

Diocese Represented at National Meeting

Chicago — Three priests of the Raleigh Diocesan Priests' Senate attended a national meeting of priests' councils held here on Feb. 12-13.

Revs. Paul Byron, Cranor Graves and H. C. Mulholland were present at what was termed "an historic event in the American priesthood."

The meeting was called by a group of priests from midwestern dioceses to determine if a national organization of priests was desired and feasible. The keynote address of Father John Hill of Chicago stated that in no way could this be termed a union in that there was no employer-employee relationship. The general purposes of the national federation would be:

1. To coordinate the workload of member councils.
2. To recommend new programs of research and action.
3. To give periodic reports to the National Conference of Bishops.
4. To speak publicly about matters of concern to the Church.

FATHER HILL said "the morale of priests in this country will be substantially improved when they understand that priests have come together in a professional organization to address themselves to these problems. And as these problems are answered a large measure of hope will return to many priests who have lost hope in recent years." The priesthood, he said, "will be shaped not just by historical

events but by priests themselves." There were more than 300 priests present representing 114 of the 141 dioceses in the country. At the conclusion of two days of talks, discussions and small group meetings the assembled priest delegates voted 283-to-1 to form a National federation of priest councils.

An "Ad Hoc Constitutional Committee" comprised of representatives from each of the 27 Provinces and one from the Byzantine rite and the religious order was formed.

THE COMMITTEE of 29 priests will establish a national office and solicit opinions from priest groups about the makeup of a Constitution. A Constitutional Convention will be held late in May at which priest delegates will ratify a constitution and decide on whether or not their group will affiliate with the new national federation.

The priests assembled at the Sheraton-O'Hare Motor Inn near the Chicago airport represented a true cross-section of the American priesthood. They had come

from Honolulu, Bangor, Maine; from Miami and Seattle; 90% of them were in the parish ministry; better than 60% were over 45 years of age.

The talks and deliberations were marked by a measured and responsible attitude toward the concerns of the modern Church.

THE SHORTAGE of priestly vocations, the recent increase of priests leaving their ministry to assume new roles, the effectiveness of Church structures and the parish ministry were discussed

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CHICAGO, ILL. — Nine priests from the Atlanta province were present at the national meeting of Priest Councils held here on Feb. 12-13. Four of the seven dioceses of the Atlanta province were represented. Seated, l. to r.: Rev. Paul Byron, Jacksonville, N.C.; Rev. Michael A. Morris, Atlanta, Ga. (Province representative on the Constitutional Committee); Rev. Ronald Brohamer, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; Rev. H. C. Mulholland, Raleigh, standing l. to r. Rev. Richard Conlon, Hartsville, S.C.; Rev. Cranor Graves, Raleigh; Rev. Francis Miller, Charleston, S.C.; Rev. Fred H. Wass, Miami, Fla. Rev. Charles Zinn a delegate from Miami, Fla. was not present when the picture was taken.

Criticizes Attack on Church

Pretoria, South Africa — The Catholic Church in South Africa is no different from the Catholic Church in most other countries in its failure to form a Christian conscience among the great majority of its faithful concerned with grave social problems, said Archbishop Denis Hurley, O.M.I., of Durban in a newspaper interview here.

The archbishop was commenting on an attack made on the Catholic Church in South Africa by a Dominican priest in Britain, Father Malcolm Magee.

Father Magee accused the Church of blatant hypocrisy because of its acceptance of apartheid in practice alongside an occasional public condemnation of it. (Apartheid is South Africa's policy of strict racial segregation.)

What is needed, the prelate said, are constructive suggestions about how a Christian conscience can be formed. Judging from his own experience, he said, this will be a long and hard process.

Archbishop Hurley said he hoped Father Magee will set his mind to the problem and come up with something constructive.

POAU Raps Protestants

Cincinnati — Americans United For Separation of Church and State admitted at its 20th national conference on church and state here that its work is opposed by much of the leadership of "old line Protestantism."

C. Stanley Lowell, associate director of the organization, formerly known as Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State, noted that among its founders were the "three highest elective officials of the three largest

Protestant denominations."

He accused today's Protestant leaders, however, of seeking "a tie with the state and a flow of public funds for the support of their programs and institutions."

Fr. Groppi Given Award

Davenport, Iowa — (NC) — Father James E. Groppi, Milwaukee civil rights leader, has been named recipient of the Davenport Catholic Interracial Council's 1968 Pacem in Terris Peace and Freedom Award.

The award was established in 1964 to honor the memory of Pope John XXIII and his encyclical, Pacem in Terris (Peace on Earth).

Father Groppi is a member of the pastoral team of St. Boniface church in Milwaukee. He is also advisor to the Milwaukee Youth Council of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

World's Largest Parish

Godthaab, Greenland — Greenland, with an area of 840,000 square miles, is the world's largest parish with one of the world's smallest congregations.

The three priests for the 58 Catholic parishioners out of a population of 34,000 are members of the United States Central Province of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

The team of three priests serving this Danish island includes Greenland's first native Catholic, Father Finn Lyng. The cost of transportation for maintaining contact with the scattered Catholics is a principal problem of the priests' work here.

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