

# Priest's Job Is Really New; Rev. Stanton 1st Coordinator

The Rev. Leonard Stanton's new job is REALLY new. It was just created a few months ago and he is the first to fill the position.

He is coordinator of religious education in the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls and has just moved into an office in the Diocesan Board of Education headquarters in the Minor Seminary building, 3100 West 41st St.

The role of Father Stanton's new office, he said, will be "to serve as a clearinghouse for ideas, information and programs and its prime goal is that of service to our area centers of religious education, of which there are seven already in operation or about to open."

Father Stanton will work with all area centers and their parishes which wish assistance with religious education programs. His concern is with all phases of Catholic education: religious study for youngsters attending public schools; the religion phase of parochial school curricula; college campus religion programs, and adult education.

Until this year, each of these education programs was administered separately and the new system of having them all under one coordinated plan is an outgrowth of the diocesan wide survey and study conducted last February and March with the endorsement of Bishop Lambert A. Hoch. Cochairmen of that project were the Rev. John R. Kasch, former pastor of St. Theresa Church, Sioux Falls, and now copastor of Sacred Heart Church, Aberdeen, and the Rev. James Wolf, pastor of St. Mary Church, Aberdeen.

The basic purpose of the survey was one of self-assessment of the diocese's methods of religious education of all age groups and its intention was to expand and update methods and

programs wherever possible.

As for the emerging plan for religious study in the diocese, Father Stanton further explained,

"The emphasis will be on strengthening the areas as such and the parishes within the areas. Our headquarters will serve chiefly in a consulting and advisory capacity. We want our parish programs, both those with and those without their own private schools, to provide information and formation.

"We want to preserve the traditional content of a religion 2,000 years old while maintaining an openness to growth, development and the use of modern means of communication.

There are presently only 70 such Catholic religious education coordinators in the nation and the first of these was appointed just two years ago, Father Stanton said.

His office will offer advisory help to: 155 parishes; 10 religious education centers, which encompass a number of parishes; religious studies in 38 parochial schools; 10 Newman programs on college campuses and adult study of religious throughout the diocese.

Father Stanton brings a wide scope of service and "people" experience to his new job.

Born, educated and ordained in Massachusetts, he came to the Sioux Falls Diocese in 1946. He was assistant pastor at St. Theresa, Sioux Falls, and administrator of St. Mary parish, Bryant, after which he served pastorates at: St. John the Baptist, Lesterville; St. Bernard, Redfield; St. Mary, Salem, and St. Agnes, Vermillion.

He is past president of the Vermillion Ministerial Association and was Newman chaplain at Southern State College and chaplain at the State School for the Retarded at Redfield. He also has served on the South



The Rev. Leonard Stanton

Smiles from new office in Minor Seminary

Dakota commission on religious training for the retarded.

Since 1949, Father Stanton has been diocesan Boy Scout chaplain. He also has served as regional province chaplain and is a past chairman of the national committee for religious emblems in scouting. He was chairman of the national development committee for revision of religious requirements for Ad Altare Dei and St. George awards and serves on the executive committee of the National Committee on Scouting for Catholics.

For 18 years, he also has conducted Cana Conferences for young married couples.

Father Stanton is serving his

second term on the Priests' Senate of the Sioux Falls Diocese.

Father Stanton's staff includes Sister Marita Kunda, P.V.B.M., religious consultant for religious instruction of children attending non-parochial schools, and the Rev. Anthony Imberi, Leola, who will be engaged in high school and adult religious education programming.