

'Entrance Rite' Gathers Parish for 'Word of God'

(Continued from Page 1)

The treasures of the Bible, which are to be opened up more lavishly, so that richer fare may be provided for the faithful at the table of God's Word. In this way a more representative portion of the holy Scriptures will be read to the people in the course of a prescribed number of years.

If this reform is to be effective, we must begin now to prepare the faithful for it by giving them a more profound understanding of what the Bible is. They must be made acquainted with the new insights with which present-day Biblical scholars are providing us.

What is the Bible? What is the Liturgy of the Word? It is first of all a proclamation of the "magnalia Dei" — God's mighty deeds on behalf of His people. — God's saving deeds, which, because they take place in the context of history, we refer to as salvation — history.

The term "salvation-history" appears twice in the document, articles 14 and 15; the concept runs through the entire document.

God's deeds reveal Him to us as a God who saves. Israel worshiped the God who with mighty hand and outstretched arm led their fathers out of Egypt; we worship the God who raised us Jesus from the dead. He might be the first born of many brethren. The climax of salvation history, therefore, is God's deed in Jesus. That is why the proclaiming of the "magnalia Dei" in the Liturgy reaches its high point in the Gospel. The good news of what God has done for us in Jesus.

The Word of God proclaimed in the Liturgy not only reveals God as a God who saves; it reveals His designs, His plans for us in Christ. That is why the Word of God is an invitation to involvement, to commitment to those plans. We must

listen to God's Word, experience its power and respond in faith and love. We must therefore listen to God's Word, faith, St. Paul tells us comes "through hearing, not through reading. We must come to realize that God's Word is aimed at man's heart. It cannot be accepted or refused."

The implications of this involvement, the nature of this commitment must be spelled out for the people living in today's world. This is the task of the homilist — the preacher. The homily makes the Word of God contemporary. The homily breaks the Word of God so as to make it meaningful today. "O that today you would hear the Word of God," we pray each day in Mainz.

The Liturgy Constitution makes it clear that the homily must not be thought of as some extraneous thing inserted into the Liturgy and interrupting it.

It is a genuine constituent of the Liturgy. It is "to be highly esteemed as part of the Liturgy itself" (32). For the mystery of the faith and the guiding principles of the Christian life are expounded from the sacred text during the course of the liturgical year" (32).

The homily should not be a catechetical instruction, a pep talk or a meditation on a pious subject of the preacher's own choice. It should spring from the Word of God proclaimed in the Liturgy. Article 35 makes this point: "The sermon should draw its content mainly from scriptural and liturgical sources, and its character should be that of a proclamation of God's wonderful works in the history of salvation, the mystery of Christ, over which His power and activity within us, especially in the celebration of the liturgy," (35).

It is worth noting that the Liturgy Constitution places a greater stress on the importance of the homily than did the 1960 decree of the Sacred Congregation of Rites on the new Rubrics. The 1960 instruction states: "After the Gospel, especially on Sundays and holy days of obligation, a short homily should be preached to the people if it is convenient" (474).

The more recent Constitution uses much stronger language:

U. S. Bishops Aid Mexico Seminary

Rome, 4 (NC) — The U.S. Bishops have approved a grant of \$1,750,000 for construction and remodeling at Montezuma Seminary, the institution which trains priests for Mexico.

Funds for the seminary in New Mexico will be raised over a three-year period and will come at the rate of \$200,000 a year from the Bishops' Welfare Fund and \$250,000 a year from the fund of the American Board of Catholic Missions.

MONTEZUMA Seminary was established by the U.S. Bishops 28 years ago to train priests for Mexico when Catholics in that country were suffering bloody persecution. Since establishment, the seminary has trained 1,300 priests, seven of whom are now bishops.

The school provides major seminary training only. The present student body numbers 426. It is staffed by 28 Jesuits from two Mexican provinces.

The Bishops' grant will provide for the erection of two new student dormitories and a chapel and extensive renovation of the old central building which lacks many modern facilities.

During the past scholastic year, two-thirds of the operating funds for the seminary were provided by the U.S. Bishops and one-third by the Mexican hierarchy.

\$5,000 for Teachers
New York — (NC) — The Hearst Foundation has given \$5,000 to Fordham University for preparation of teachers of mentally-retarded children.



Mass in Protestant Chapel

Boston — (BNS) — Father Lawrence V. McDonnell, Newman Club chaplain at Methodist-related Boston University, celebrated the first Mass offered in the school's Marsh Chapel. He is shown addressing the student congregation as Dr. Robert Hamill, chapel dean, stands at left. Celebrated at an altar facing the congregation, the Mass was the first of Sunday Catholic services to be held in the chapel. Previously Masses were said for students at a nearby Newman center.

Mercy Ship Fights TB

By AL ANTCAK

Incheon, Korea — (NC) — For about 13,000 island inhabitants who live off Korea's western coast, The Star of the Sea is bringing new light to bear on their age-old struggle against disease.

The Star of the Sea is a 36-ton ship converted into a mobile hospital by Father Benedict A. Zweber, M.M., of St. Paul, Minn. Staffed by six doctors, nurses and technicians, plus crew members, the ship divides its time

among 14 islands and their poverty-stricken inhabitants.

Father Zweber arrived in Korea in 1959, four years after his brother Medard drowned while trying to save three Korean children stranded in the Han River near Seoul. Medard, a State Department employe, had helped to build Our Lady of Peace church in neighboring Youngdongpo, and when Father Zweber arrived members of the parish gave him a welcome and reception.

problems. A survey made by Seoul that year revealed that the tuberculosis rate on the islands was among the highest in the world. Eye diseases and bone joint infections were widespread.

Father Zweber appealed to friends and relatives in the United States who helped him buy a small fishing boat to serve as a clinic. A short time later, however, the boat was lost in an accident.

Soon a larger and better vessel was provided under the U.S. Armed Forces Assistance to Korea program, along with help from St. Mary's Hospital in Seoul and international organizations. The ship is believed to be the first of its kind in Korea. It has x-ray facilities, modern radio communications, and provisions for minor surgical operations.

Operation Clothes Closet



FASHIONS MAY DISAPPEAR, but need never does. The clothing you no longer find stylish, the clothing your children have outgrown, the sheets and blankets you no longer use will be eagerly welcomed by the poor of the world and quickly adapted to their needs. You can reach them through the nearest Catholic Church during November when the Catholic Bishops' annual Thanksgiving Clothing Collection will process your donations to needy persons in over 70 countries without regard to race, religion or color.

Calvinists Seek Unity

Auckland — (NC) — The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church here approved a statement encouraging Presbyterians to seek out associations with Catholics as steps to Christian unity.

Unity, the statement explained, was sought not in the sense of the merging of all the churches, but as a lead to separated fellow Christians to know honestly where each stood and to cultivate mutual relationships in the Christian spirit.

"For ministers and laymen alike an encounter between the churches means a deep and searching theological concern in a time when there is much ignorance within the Church," said the report.

Thanks to Spur Poverty War

Austin, Tex. — (NC) — President Johnson, proclaiming Nov. 28 as Thanksgiving Day, pledged the nation to seek the eradication of poverty in the U.S. and throughout the world.

The President's proclamation called on Americans in their homes and places of worship to "give thanks to God for His graciousness and His generosity to us... and to pray to Him that the forces of evil, violence, indifference, intolerance and inhumanity may soon vanish from the face of the earth and that peace, reason, understanding and good will may reign supreme throughout the world."

"Although we have been blessed with unsurpassed prosperity, we recognize that poverty and want exist throughout the world — even among us — and we pledge ourselves to the eradication of those evils," Mr. Johnson said.

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