

STOCKHOLDING AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. *According to Canon Law can a Parish Priest be a stockholder of a Rural Bank? If the answer is no, will it be possible for him to ask permission from a higher authority? If the answer is yes, from whom will he seek that permission? From the Ordinary of the Diocese, from the Papal Nuncio, or from the Holy Father?*

A Parish Priest can be a stockholder of the Rural Bank, or of any other enterprise, industrial or commercial, provided it is honest as regards the ends proposed and the means used.

This is the common doctrine of authors commenting on Canon 142, which prohibits clerics to engage in trade.

Some authors distinguish between being a stockholder of industrial enterprises and commercial enterprises, and they express their doubt as to the lawfulness of ecclesiastics being stockholders of *commercial* enterprises: they base their doubt on the text of the answer given by the Holy Office on the 15th of April, 1885. For our part, we find reason to exclude the doubt in the same text of the answer. And no distinction is made in the Code, although in more than one occasion it could have been done with a few words (cf. Can. 549, 1539 par 2).¹

2. *According to Canon Law can a Parish Priest be a member of the Board of Directors in a Rural Bank? If the answer is no, will it be possible for him to ask permission from the higher authority? And if the answer is yes, from whom will he ask this permission? From the Ordinary of the Diocese, from the Papal Nuncio, or from the Holy Father?*

¹ "Iuxta exposita, et attentis peculiaribus temporum circumstantiis, personas ecclesiasticas non esse inquietandas, si emerint aut emant actiones seu titulos mensae nummulariae..." *Codicis Iuris Canonici Fontes*, vol. IV, N. 1091. S.C.S. Off., 15 apr., 1885. — Cf. Vol. VII, n. 4925. S.C. de Prop. Fide, 7 iul., 1893.

The above consultant cannot be a member of the Board of Directors of the Rural Bank. The same document cited before says as regard to this: "As regards priest who took part in the administration, or would take part in it, such a thing cannot be permitted."² It is a common doctrine among authors that in the prohibition to engage in trade or business in Canon 142, the prohibition for clerics to be members of the Board of Directors in commercial enterprises is included.

Dispensation from this prohibition is reserved to the Roman Pontiff according to the *Motu Proprio De Episcoporum Muneribus* of the 15th of June, 1966, (n. IX 3, d.).

On asking dispensation from the Roman Pontiff, explaining the causes or reasons for asking it, it is convenient to send the petition through the proper Ordinary, who may add his recommendation that the favor requested be granted, if he considers it convenient to be granted.

● Bernabe Alonso, O.P.

PRAYERS, BAPTISMAL WATER, AND CREED

1. *It is now an established rule in the Roman Rite that the number of presidential prayers in the Mass (collect, prayer over the gifts, prayer after communion) should never exceed one. But during the weekdays of Lent we have always to say two prayers after Communion. I heard, priests simply leave out the second.*

The second prayer of which the questioner speaks is not a "prayer after Communion" but is the so-called "prayer over the people." It was originally a blessing over the people and asked God's blessing upon the congregation. Later on the distinction between the postcommunion and the prayer over the people was lost. While originally almost every Mass had its prayer over the people, it was subsequently restricted to the weekdays of Lent. In the Leonine Sacramentary, which has been pre-

² "Quoad sacerdotes, qui partem in administratione susceperunt, vel suscepturi sunt, non esse permittendum."