The extent to which this Council moved from its cautious, exclusive beginnings to its present open, well-publicized meetings is a measure of the willingness of the American Catholic Church to recognize the problem of alcoholism. The twenty-seventh annual conference in 1975 revealed that the membership, as well as the board of directors, included lay persons, religious sisters and brothers, as well as priests. Attention is being paid to other addictions and the title has been changed to the National Clergy Council on Alcoholism and Related Drug Problems. The annual meetings are published in *The Blue Book*, a valuable source of information about the modern Catholic approach to a previously embarrassing problem.

The National Clergy Conference is in no way a competitor of Alcoholics Anonymous; it is not a modern version of the Total Abstinence Union, nor a revival of prohibitionists and anti-saloon leaguers. As late as 1974, however, the executive director had to call attention to "the fact that many people still have the image of the NCCA as an organization for clergy suffering from alcoholism. This is not the make-up of the NCCA. We are an organization for all clergy and religious men and women of the United States." He also noted the greater effort put "into clergy and religious involvement in the alcohol and drug abuse problems among the laity." 17

The fourfold objective of this Catholic Clergy Council is: a) Education of Catholic clergy through an annual pastoral conference on alcoholic problems; b) Prevention of alcoholism through dissemination of information and through an educational program, especially in seminaries; c) Recovery of alcoholics through the Sacraments of the Church and the program of Alcoholics Anonymous; d) Cooperation with the Most Reverend Ordinaries and with all organizations working in the alcohol field for the promotion of these purposes.18

Father Pfau found his therapy mainly in the program of the A. A. fellowship into which he introduced other alcoholic priests, some of whom had been unsuccessfully hospitalized for treatment. He wrote, "the present methods of dealing with the problem (with the possible exception of the almost miraculous work of Alcoholics Anonymous), are in many cases expensive, sometimes barbaric; almost always punitive; and they seldom rehabilitate nor do they prevent." 19 There have been large improvements in treatment since the early 1950's when he made these complaints, yet there remains the problem of restoring alcoholics to a useful, healthy and normal way of life.

16 Father Pfau gave it this title to distinguish it from the series of pamphlets he had been publishing, which came to be known as *The Golden Books.*
18 These aims are listed in *The Blue Book,* Vol. XXV, 1973, p. vi.