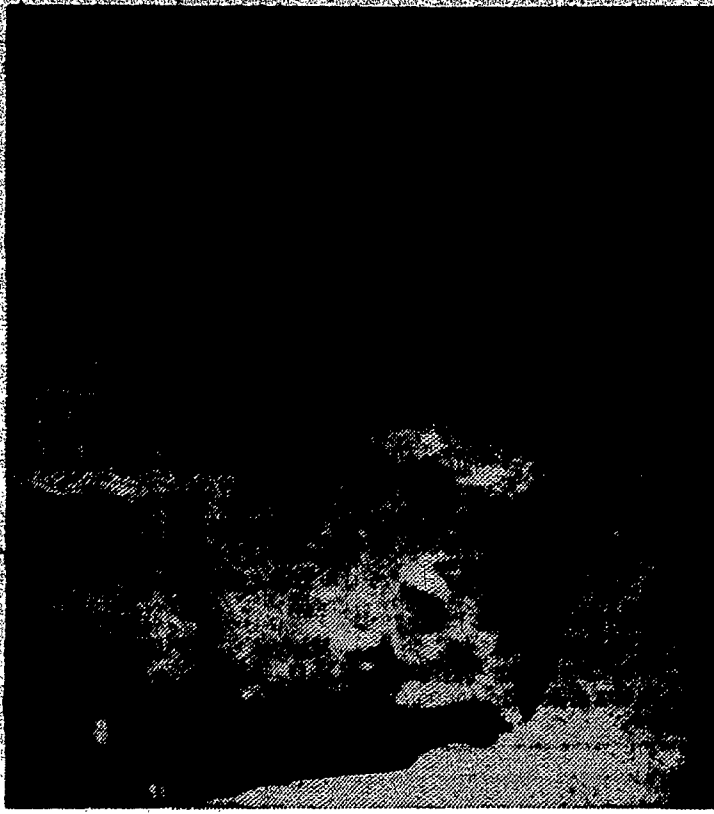
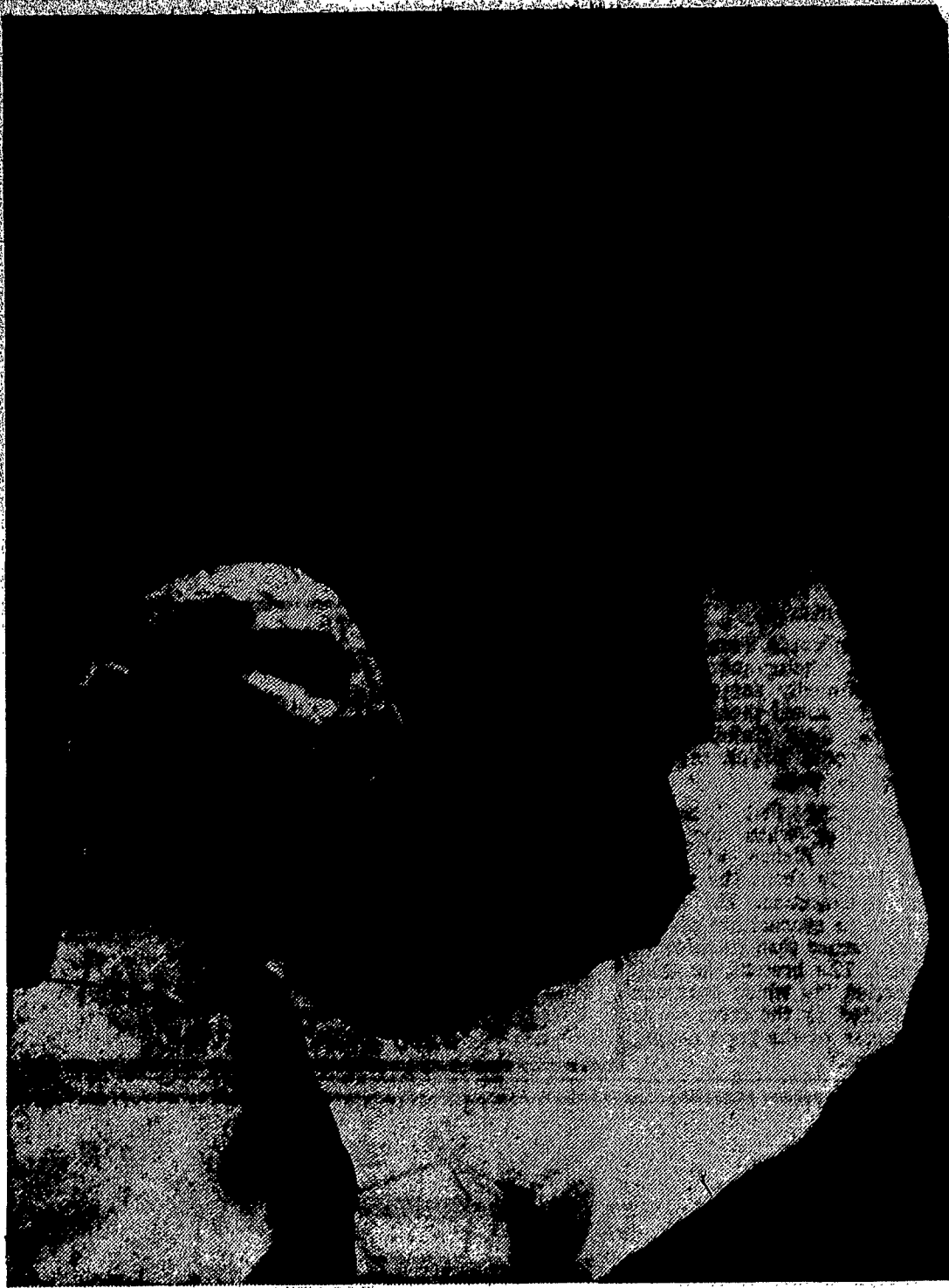




Rochester Oratorio Society

Bridge of Unity — Sacred Music

Story by Bob Smett

Photos by Chuck Mantelli

Sacred music bridges denominational chasms in Rochester. In an era when church leaders are trying to heal centuries-old rifts, the Rochester Oratorio Society has presented to this area the finest musical compositions of all religious groups.

This season the seventeen year old organization will present Ernest Bloch's Sacred Service and Mozart's Requiem at Eastman Theatre on Dec. 2, under the direction of Theodore Hollenbach. Program notes for the Jewish

work are being done by Rabbi Herbert Bronstein, associate rabbi of Temple B'Rith Kodesh. The Rev. Peter E. Sheehan, C.S.B., vice-chairman of the Oratorio Society and Dean of Men at St. John Fisher College will do the notes for the Mozart Mass.

Representing many age groups, walks of life and religious denominations, members of the chorus meet regularly each Monday evening in the theatre of the Rochester Memorial Art Gallery for their weekly rehearsal.

A few weeks before the performance, the chorus rehearses also for two hours on Sunday afternoons. Members of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and the soloists join them for two or three rehearsals in the Eastman Theatre just prior to the concert.

"A first reaction in comparing the two works scheduled for this year's Oratorio program leads one to note several similarities," says Father Sheehan, a graduate of the University of Toronto's Royal Conservatory of Music.

The Bloch work follows closely the spirit and feeling of the ancient, traditional He-

brew chants. To the Christian listener, it recalls the familiar rhythms and modes of Gregorian chant used in the Catholic Mass.

The text of the Sacred Service has as its main inspiration the psalms and other prayers of the Bible. The Kedushah or Sanctification which occurs in the second part of the Jewish service is similar to the Sanctus in the Mass.

The Jews sing "Kodosh, Kodosh, Kodosh" to herald the most solemn part of their service while the Catholics sing "Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus" beginning the most sacred part of their Mass.

Both faiths recall the vision of Isaias in which he received his prophetic call and was struck by the might and glory of God.

The final benediction of the Sacred Service — the Adonolom — carries the same religious sentiment of peace as Catholics find in the Lux aeterna, the Communion prayer of the Requiem Mass.

Conductor and musical director of the Rochester Oratorio Society, Theodore Hollenbach is also conductor of the Rochester Bach Festival and the Corning Philharmonic Orchestra. The son of a clergyman, he is organist and choirman of the Third Presbyterian Church and

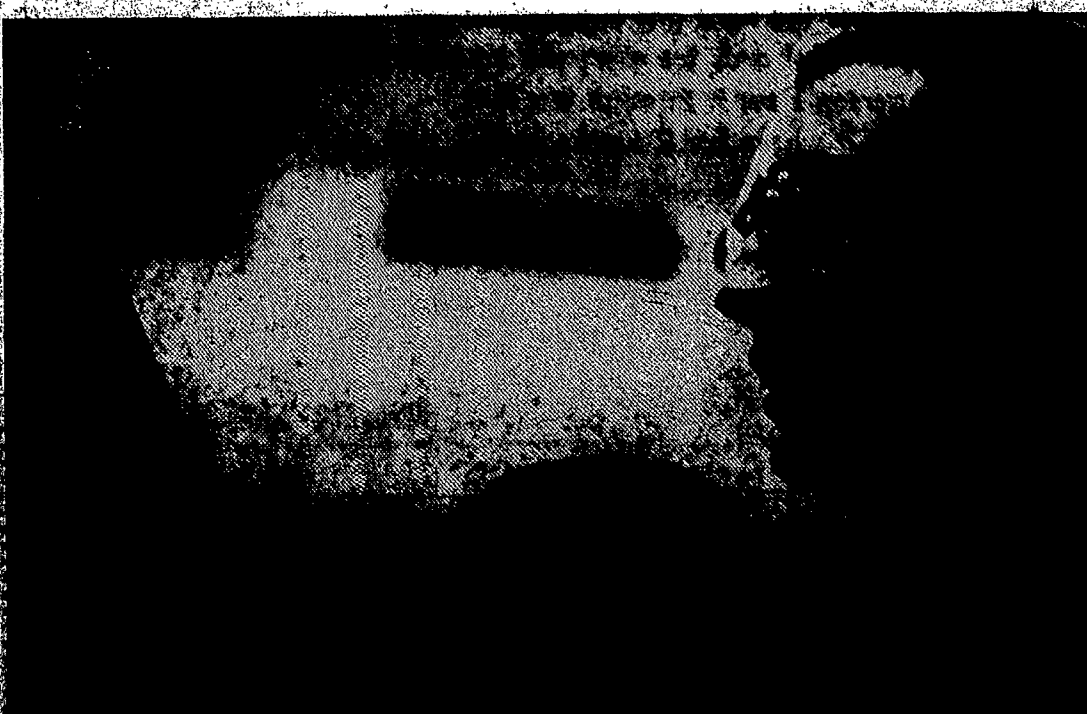
chorus director at The Columbia School and The Harley School.

Father Sheehan has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Rochester Oratorio Society since 1961 and a member of the Rochester Bach Festival Executive Committee since 1960. He is executive chairman for the 1962 and 1963 Festivals. Dean of Men at St. John Fisher, he is also chairman of the college's Department of Theology and a member of the Advisory Board of the Catholic Youth Organization.

What kind of people make up the Rochester Oratorio Society? Well, the chorus includes a dietitian, a contractor, a Protestant chaplain at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Canandaigua, an editor of a suburban newspaper, a professor of government at Brockport State Teachers College, a medical student, a librarian, a Methodist minister, a commercial artist, a psychiatrist, a bank executive, an engineer, social workers and housewives by the dozen.

What do they do? They sing of God's love for man — an eternal prayer that transcends time and space with the sound of music.

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UNESCO Mass in Paris

Paris — (RNS) — Many delegates to the 12th General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization attended a Mass in the Church of St. Francis Xavier here to invoke divine guidance on UNESCO's deliberations in Paris.

Celebrating the Mass was Nuncio to France who headed Archbishop Paul Bertoli, Papal Nuncio to France who headed the Vatican delegation to UNESCO.

Representatives from 121 member states were to attend the UNESCO sessions. For the first time, and in spite of opposition from Communist countries, observers were present from the Sovereign Order of the Knights of Malta, oldest order of laymen and religious in the Catholic Church.

Addressing the congregation at the Mass, Archbishop Bertoli told the representatives: "If we turn towards God and invite you to pray before undertaking the work before you, it is so that we can better measure the scope, gravity and urgency of the tasks which face us in this rapidly evolving world."

The prelate observed that many of the world's "legitimate aspirations are within the domain of UNESCO."

After advising delegates to pray for understanding of the difficult problems facing them, Archbishop Bertoli stressed UNESCO's contribution to peace through education, science and culture.

Unity Group Office In Rome

Graymoor — (RNS) — The Unitas Association, a Catholic organization to promote studies and activities related to the advancement of Christian unity, has opened new and expanded offices in Rome, it was announced here.

One section of the new offices will be the Unitas Foyer, a hospitality center for the many non-Catholics who come to Rome and visit the city's numerous Christian shrines, it was noted by Father Salvatore Butler, S.A., American spokesman for the organization.

"The usefulness of such a center is easily recognized," said Father Butler who is procurator General of the Friars of the Atonement here. "Protestants, Orthodox and non-Christians see Rome with new eyes when they are introduced to it with a friendly Catholic host as a guide; and the tombs of the martyrs and the sacred ceremonies of the Vatican."

He said this ideal goal brought UNESCO into touch with many needs and much distress among peoples not yet united and whose mutual understanding and assistance still leave much to be desired.

Archbishop Bertoli compared the solicitude of UNESCO for the needy nations to that which was expressed by the Catholic hierarchy at the Second Vatican Council in Rome.

Common Hymnal Idea Draws Wide Approval

Wichita — (NC) — Delegates to an Episcopal liturgical conference here applauded a Catholic priest's proposal for a hymnal to be used by all Christian churches.

Father Joseph T. Nolan, pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Galena, Kan., was one of six major speakers at the conference, which drew 900 Episcopalian leaders from 40 states. Other speakers included Episcopal Bishop James A. Pike of California, and Rev. William G. Pollard, Episcopal clergyman and executive director of the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies.

Catholics in attendance at the conference, in addition to Father Nolan, included Bishop Mark K. Carroll of Wichita; Msgr. Joseph Fischer, head of the Wichita Diocesan Liturgical Commission; and Father Gerald Ellard, S.J., of St. Mary's, Kan., author and leader in the National Liturgical Conference.

Addressing the conference (Nov. 6) on "The Liturgical Movement of the Roman Catholic Church," Father Nolan emphasized the "ecumenical force" of the movement.

"THE NEW liturgical interest among both Catholics and Protestants," he said, "is a phenomenon" and he went on to add that "all Catholics get more scriptural and Protestants more liturgical; they are bound to meet each other!"

"But this means more than

the fact that the Bible is used in the Catholic Church and the altar in the Protestant one," he explained. "For our part, we have been placing a stress on doctrines... such as the mediatorship of Christ, our share in His priesthood, the importance of faith in later years, the necessity of bearing witness — particularly after Confirmation."

"But most of all, the liturgical movement is an ecumenical force because it is manifestly the work of the Holy Spirit, the spirit of truth, and as it deepens the life of the Christian, this life, which is God's own, is increasingly manifest in charity. And love unites."

