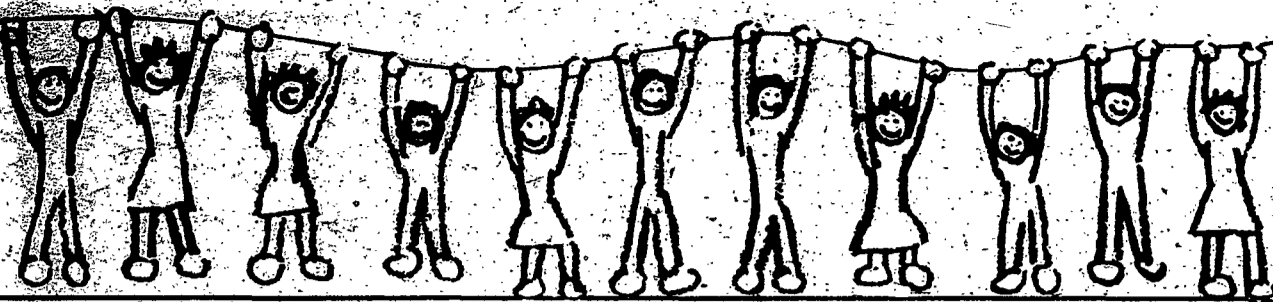


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COURIER-JOURNAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

28 Pages

Wednesday, October 22, 1980

OUR 97th YEAR

25 Cents

Diocese Facing Worsening Priest Shortage

First in a Series
 By Martin Toombs

Once a stereotypical parish would have had an experienced pastor, an assistant preparing for his first pastorate, and a young priest to whom fell the responsibility for the altar boys and the youth group.

Few parishes even approach that pattern today. Of those parishes staffed by diocesan priests, nine in the Rochester diocese have three priests. Fifty-eight others have two priests.

The remaining 78 parishes have a pastor working alone; some actually have responsibility for two or even three churches.

In addition to the diocesan priests, 17 parishes and other ministries are staffed by religious priests, reducing the

The Priest Shortage And Its Challenge

dependence on diocesan personnel.

But most diocesans remain unaware of the declining number of priests, until their own parish staff is cut. It is a reality which will be brought home to more parishes during the next few years, according to figures listed by Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, head of diocesan priests personnel.

Nearly one quarter, or 70, of the diocese's priests are between the ages of 60 and 70; they will be retiring during the next 10 years.

Currently there are seven deacons preparing for or-

dination, 23 students at St. Bernard's Seminary for the diocese, and 11 at Becket Hall. Should all of those men complete their training, it would give the diocese 41 ordinands during the next nine years, many fewer than will be needed to replace those retiring.

And that fails to take into account those priests leaving active ministry (five in the past year), those forced to retire early due to poor health, or deaths which occur before retirement.

During the past year, seven active priests with an average age of 61.8 have died.

The net loss of priests has been about five each of the past four years. The diocese had 308 active diocesan priests in 1976, and now has 277.

Each year fewer parishes have associate pastors, and occasionally two parishes accustomed to having a resident pastor are assigned to a single priest, as was the case this year with Sacred Heart, Perkinsville, and St. Pius V, Cohocton.

And in the past several years, two parishes and three missions have been closed: St. Lucy's and St. Patrick's in Rochester, and the missions in Piffard, Atlanta and Romulus.

Two factors help alleviate the shortage of ordained staff: the continued work of retired priests, and the assistance of priests with non-parochial

assignments in parishes on weekends. (The role of non-ordained personnel will be discussed later in the series.)

Bishop Hickey emphasized that many retired priests leave administrative but not priestly duties. Many continue in active ministry for many years after their retirement.

The non-parochial workers, priests serving as chaplains or in diocesan administrative positions, also help in parishes on weekends. At times the double assignment means they have difficulty getting any time off.

The number of non-parochial workers often is cited as the reason for the shortage of priests for parish work. But of the 54 diocesan priests with non-parochial positions (down from 68 four years ago), only about a third are in administrative jobs. The

remainder hold chaplaincies in places such as hospitals, prisons, colleges or nursing homes.

Bishop Hickey has had the day-to-day responsibility for priest appointments since he became auxiliary bishop in 1968. He now serves as director of the diocesan Personnel Division, and chairman of the Priests Personnel Board (see accompanying article).

Two items on the wall of Bishop Hickey's office reveal his sense of humor about the task of assigning priests. A description of a "Perfect Pastor" is hung there (see accompanying article), as well as a painting of four cows at the intersection of two fences. The cows, fenced into separate corners, are each feeding over the fence in the adjoining field. "The other

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Secular Press Treatment Mars Papal Message

By Father Louis J. Hohman
 Courier-Journal Episcopal Advisor

An article headlined "Pope: Don't Look Lustfully at Wife" appeared in the Oct. 9 Rochester Times-Union.

The lead paragraph was "Pope John Paul II said a man is guilty of committing 'adultery in the heart' if he looks at his own wife in a lustful manner." The statement was reportedly made in the Pope's weekly audience of Oct. 8.



Analysis

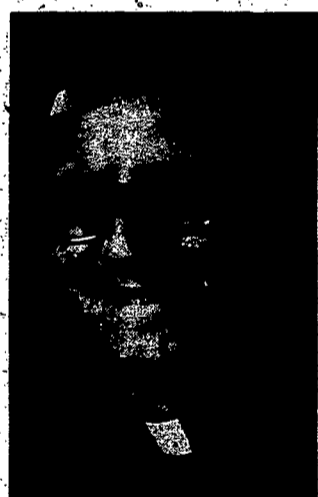
Not a few people became upset by the article, considering it to be one more evidence of the anti-sexualism of the Vatican. What could possibly be wrong with wanting your own wife, desiring her sexually? Investigation showed that the statement was so isolated from context that it could in no way reflect the sense the Holy Father intended.

The item was taken from one of the wire services.

What was the Holy Father talking about and what was he saying? In his weekly (Wednesday) audience John Paul II has tended to give a series of reflections on a particular subject. In this case, he was addressing himself to the statement of Christ in Matthew 5:27-28 — "I tell you whoever looks at a woman to lust after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

The Holy Father is telling us that lust is not simply an intense reaching to a particular value, but, in the biblical sense, it is the denial of a higher value — the call to mutual love and giving. In simpler terms, the lust Jesus referred to was the looking at a woman as though she were an object, a "thing" to be enjoyed, rather than a person to be loved and cherished. From this point of view it should be easy to see how a married man could sin by looking at his wife not as a

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FR. JANKOWIAK



FR. SCHIFFERLI



FR. VASILE



FR. ZIMMER

Four Named Regional Coordinators

Four new regional coordinators have been named by Bishop Matthew H. Clark. They are:

Father Joseph M. Jankowiak, North Region; Father Jerome F. Schifferli, Livingston; Father Louis A. Vasile, Northwest, and Father Edward A. Zimmer, Seneca-Cayuga.

Father Jankowiak is pastor of St. Stanislaus parish in Rochester and teaches part-time at St. Bernard's Seminary.

He is a Rochester native and a graduate of Aquinas Institute and St. Bernard's Seminary. Ordained a priest in 1964, he spent the first four years of his priestly ministry in parish work — at St. Thomas the Apostle and St. Stanislaus.

In 1968, he was sent to do graduate studies in Germany and Rome. He has a license in Theology from the University of St. Thomas and a doctorate in Moral Theology from the Gregorian University, both in Rome.

Before becoming a pastor, Father Jankowiak was an adjunct associate professor of Moral Theology at St. Bernard's. He was a member of the Diocesan Pastoral Council Formation Committee and has served on the council itself.

Father Schifferli is pastor of St. Joseph's, Livonia; St. William's, Conesus, and St. Margaret's, Conesus Lake.

He was ordained in 1945 and served his first assistantship at St. Michael's in Rochester until 1953. He then was assistant at Old St.

Mary's for the next eight years.

Bishop James E. Kearney named him chaplain at Elmira Correctional and Reception Center in 1961 and he served in that capacity until 1972 when he became pastor at St. Joseph's.

Father Vasile, an Auburnian, was ordained in that city's St. Francis of Assisi Church in 1972.

His first assignment was at St. Ann's in Hornell and he has subsequently served at St. Philip Neri, St. Christopher's, St. Patrick's in Corning and at St. Lawrence where he has been associate pastor since 1977.

He was executive secretary of the Priests Council from 1972 to 1975.

Before attending St. An-

drew's and St. Bernard's seminaries, he was graduated from St. Francis of Assisi Grammar School and Mt. Carmel High School in Auburn.

Father Zimmer, pastor of St. Mary's in Auburn, was ordained in 1947. He attended Blessed Sacrament School and St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's Seminaries.

He was assistant pastor at St. Bridget, St. Boniface, Immaculate Conception in Ithaca, Immaculate Conception in Rochester, Sacred Heart Cathedral.

He taught at St. Bernard's Seminary from 1967 until 1970 when he was named pastor of St. Monica's parish. He served at that Rochester church until August of 1979 when he became pastor of St. Mary's in Auburn.