# Clergy's role could include politics

Should clergy become involved in politics?
It's an old issue that is coming to the fore with
the pope barring a priest from running for re-election to Congres.

The question is not so clearly should clergy get
involved in issues which are political.

Jim Pitgerald writes in his Free Press column
that he hopes a Presbyterian minister in a small
community he recently visited is gleeted to the
school board. Fr. Bill Cunningam in the same
newspaper says that clergy shouldn't run for office
because they will be required to compromise. He
beleives, however, they should be active with politicians.

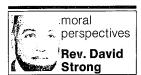
cians.

A Gallop poll made in 1978 found there were more people who had left the church in part because the churches were not making a serious effort to change society than there were people who left because they disliked social involvment.

This is a surprise to me. We clergy hear mostly the loud voices of those who dislike our social and advited in the control of the control o

the loud voices of those who dislike our social and political involvement.
Yet in retrospect, having passed through this fiery furnance several times, I remember that when the chips were down the laity supported the social involvement of the minister. People were upset. They were more upset because there was conflict between members in the

congregation. Yet they allowed the proposed programs to be carried out knowing that a few of the members would leave.



YEARS AGO I served a church in a small town. The essential millage for the schools had been voted down seven consecutive times. The morals was destroyed and the faculty decimated.

The teachers said they could not get involved be-cause it would hurt their standing in the communi-in The farmers opposed any millage because they "wh land. The businessman feared losing "wouldn't get involved.

The clergy said their members didn't want them to get involved in politics. The Catholics opposed any millage because they had their parochal school. Those who rented homes feared that if they worked on the millage their rent would be raise. The city council would not become involved for fear of boing their council positions.

Finally two of us clergy and a few others who

became aroused started the slow process of getting support for the schools. We picked off the city council one by one getting them to sign a supportive statement which sould be published on the front page of the local newspaper.

The last few councilmen signed very reluctantlysimply because they feared the political consequences of being the only ones not to sign. The hand-signed statement was printed on the front page of the newspaper with all the councilmen's signatures. The movement gathered momentum and the millage was passed.

THE QUESTION is not should clergy get in-volved in social issues but how should they get in-

volved in Social issues our now snown they get in-volved. Holding bittled office can become a full-time job. This raises the different question of clergy working in more than one occupation at the same time. Will they do justice to both? What about the view that clergy should not be-come involved in an endeavor like politics which requires compromise? We clergy must often com-promise in our ornesstonal and personal lives. This

requires compromise? We ciergy must often com-promise in our professional and personal lives. This is part of what it means to be human and resolve differences. Perhaps we, like the small town in which I once lived are becoming more aware of the human and spiritual costs of non-involvement in social issues. The question is not should clergy become involved in their society but how will they participate.

SHEWERD BE

LUTHERAN CHURCH 2205 AVEN IND BRIVE ADEORN HEIGHTS

SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

### Layman heads schools

Frank De Santis has been named superintendent of schools for the Archdiocese of Detroit as of July 1. He is the first lay person to be named to that post.

For the past 10 years, De Santis has been assistant superintendent of Region Two in the Detroit school district. He served as an instructor at Michigan State University and the University of Detroit. He also worked as a principal in various Detroit public schools.

De Santis, 57, replaces Sister Maryellen Harmon, RSCJ, who will complete her term as superintendent in June. She has accepted a position

complete her term as su-perintendent in June. She has accepted a position at Madonna College in Livonia and will work in teacher education. De Santis is married and the father of two children who attend the University of Detroit High School.

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Drake Road at Freedom
Phone 478-1511
Rev. Edmund Lother. Pastor
SUNDAY
9-45 am - Sunday School
11 am - Morning Worship
700 pm Revival Raily
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7:00 PM
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Nursery Provided at All Services Janet Ritter 422-1150

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5800 W. Maple Road & W. Bloomfield, MI 48033

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Barbara Sinclair, Associate Minister



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Worship 10 00 am
Church School 10 00 am
ursery through High School
Minister, John W. Bray

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4

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Bloomfield Hills

Christian Church

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9 30 am and 11 am HURCH SCHOOL & NURSERY 9 30 am and 11 am MINISTERS Robert LS Brown James E Thomas

ST PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 165 E. Square Lake Road Bloomfield Hills (2 biks East of Woodward)

338-8233 9.45 a m - Church School 9:45 a m - Pastor's Class 11:00 a.m - Worship

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1

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11/730
Richard A. Childrett - Paster
Worship 30.0 8.11.00 a m
Church School 93.08 a m

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Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Missouri Synod 12 Mie & Farmegton Roads Behind Crowley s The Rev. R.A. St. Pierre - Pastor

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