



# Midwest . . . NEWS NOTES

BROTHERS of HOLY CROSS - NOTRE DAME, INDIANA 46556

Vol . 9, No. 6

Special ed. (Dec. 15, 1975)

MINUTES OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE'S 10TH MEETING: DECEMBER 12-13, 1975. The Steering Committee gathered for prayer December 12th. Attending were: Brs. James Rottenbucher, chairman; Thomas Balaz, Barry Lambour, Bruce Lescher, Robert Fillmore, Donald Stabrowski. The morning of December 13th the committee began work on its agenda: I. Forum Update; II. Report on "Unassigned" Capitulants; III. Sharing of Information Gathered from Various Committees; IV. Routine Business; V. New Business.

I. Forum Update. Since the last meeting, Brs. Barry Lambour, Robert Fillmore, and Bruce Lescher had met with representatives of the houses in Ohio, Michigan, and northern Indiana to familiarize them with the proposed plans for the Forum--at Holy Cross Brothers Center Feb. 12-15 and the second, at Mercy Center, Farmington, Mich., March 4-7. With these representatives the Steering Committee members discussed plans, objectives, resource persons for the Forum and encouraged feedback from the representatives. The enthusiasm shown by these Brothers from our various houses was most encouraging. Practically every house in these three areas was represented at these meetings. Representatives from the houses in Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois and Wisconsin will be met soon, and before the meeting with Fr. Larry Gorman, who will be directing the Forum. The meeting is Dec. 18th.

II. Report on "Unassigned" Capitulants. Capitulants unable to attend the September meeting were named (after being contacted by letter) to the following committees: Brs. Donald Allen--Community; Gonzaga Day--Community; Raymond Dufresne--Social Justice; Paul Kelly--Material Needs; John Rozario--Community; Gerald Kraeger--Apostolate.

Three capitulants have yet to be assigned to committees, along with the three capitulants still to be elected by the District of West Africa, meeting in chapter this spring. Two delegates and the district superior will represent West Africa.

III. Sharing in Information Gathered from the Various Committees. The chairmen of the various chapter committees (Material Needs, Apostolate, Social Justice, Community, Prayer, and Government) distributed written reports reflecting the concerns expressed by their respective committee members. To avoid duplication, each committee will be assigned for further study those concerns pertinent to its area of responsibility. All these concerns will also be passed on to all province members for further discussion and study at their local chapters. A so-called "lesson plan" will be devised to facilitate study and discussion of these concerns on the local level. (See STATEMENT under V. New Business.)

IV. Routine Business. Br. Charles McBride has agreed to assist with promotional work of the Forum. Soon after the first of the year, additional information will be mailed to brothers on individual apostolates and to province houses. Information on the Forum should be complete by that time.

V. New Business. After the lunch recess several committee members drafted a STATEMENT which was revised in general session to read as follows:

"...If, as will be true in more than half the provinces, the chapter is not made up of the entire province membership, it is nevertheless representative. It is not simply a body that makes decisions binding on all but is meant to express

'the participation and interest' of all the religious in charting the direction the province will take (C 82)."--Circular Letter of the Superior General, No. 4, December 25, 1975, p. 20.

The role of the provincial chapter is clearly undergoing a change. Father Barrosse's statement on chapters, as quoted above, reflects our primary concern as a Steering Committee. Members of the various committees need to know, to understand, and to discover ways of acting on these concerns.

In following its previously announced schedule, the Steering Committee has established a vehicle for dialogue between the local house chapters and the six committees of the provincial chapter. To assist the committees with this dialogue, the Steering Committee has set up a procedure for gathering data, for understanding of such data and its implications for the community, and finally a procedure for drawing out the personal responsibility of each brother in relation to that data.

The plan calls for each local chapter to make use of the six committee "packages" which will be sent to the houses. The response of the various local chapters will then be sent to the committees concerned. In this way each committee of the chapter will have a set of province concerns which have been given the serious attention of the entire province.

After the committees meet in April, the community will have further opportunity to examine and react to these concerns in the final preparation for the June chapter.

Packages will be mailed to Brothers on individual apostolates and houses as follows:

- Jan. 10: Information from committees on Prayer and Social Justice.
- Feb. 1: Information from committees on Community and Apostolate.
- Feb. 29: Information from committees on Government and Material Needs.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee is scheduled for January 31, with prayer on the evening of Friday, January 30, at 7:30 p.m.

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DESMOND FISHER'S THE CHURCH IN TRANSITION (London: Geoffrey Chapman, 1967).

The chapter theme, "Growth in Humanization," comes from the theology of the Second Vatican Council. The purpose of the Forum is to give a foundation for understanding humanization and how to make it a greater reality in our lives. Because our Chapter and Forum have their roots in the Council, it is important that we know as much as possible about what took place during this critical period in the life of the Church.

Through the Council's work, the Church made an official transition from a static to a dynamic way of perceiving its call from God and its relationship to the world. While many authors have written about the Council, Desmond Fisher, journalist, captures well and in readable style the transitional dimensions of the Council--what was in the past and the nature of the struggle that brought forth what would be the way of the future.

The Steering Committee invested in this book, confident that it will be invaluable to you as a preparation for the Forum and the Chapter. It is worthy of careful study.

Because only forty copies of the book were available, we will have to share. One copy has been sent to each house, two to larger houses.

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