

# Priests Council Hears MRC Activities Update

By Michael Groden

Priests Council members heard an update on the activities of the Ministerial Review Committee from Father Paul Murley and a report by Sister Roberta Tierney, project director of the Communications Committee, on how funds raised during the annual collection will be spent in the Rochester diocese.

## Women's Auxiliary Meets

Linda Cornell Weinstein, executive director of the Women's Career Center, will be guest speaker at the fall luncheon meeting of the Women's Auxiliary to the Medical Society of Monroe County on Wednesday, Oct. 15 at the Century Club, 566 East Ave.

Weinstein will speak on "What Can the Women's Career Center Do for You." The presentation will include "alternative work patterns, constraints facing women today (including the barriers to advancement) and she will outline the services available through the center," according to a release.

The council also passed a resolution dealing with a new program for priests which prepares them for taking over a new parish; and formed an ad hoc committee that will investigate procedures for the "amalgamation and consolidation of buildings and parishes in the diocese."

Father Murley briefly described the function of the MRC. The group consists of two priests, two sisters and nine laypersons. The committee reviews budgets and work performed by every diocesan agency. It then issues a bi-annual report to the division directors and an overall report is sent to the Diocesan Pastoral Council, Father Murley said.

He reported that the committee members of the MRC are "serious, dedicated people" who are very concerned with budgets and diocesan programs.

Sister Roberta, who directed the collection committee in addition to her duties as director of education, said that a survey of the diocesan consultative bodies showed that the funds should be used for television programs that are "professionally done, of good quality and somehow involve parish life."

The committee has selected a series of religiously oriented programs, prepared on a national level and based on a news magazine format. The program allows time for locally produced stories as well, which would give the series a local flavor, Sister Roberta said.

The communications committee has presented the proposed programs to Bishop Matthew H. Clark for his approval. About \$35,000 is available from the past two collections.

In other council action a proposal was accepted which called on the council executive committee to work with other diocesan priest councils to establish a program that prepares priests for assuming a new parish, either for the first time or for changing parishes.

In response to Bishop Clark's request, the council established an ad hoc committee that will study the question of amalgamation and consolidation of parish buildings or the parishes themselves. The resolution was accepted unanimously.

The council will next meet at St. Jerome's, East Rochester on Nov. 4.



## Marjorie Owens Communion Breakfast At St. Agnes

A Family Communion Breakfast will take place at St. Agnes High School auditorium immediately following the 10 a.m. Mass, Sunday, Oct. 19.

Father Thomas Valenti, the new diocesan director of vocations, will be the speaker. The Parents Club is sponsoring the event with Marjorie Owens chairperson.

## Women's Club Begins Drive

The Catholic Women's Club of Rochester has begun its 10th annual membership drive. The club's goal is to add 100 new members. Present members, now numbering slightly less than 800, are encouraged, by the club's officers, to bring a friend to the upcoming CWC events.

## Insights in Liturgy

### The Body At Prayer

By Sister Nancy Burkin

For those of us who have experienced a catechesis that emphasized a dichotomy between body and soul, the emphasis of the renewal of sacramental life of the Church on authentic symbols may seem a bit strange. Previously receiving a sacrament was a spiritual experience at which the body happened to be present. Today the Church urges us, to use fresh, cool water, and lots of it, for Baptism; fragrant, glistening oil for anointings; substantial, tasty bread for communion; a firm yet tender touch for reconciliation. Too, we are encouraged to arrange our churches in order to allow for visual contact with one another so that the sign of the one Body of Christ is evident to all.

We may wonder if we have become a "sense oriented" Church to the detriment of the spiritual; if we are pushing the pendulum of understanding to the very opposite end of the arc and emphasizing "bodily" experiences.

Actually the renewal of sacramental life has attempted to regain not a happy medium between body and soul, material and spiritual, but a proper understanding of the human person as we have inherited it from our Hebrew ancestors. The Hebrew people had no understanding of the human person as a product of two separate entities; for them, the human person was simply enlivened flesh.

This way of understanding the human person is necessary in order to comprehend the use of authentic symbols as called for in the renewed sacramental rituals. But it is also essential for an understanding of the Church at prayer in liturgical celebrations.

No prayer, least of all liturgical prayer, is simply a "head" trip or an experience of the soul, as differentiated from the body, with God. Each of us fresh with the waters of Baptism, shining with the oil of confirmation, stands as "enlivened flesh" before one another and God.

Therefore, the movements, positions, and gestures of our body add to, or unfortunately subtract from, our prayer. We stand strong and straight in blessing, praise, and thanksgiving. We kneel,

humbly, asking pardon. We sit, open to the Word of the Lord, attentive visually to the lector who brings that Word to life for us. We stretch out our hand to another, gently but firmly, accepting the Lord in the body of the other in peace. And we stretch forth those same hands, humbly but confidently to receive the bread and the cup that makes us one. Bodily gestures are essential to liturgical worship because our bodies are essential to that worship. Imagine, a simple greeting of "good morning" given with no facial expression of anything "good" and no bodily movement or gesture to sign its meaning! Such an experience is empty and conveys nothing even close to "good morning."

Likewise, our words of praise, thanksgiving, and assent are empty if we merely mouth them and allow unthinking, careless body language to negate or at least compromise our

stance as people of God in prayer.

Liturgical dance, movement, gesture, call it what we may, has always been with us; it is not new! In the early centuries of the church people expressed with their bodies the interior realities within themselves. Even after Trent, rituals prescribed bodily movements, rigid though they may have been, for celebrant and congregation. Today, as we can come to see ourselves as enlivened flesh, made whole by the breadth of the living God, let us join freely in the perichoresis, the dance of praise coming from the Father, through the Son, and returning in the Spirit to the Father. Let us be aware of the unity we share as we kneel together, see each other, and stand as one. Let us be aware that our bodies agree or disagree loudly with our spoken words, and may we become signs of that unity to which we are called.

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October 19th is Mission Sunday.

A reminder that Christ meant all of us when He said: Go ye, therefore and teach all nations. Yet few of us can. Few of us do. All of us, though, can help the Missions throughout the world. Here are some of the ways:

**HELP THE REFUGEES**  
 In the very lands where Christ was born and where His disciples taught, there are over 1,800,000 people living without homes, and without hope. Some of them for more than 30 years! Just \$20 will feed a family for a month—\$25 will repair a small but decent home. Only \$50 will care for a blind or deaf-mute child for a month—and \$2 will buy a refugee child hot lunches for a whole month. How much will you share?

**ADOPT A CHILD**  
 The recent fighting in Lebanon and throughout the Near East has left thousands of children in dire need. You can support one of them for only \$14 a month—give them clothes, food, shelter, education—and what they need most—love. "Your" child will write to you. You may reply, if you wish. Christ will love you the more for loving one of His very own "little ones."

**A PRIEST OR SISTER OF YOUR OWN**  
 In the Near East, hundreds of vocations are blooming. But many young men and women may never realize their dream to walk in Christ's footsteps only because their families are poor. For just \$300 (\$12.50 a month for two years) you can help a young girl become a nun. For \$1080 (\$15 a month for six years) you can sponsor a seminarian all the way to Ordination. Now you can have a priest or Sister in your family.

**THE PERFECT MEMORIAL**  
 Many poor Catholics in the Near East do not even have a church of their own in which to worship. You can help. Where? The mountain people of Kerala, primitive farm folk who live in mud huts, desperately need to replace the ramshackle shed that now serves as a chapel. Just \$4000 will give the 185 Catholic families there a modest but adequate church—an ideal Memorial for someone you love.

RJ  
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