

April 24, 1979

Judy:

GGC
Wow!

Please note the enclosed article about the priests' meeting in Mitchell. There is nothing in it about pro-life but is background for the following. It all began when my brother was nominated for board of directors at Lions Club, which meets at the Holiday Inn, the site of the priests' meeting. For his campaign speech, he told the Lions that he received the unanimous endorsement of the "white-collar workers eating out by the pool." He placed a "high" second out of six elected.

While removing his coat, he overheard two priests talking, one of whom he recognized as Father James Wolf, Holy Name Church, Watertown. The other one was younger with a beard. They mentioned McGovern and the pro-life people and the younger one told Wolf they have to sit back and take stock of the situation before they do anything as a unit. At that point, my brother pretended to make a phone call to overhear the rest. It sounded as though they had discussed the situation in some committee meeting and finally the younger priest convinced Wolf that they shouldn't be too hasty about their plans.

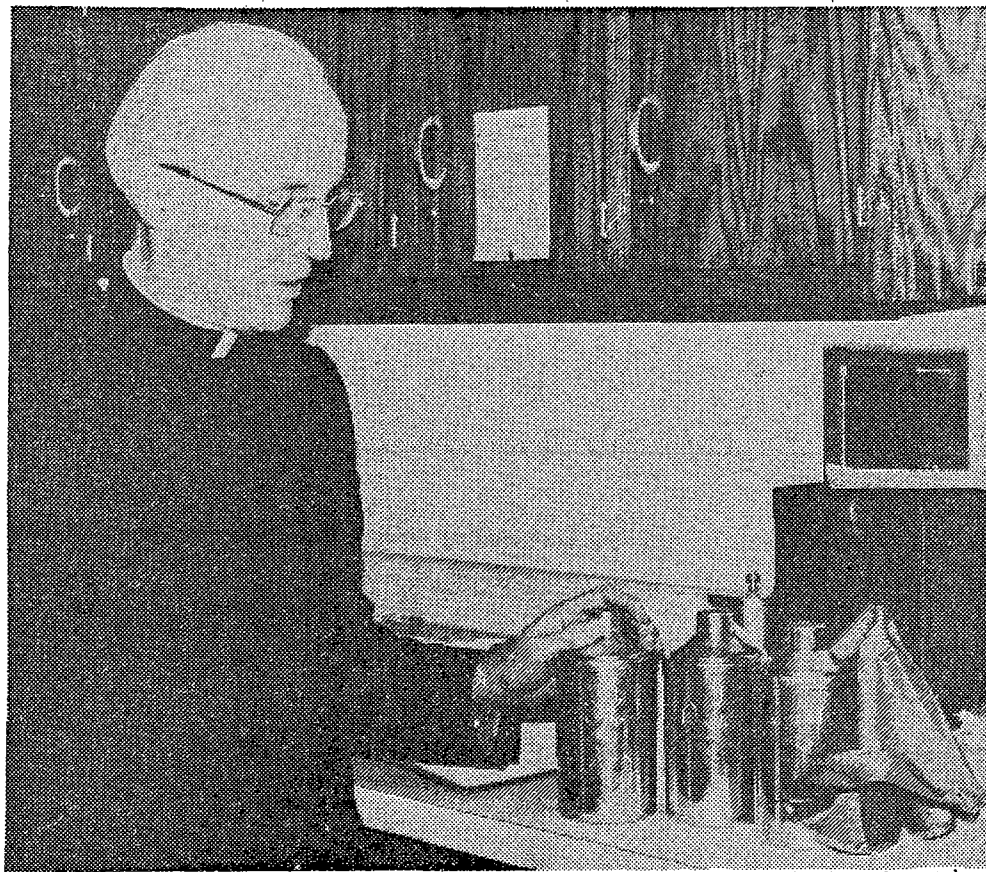
With a chuckle, I commented to Dave that I should have "worked the meeting." He said he finished it for me. He talked to Bishop Dudley about the conversation and Dudley was just shocked and wanted to know who the priests were, but my brother kept his sources. Dudley said that subject has never come up in this meeting or any committee meetings. He said he has written letters to the priests about pro-life, but is upset because the church is being misunderstood-by its own people, also. He says their goal is to advance life and not to mention or endorse any candidates toward that end. Although he said he cannot control what individual priests do on the altar, he will not issue any memo or mention any names when it comes down to the elections. And, he will not encourage any such actions.

He said he gets upset by people who point to pro-life as single issue politics in a negative context. He says a lot of people got where they are today because of a single issue. Anti-war candidates got elected based on that issue; Richard Nixon met his downfall because of a single issue-Watergate; Lyndon Johnson was ruined because of a single issue-Vietnam. What he's saying is that there are more single issues that people vote on than just pro-life.

Regarding the DAP drive, he said the church would never give to a group that would use the money for or against candidates. They give to Right-to-Life so the organization to use it in promoting life. My reaction to that was he does not have any control over what the Right-to-Life uses that money for. I would be interested to know if he believes the purchase of posters to demonstrate is promoting life or political in nature.

Cindy

Bishop cites presbytery 'time for sharing together'



(Photo by Karen Iverson)

ALTHOUGH THE MASS of the Oils is usually conducted on Maundy Thursday, Bishop Paul Dudley chose to wait until more priests could participate in the service. The bishop of the Sioux Falls Diocese held the

mass to bless the oils to be used in the sacraments at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Mitchell Monday night where priests of the diocese had gathered for a two-day priests presbytery.

By KAREN IVERSON
Daily Republic
Women's Editor

For the first time since his installation as head of the Sioux Falls Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church, Bishop Paul Dudley has gathered the priests from across the eastern half of South Dakota for a sharing of ideas and plans for the church.

The two-day priests presbytery convened Monday, April 23, at the Holiday Inn, bringing together approximately 140 priests and deacons representing around 120 parishes.

During the presbytery, Dudley, who became head of the diocese last Dec. 13, is outlining his plans for the church and discussing the roles of the priests, stated Fr. Robert Flannery, Pierre, one of the coordinators of the two-day meeting.

Dudley stated the primary purpose of the presbytery as "a time to meet together as priests to share together...a time when I can share my goals and dreams for the diocese with them."

He said his major goal is to see a greater commitment by the priests to the Lord.

"It is a time to renew our commitment to the Lord...a time to emphasize the best of our talents, to reflect on Jesus our talents, to reflect on Jesus Christ, to pray, to share together," he said. That can be done, he continued, by caring,

sharing aiding the sick, and serving in whatever way possible to truly proclaim Him Lord.

Questioned about the drafted land statement concerning the deterrent of land ownership by large corporations, the bishop of the Sioux Falls Diocese said, "The object of that statement, which is just a draft at this point, is to get people thinking about it. It is not the official stand by the church. I expect to see changes made in it."

Dudley made this statement about changes among priests serving the various parishes in the diocese: "There is no definite policy and I want to stress that. Personally, I can see advantages in priests sharing their talents in other parishes. But there will be no changes without direct communication and understanding with the priests."

The bishop of the East River diocese commented further that at this time he foresees no particular directives forthcoming from Rome. However, he felt the priests should pay special attention to a letter Pope John Paul II wrote to priests throughout the world.

"We must take full stock of the letter of John Paul II to all the priests everywhere that we have a two-fold task before us: to renew our commitment to the Lord and to celibacy so that we make it a real charisma to the church," he commented.

Another major event of the sessions took place Monday night as sisters and laity joined the bishop and priests for a special Mass of the Oils. Generally consecrated on Maundy Thursday, Dudley chose to bless the oils used in the sacraments during this meeting because more members of the parishes could participate, stated Flannery. The oils will then be distributed to the local parishes.

The new role of the lay deacon, groundwork for which was laid before the retirement of Bishop Lambert Hoch, who is also attending the sessions, received particular emphasis. Fr. Jerry Holtzman, Vermillion, directed the program. Previously a step toward the priesthood, in its new context the deacon is a trained person who shares in the duties of the parish: to teach, to preach, to administer some of the sacraments, or to witness a marriage. However, the deacon is not able to perform masses. Aimed at answering the shortage in the priesthood, the deacon may be a married individual. But a priest cannot be a deacon. Lay deacons have already been established at Sioux Falls and Marty Mission.

Special sessions will be conducted by Fr. Mike Kolar, St. Paul, on youth ministry, and by Fr. Richard Mahowald, Milbank, on inter-communion.

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