



Andres Dixon/Staff photographer
Father Donald Cozzens of Cleveland greets the audience at a talk at Transfiguration Church in Pittsford on Aug. 3.

Author frank on priesthood crisis

By Rob Cullivan
 Staff writer

PITTSFORD — Father Donald B. Cozzens will frankly admit he has more questions than answers when it comes to the current vocations crisis plaguing the Catholic priesthood.

Nonetheless, difficult questions need to be asked if the church is to ever seriously deal with the decline in the numbers of men who want to be priests, said Father Cozzens, author of a somewhat controversial new book *The Changing Face of the Priesthood — A Reflection on the Priest's Crisis of Soul*.

Those questions include: Are the priesthood and seminaries becoming dominated by homosexuals whose subculture makes the vocation less attractive to straight

men? Are the increasing pastoral demands placed on the few priests available making it impossible for them to further their own personal spiritual and intellectual growth? And why do surveys show that two-thirds of today's Catholic parents are more inclined to discourage rather than encourage their sons to become priests?

"It's hard for me to think of a more meaningful life than the priesthood," Father Cozzens said during a talk at Church of the Transfiguration Aug. 3. "The priesthood is a very meaningful way of life, and yet we don't have sufficient numbers."

About 150 people attended the talk by Father Cozzens, who is president-rector of St. Mary Seminary and Graduate School of Theology in Wickliffe, Ohio, and associate editor of *Emmanuel Magazine*. Earlier in the day, Father Cozzens gave a talk

for diocesan priests. His visit was sponsored by St. Bernard's Institute.

Father Cozzens' book received some negative reaction after a story about it appeared this year in *The Plain Dealer*, a Cleveland newspaper. In his speech, Father Cozzens noted that some of his fellow priests in the Diocese of Cleveland called for his removal from his position.

"Your book won't help with vocations," he said some priests told him.

The Changing Face of the Priesthood addresses a number of issues, primarily in the United States, including the difficulties a celibate priest faces finding emotionally and spiritually intimate friendships that don't cross the line into physical intimacy. Some priests have left the priesthood to get married not simply

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MINOR Charismatic TO THE Mass



Karen Callaway/CNS

An Indiana priest cleans the sacred vessels.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments has issued the first revision in 25 years of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal.

The new Latin-language instruction — released simultaneously in Washington in an English study translation — introduces many small changes in the way Mass is to be celebrated.

"I think overall, the instruction will be accepted well because it changes very little," commented Joan Workmaster, Rochester diocesan director of liturgy. "It confirms or expands our understanding of a particular piece of the liturgy."

She also stressed that the English edition is only a study copy that cannot be quoted definitively at this point.

"A more definitive version of greater canonical status is to be produced by customary procedures in the near future," noted Father James Moroney, executive director of the bishops' Secretariat on the Liturgy.

The document makes a clear legislative decision on a controversy of recent years by declaring that it is "desirable whenever possible" for the priest to celebrate Mass facing the people.

Some Catholic groups have been pressing church officials to adopt the view that the preferable form of celebration is for priest and people alike to be facing eastward, which entails the priest having his back to the people.

The 1975 instruction simply said the altar in every church "should be free-standing to allow the ministers to walk around it easily and Mass to be celebrated facing the people." The new instruction repeats those words, but after "facing the people" it adds, "which is desirable whenever possible."

The location of the tabernacle has been another source of ongoing controversy, including among some Rochester diocesan parishes. The 1975 instruction expressed strong preference for "eucharistic reservation in a chapel suited to the faithful's private adoration and prayer." It said the

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