

2 Leaders Assess Year

Vicariate System Working

There have been growing pains, but the possibilities are good.

That's the assessment of the Rev. James P. O'Hagan, vicar of the Farmington-Southfield Catholic, after a year in office.

"I think that it can and will work if everybody works together," he says.

That's the reaction of the Rev. David Britz, vicar of members of the parishes and religious institutions in Redford Township, Livonia, Plymouth and Northville.

A TOTAL of 25 vicariates was established in April 1969 in an organizational change by the Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit. Both men were the first elected vicars in the area and were named by delegates of the laity, religious and clergy.

Elections for new vicars will end at the end of May. Fr. O'Hagan is not seeking reelection, while Fr. Britz is.

When the vicariates were set up, the central chancery office of the archdiocese abolished the vicars serve as the personal representatives of John Cardinal Dearden, spiritual leader of the metropolitan area Catholics.

WHAT'S the vicars' verdict on the new organizational structure after a year of operation?

Both vicars are pleased with the system, but both say that improvements can still be made.

The biggest tangible accomplishment in both vicariates is the establishment of parish councils of laymen.

Both priests say that the councils have been elected and are now in operation in each one of the 11 parishes in the Farmington-Southfield vicariate and the 14 parishes in Livonia, Plymouth, Redford Township and Northville.

THE PARISH COUNCILS send one delegate to the vicariate council, and each pastor and a representative of the religious communities and institutions are also members of the vicariate governing body.

Fr. O'Hagan says that with the elected parish councils, there is now a direct line to the cardinal from the people. "Until all the councils were installed," he explained, "we were handicapped because we

might get an indication of the wishes of the people, but we didn't have a direct line to them."

This vicar is not seeking reelection because he says that he was not nominated.

IN ADDITION to the parish councils, each vicariate has instructions to work with the parish worship, Christian formation and Christian service committees.

In Farmington and Southfield, Fr. O'Hagan reports a "great deal of sharing" between the different parishes and pastors.

"We have given heavy stress to the church's role in social issues through the vicariate social service committee," Fr. O'Hagan says.

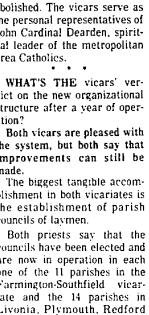
Delegates to this committee have met with representatives of the National Welfare Organization and a Northwest Inter-Faith Center. They have also discussed the possibility of participating in a draft counseling center in the area.

"There has been an enrichment of the parish religious education programs in this vicariate," Fr. O'Hagan continued. "That's because there has been a sharing back and forth between the coordinators and section heads and ideas and information have been exchanged."

"Of course, there are some problems," Fr. O'Hagan admitted. "The inequality between the parishes is not all broken down, and it will take time to think about the needs of the entire area before those of one particular parish."

Fr. Britz proposes that the vicar become a full-time job rather than the priest serving both as vicar and in a parish. He says that if reelected, he will actually spend time living in each parish in order to meet and talk with the people to find out their wishes.

He says that the vicariate system is working, but that there are still many things to be done. He says that the vicariate system is working, but that there are still many things to be done.



FR. DAVID BRITZ



FR. JAMES P. O'HAGAN

ECUMENICAL REFLECTIONS

"Ecumenical Reflections" is a column in which Observer and lay leaders are invited to present their ideas on church and religious topics of general interest. Anyone interested is invited to participate. Contributions should be one to two pages of double-spaced typing and may be mailed to the Church Editor, Observer Newspapers, 271 S. Main, Plymouth 48170.

By DR. BARTLETT L. HESS, Ward United Presbyterian Church of Livonia

The lines of communication appear to have fallen into disrepair in our beloved country. Thousands of students on our campuses have been demoralized and some breaking windows, destroying ROT buildings, and tragically, four Kent State youth are dead in confrontation with the National Guard.

They are trying to say something. Because they think no one is listening they disrupt college and university life and even use violence to say it. Secretary Walter Hickel, one of the surprises of President Nixon's cabinet, felt it necessary to write a letter to the President to inform him of lack of communication with the Nation's youth instead of talking to his superior personally.

WHEN TWO PEOPLE are talking and not communicating, one must understand the other, or both stop talking. The speaker may continue to raise his voice in order to get attention until he is shouting.

ANOTHER BARRIER to communication lies in our pre-conceived ideas of the person and his relationship to us. We have him pigeonholed. We know what he means before he opens his mouth or do we?

Of course it takes a mature person to have mature relationships and one who is not hiding behind all parts of defenses which say to another person, "Try and find me."

The essence of personhood involves relationship—deep, fruitful, open interchange, giving and taking and this causes us to run the risk of being hurt. The more we open ourselves to others the deeper they can hurt us, but the more rewarding life becomes.

WE NEVER really find ourselves as persons until we find God, or rather, God finds us. In the parable of the Prodigal Son our Lord shows us how wonderful our Father is when we turn back to him.

We never come to our real selves as persons until we find our need of God revealed in Jesus Christ, confess our sins, and receive the Savior.

When we learn that God has been trying to communicate himself to us all the time and establish a relationship of mutual love, we realize that we are not alone in this world. We have him pigeonholed. We know what he means before he opens his mouth or do we?

Where communications break down, we are missing the presence of God at work. When he is welcomed and honored and obeyed, people open to one another as they have to him.

Rev. Lester Kinsolving's

Religion Update

What can a clergyman do when he becomes the target for seduction by a young female or by a neurotic who confuses religious devotion with her sex drive?

The problem is perennial and the mere suspicion, or baseless accusation, that a minister has yielded to such temptations has been the ruin of an untold number of ministries.

He is usually and immediately changed from counselor to stud service, since one such sexual encounter almost invariably stimulates a strong desire for another. And should he try to limit or abandon this habit, he is likely to find that Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned or deprived.

WHILE THE MINISTERIAL office, if properly conducted, deters most seductresses; particularly if the clergyman is happily married, there is a certain type of woman who, fascinated by the ultimate in the illicit, likes nothing better than the sexual conquest of a holy man.

This type is often hardened enough to assure the unfortunate clerical target that unless he comes across she will run her blouse and run screaming from his office. Such a performance, no matter how innocent the victim, should prove ruinous to his reputation and his career.

One clergyman, who has conducted a great many women, maintains a non-colored buzzer underneath his desk drawer. Whenever female visitors call, he rings the buzzer, which tells him they are in the room. He then goes to the door, preparing to leap into his arms. He pushes this alarm which results in the immediate and dramatic re-entrance of an elderly female secretary.

OTHER CLERGY have found an excellent way to deal with sexual partners with themselves as the preferred solution can be solved with amazing rapidity by just one referral.

"My wife shares in my ministry. I really believe that you should take this problem to her, as she is very understanding."

No such solution is available, however, to celibate clergy. Abuse only here appears to be a kind but firm and immediate detachment, the minute that counseling and confession becomes confused with personal amour.

A CLERGYMAN who has demonstrated self-control in this regard, and who is being framed by either an adventurer or a neurotic will usually find a fierce loyalty from his parishioners, as well as understanding and protection from both the courts and the press.

AREA DEATHS AND FUNERALS

LEON M. DEBARTOLOTTI, 67, of 1100 E. Park, Farmington, died at his home in Farmington, Mich. on May 27. Burial will be in Eden Elm Memorial Park in Livonia.

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Religious Aspects of Sensitivity Training Aubrey Crawford

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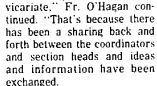
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Temple Sets Talk By Urban League Head

Guest speaker at the regular Kof Ami service at 8:30 p.m. Friday, June 5, will be William Howard Clark, director of the Pontiac Area Urban League.

His topic will be "Straight From The Heart."

Kof Ami services are held in Birmingham Unitarian Church, Lone Pine and Woodward.

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