



Farm worker woes

In an echo of the 1960s, Cesar Chavez visited Rochester to describe the plight of farm workers and to urge support for the current boycott of California grapes. See page 3.



Dashed dream

Aquinas' dream of becoming the first-ever Little Irish hockey team to win a state title ended with a loss to Rome Free Academy at Brockport State last weekend. See page 9.

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DPC focuses on gambling, fall crusade

By Lee Strong

Bingo and Billy Graham dominated deliberations at the Diocesan Pastoral Council meeting held at St. Anne's Church, Palmyra, on Saturday, March 5.

The most animated discussion of the day centered on the draft version of a questionnaire about gambling — especially bingo — and alcohol at parish functions. The questionnaire was prepared by a DPC committee formed last May after Howard Enkling, a representative from the Thompsons/Tioga region, raised the issues of bingo and alcohol during the Bishop's Forum portion of the DPC's April meeting.

At that time, Enkling questioned whether parishes contribute to the human cost of alcoholism and compulsive gambling by serving alcohol, and by offering bingo and other games of chance at festivals and fund-raisers. During the April meeting, Bishop Matthew H. Clark encouraged the council to give the issue further study.

The result of that study was the draft questionnaire, which had been mailed to DPC members before Saturday's meeting. Only 15 minutes had been set aside for discussion of the draft. The actual discussion, however, lasted far longer than 15 minutes, and extended beyond the draft itself and into the philosophical issues underlying Enkling's original question.

Karl Denninger, a representative from the Northwest region, even questioned whether bingo and alcohol were appropriate issues for the DPC to deal with legislatively. "If this is a moral question, then majority rule is not the way to settle a moral question," he said.

Other council members said that alcohol and gambling should be considered separately. A number of members also asked whether the complex questions related to bingo, raffles and alcohol at parish functions could be adequately encompassed in a questionnaire.

Tim Mancini, representing the Northeast region, said that "bingo is designed in most parishes to take a financial burden off parishioners" and that alternative methods of financing would have to be suggested if parishes were to consider eliminating it.

Another objection voiced by several of the council members was that the questionnaire focused on bingo as a form of gambling and a means of raising funds, but not as a social activity.

Several council members suggested that the questionnaire would be more useful if it included questions designed to elicit such statistical information as what percentages of parishes' income depends upon bingo and raffles. They also urged that questions asking for moral judgments — such as "Should it be necessary for a parish to have bingo or should expenses be covered by a program of responsible, sacrificial giving by the parishioners?" — be eliminated or reworded.

DPC Chairman Ron Jodoin pointed out that the questionnaire is intended solely as a device for gathering information about bingo from parishes. "What you do with that information is another question," he added. The committee will rework the questionnaire based on the points raised at the DPC meeting, he said. The revised questionnaire will be mailed to the DPC members for discussion at the council's next meeting.

Enkling, for one, hopes the council will continue to discuss the questions of gambling and alcohol. "As moral people we should not sweep



ANXIOUS KNIGHTS — McQuaid's William Thomas (from left), Ryan Sutter and Douglas Spiegel react to the final moments of McQuaid's win over Webster in last weekend's Class AAA title game. For more on the sectionals, see pages 8 and 9.

something under the rug because it makes us feel good or brings money into a parish," he said. "What kind of example are we setting for our community or our children?"

He acknowledged that many parishes rely on bingo for income, and that suddenly eliminating it would cause serious problems. He noted, however, that other dioceses around the country are phasing bingo out.

Whatever direction DPC discussions take, they cannot produce a mandate for the Rochester diocese, Enkling added. "We're looking at this issue, and that looking may result in a recommendation," he remarked. "It's up to (Bishop Clark) to act on it."

Nearly equalling the animation of the bingo discussion was a presentation on the Billy Graham Crusade — scheduled to take place in Rochester September 11 through 18. The excitement stemmed not from disagreement about the subject, however, but from the presenter, Father Robert Werth, pastor of St.

Bridget's Parish in Rochester. "Why should we even be involved with this?" Father Werth asked as he began his talk. "Because Billy Graham is about as generic a Christian evangelist as you will find."

The Catholic Diocese of Rochester should participate in the crusade, Father Werth asserted, because "the experience of the Graham Crusade is that approximately the same number of Catholics as you will find in a community will attend the crusade." The diocese, he added should "capitalize on that involvement."

Father Werth pointed out that Graham, unlike many other evangelists, does not try to recruit followers for any particular denomination. Instead, he encourages people — especially the "inquirers" who step forward in response to his call each night of the crusade — to accept Jesus, go back to their own churches and parishes, and get involved. If the Catholic diocese is to take advantage of this,

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