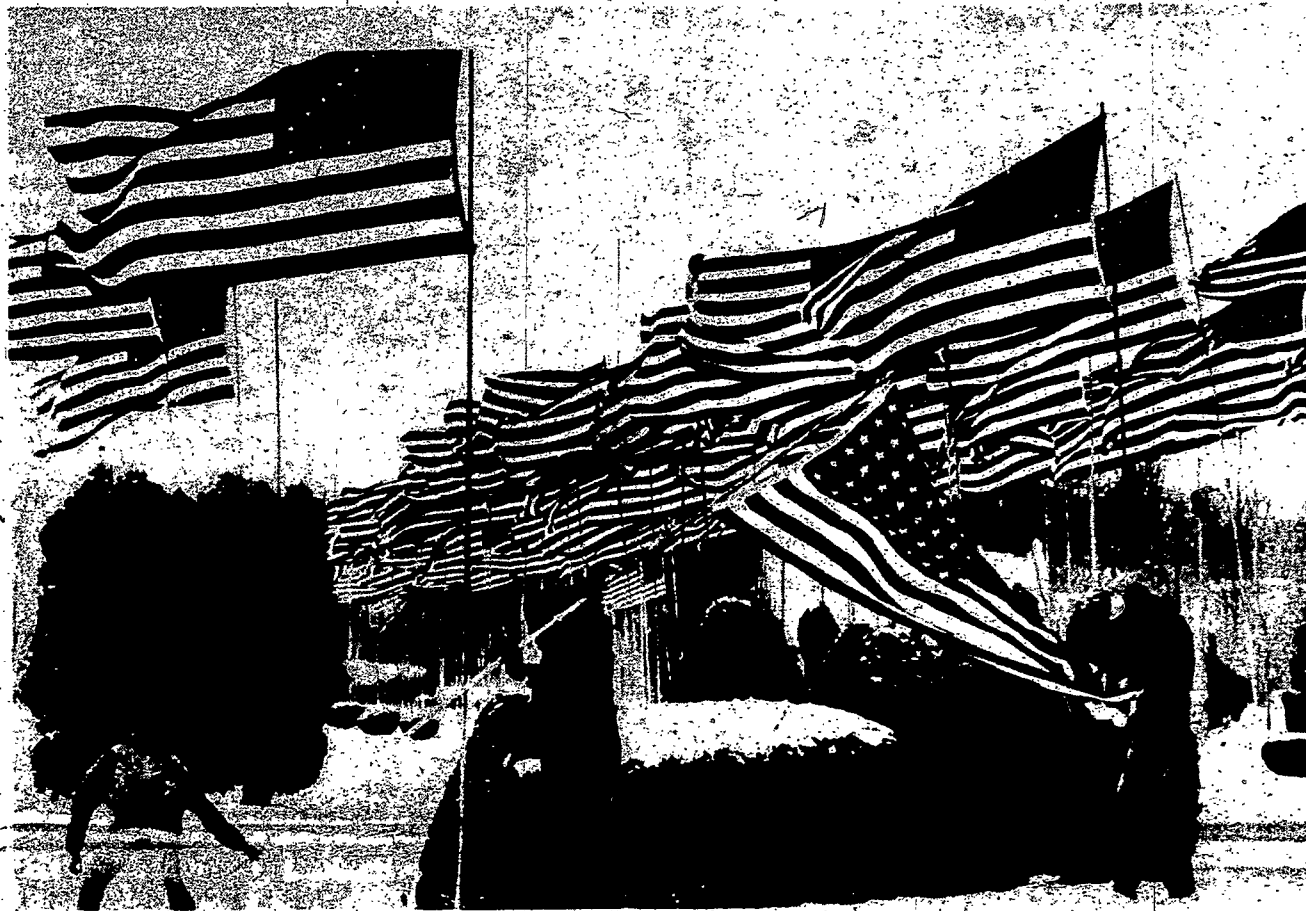
Ceremonies in both Spanish and English will mark the ordination to the priesthood of Rev. Mr. Timothy J. McCluskey, at St. Andrew's Church on March 28 at 7:30 p.m.

The son of Mrs. Alice Jane McCluskey Zimmerman and the late Malcolm D. McCluskey, and the step-son of Oscar Zimmerman, has chosen as his theme, "I will rejoice in Jerusalem and exult in her people." Yo voy a hacer de Jerusalem un "Contento" y de su pueblo una alegria.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark will preside at the rites.

Deacon McCluskey was born in 1948, was schooled at Blessed Sacrament, McQuaid Jesuit High School, John Carroll University, from which he received a BA in English; and St. Bernard's Seminary. He has taken additional training at St. Agnes Church, Avon; the Office of Family Life, California Correctional Facility in Vacaville, Cal.; for his Clinical Pastoral

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Flags for Hostages

Cemetery employees in Hermitage, Pa., raise another flag to the collection marking the days the American hostages have been held in Iran. The flags are loaned

by area families who are determined to keep them flying until the captives are freed. (RNS Photo)

Need to Strengthen Parishes, Evangelization DPC Topics

By Martin Toombs

Canandaigua — Strengthening parishes and evangelizing were items that occupied the Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) at its meeting Saturday at St. Mary's School.

The Church continues the mission of Christ in many ways, Father Douglas Hoffman noted in explaining

the effort to strengthen parishes, and the parish is one of the most important.

That recognition caused the National Conference of Catholic Bishops to commission a three-year parish project, the director of the diocesan Office of Pastoral Ministry noted. That project has developed a vision of parish.

The parish community is rooted in the local human communities, he noted, and has the traits of race, ethnicity and economic levels of that community. The parish, he said, is a call to a life "embracing differences without denying them."

In its study, the commission emphasized the sacramental character of the Church, and, he noted, "it is in Eucharistic liturgy" that parishes most fully express their union. And the bishop's commission stated that the most effective tool in evangelization is a parish "alive with its mission."

Father Hoffman offered resolutions calling on the DPC to acknowledge the work of the national parish project, to encourage use of its

published materials, and to support the work of parishes. A fourth resolution called on the DPC to form a "workgroup" that would "study and enlarge upon the vision of parish developed by the bishops," and make suggestions for parish renewal.

DPC members reacted favorably to the report, but in the interest of forming a group with a more specific charge, approved instead a motion calling for an ad hoc committee to prepare such a charge.

Colleen and Michael Cooper of Macedon spoke on evangelization, presenting six programs they learned about at a national conference on evangelization.

Speaking for the ongoing DPC Evangelization Committee, the Coopers noted their personal involvement with the topic, as at one time Mrs. Cooper didn't practice her faith, and Cooper was a non-practicing Protestant. Now, they noted, they hope to be able to do for others what was done for them.

After describing the

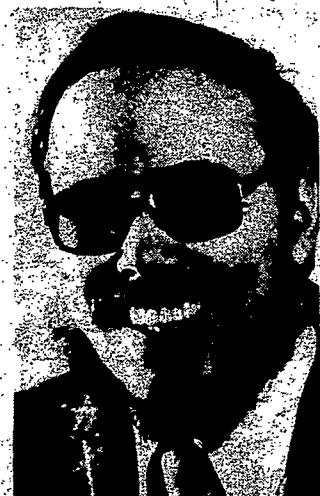
programs, Mrs. Cooper noted that the common thread is the need to get parishioners committed.

Father James Marvin, St. Ambrose pastor, also described his parish's use of the Homecoming program, noting the success the parish achieved.

In other action, the DPC heard a report from Anthony Rosati on the first meeting of the task force studying the feasibility of a diocesan Board of Education. Several persons who attended the meeting questioned his report, stating that it did not reflect what was agreed upon by the group. The conflict was not resolved, but assurances were received from the body that the committee was expected to continue meeting on its charge.

DPC members also approved by unanimous consent a motion expressing their prayerful support of Bishop John McCafferty in his current illness, after Bishop Clark explained the situation.

Several issues were discussed during a forum with
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FATHER MCCLUSKEY