

Choirmasters, Organists' Workshop

The second workshop for the organists and choirmasters of the Rochester Diocese to be conducted by the Diocesan Music Commission will be held for the Church musicians of the Auburn-Geneva region on Friday and Saturday, Jan. 14 and 15, at St. Stephen's School, Geneva.

Father Phillip J. Lioi, assistant pastor of St. Francis de Sales Church, Geneva, is the regional chairman in charge of local arrangements for the two-day event.

Other members of the regional committee include: Capuchin Father Anthony Guidice, instructor of Church Music, Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary, Geneva; Sister Mary Judith, S.S.J., principal of St. Stephen's School; and Sister M. Anacletus, De Sales High School, Geneva.

Basilian Father Peter E. Sheehan, general chairman of the series of workshops, announced that Mrs. Virginia Bogdan Pados of Fairport has composed a setting of the proper of the Mass of Christian Unity for the workshop. This will be sung at the Mass which



Paul Dager cartoon in "Music Lessons for the Man in the Pew" published by World Library of Sacred Music, Cincinnati, Ohio.

will climax Saturday's program in St. Stephen's Church at 4:30 p.m., by the combined choirs of St. Stephen's and St. Francis de Sales Church under the direction of John Fabrice.

The setting is done in four different styles including unison, chant, as well as polyphonic.

The following chairmen of committees have been appointed by Father Lioi: Mrs. John Dougherty, registration; Mrs. George Miltz, music display; Sister M. Anacletus, usher staff; Sister M. Judith, luncheon; Sisters St. Luke and M. Genevieve, sacristans.

The program for the workshop will be divided into four sessions, two being held each day. The first ones, beginning at 7:15 p.m., Friday, will treat of the liturgical orientation of the Church musician's role as well as the role of the organist at the various kinds of Masses.

On Saturday, following a luncheon at noon, the sessions will consider the role of the choir and that of the congregation at worship.



Father Straub

Paratrooper in Vietnam

One of the chaplains caring for the spiritual needs of U.S. GIs in Vietnam is Father Frederick Straub, formerly a curate at St. Boniface Church, Rochester.

His military career began in 1959 and he promptly piled up a record for jumping out of airplanes that normally takes 60 years. A year ago he was awarded his master's parachutist badge for 211 jumps, 146 more than required.

In a recent letter to the Courier he described his duties in the sweltering, hundred-degree jungles of Vietnam.

He says they are "somewhat different" than in "ordinary" battle conditions.

"Combat patrols continue day and night to keep the local Viet Cong off balance and to mitigate his terrorism and control of nearby villages and farms," says Father Straub.

He prefers to be close to the battle areas "because there is an obvious, pressing need for a priest when his men are engaged in heavy combat." Father Straub's battle area parishioners include, besides the American GIs, Vietnamese soldiers and villagers, many of whom are Catholics.

Viet Cong night raids are particularly terrifying, Father Straub reports. "Then it's a question of if the barbed wire holds, if the native troops don't panic, if the air strikes arrive on time."

And when there is no night

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Hymn Switching Can Be Overdone

Changing hymns too rapidly can discourage congregational singing, said the chairman of the Diocesan Music Commission last week. "It takes a while for people to feel confident about a hymn," said Father Benedict Ehmann, pastor of St. Michael's Church.

While there is a need for varying the hymns, especially for the different liturgical seasons, it should not be overdone, he stressed.

"It would seem best to change one hymn at a time," he suggested, "rather than confront a parish with three new hymns at once."

In a Courier-Journal interview, the Music Commission leader discussed action already taken by his Commission, set up last June, and unveiled future plans of the group.

First task undertaken by the Commission was to set up area Music Workshops for choirmasters, organists and congregation leaders. The first was held in Elmira in early December, the second will be next week, Jan. 14-15, in Geneva at St. Stephen's School, and a third will be held in Rochester in February.

Workshop aims, according to



FATHER EHMANN

Father Ehmann, include:

• Acquainting church musicians with current liturgical requirements.

• Informing them of public

cations and repertoires which are available.

• Achieving coordination of celebrant, choir and people at the parish Mass.

• Singing of hymns at low Masses is almost universally the practice through the Diocese of Rochester now, Father Ehmann noted. ("If there are exceptions, they are few.")

"By and large, our people seem to be taking to the increased participation," he commented. Among the benefits mentioned by pastors, he cited "greater attentiveness and fuller response" on the part of their congregations.

There must inevitably be a state of "transitional anguish," the chairman of the Music Commission admitted, but viewed this as "growing pains" on the way to a better state.

The most important goal now, he felt, is to communicate "the spirit of participation," to explain why vocal response and singing are so vital to worship.

The Music Commission hopes to serve the parishes of the Diocese in this goal, Father Ehmann stated. To do this, the

Commission will sponsor further workshops, an occasional concert of Sacred Music, and hopes to get out a regular bulletin to keep pastors and church musicians abreast of the renewal of music in the Church.

—Father Robert Kanka

Expectant Mothers Blessing Slated by Bishop Casey

Auxiliary Bishop Lawrence B. Casey will give the special blessing to expectant mothers of Sacred Heart parish and other Monroe County parishes on Monday, Jan. 10 in the Cathedral at 7:45 p.m.

Services will include Rosary and Benediction. Bishop Casey will present a medal of St. Gerard, patron of mothers, to all who come for the blessing.

The Rosary Guild meeting will follow in the rectory hall. The Bishop will speak about the Fourth Session of Vatican Council II. Guests from other parishes are welcome. Refreshments will follow.

25 Years Ago

(From Catholic Courier files, Jan. 9, 1941)

Bishop Kearney attended the consecration of Most Rev. J. Francis A. McIntyre, as Titular Bishop of Cyrene and Auxiliary Bishop of New York in St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City.

Acting on an appeal by Sister M. Walburga of Nazareth Convent, the International Red Cross located a relative of hers in an internment camp in Canada, Prince William Fritz, German born and youngest son of an old Austrian family.

Precious Blood Order Marks 150th Birthday

Over a hundred years ago a group of fifteen priests and brothers celebrated Christmas Day on board a ship steaming slowly up the Mississippi River from New Orleans. Three days later the boat left the Mississippi and turned up the Ohio River toward Cincinnati. There on New Year's Eve—December 31, 1843—the boat docked. The band of priests and brothers disembarked, then promptly moved on to report to the episcopal residence of the bishop of Cincinnati—Bishop John Baptist Purcell.

Who were these men? Where had they come from? Did this group have any special name? Why had they landed at Cincinnati?

Their story really begins in Italy, and its first chapter dates back a little over a quarter of a century before 1843—back to August 15, 1815. On that day, in the Church of San Felice at Glano, Italy, a saintly Roman priest, Gaspar del Bufalo, founded a new religious society for men—The Congregation of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ. (By now—in this Sesquicentennial Year of its life—Gaspar's Society is more simply and popularly known as the Society of the Precious Blood.)

At the time of the Society's beginning many conflicts were raging through Europe, and particularly in Italy. There the Napoleonic troops had left a dreadful wake behind them. Law and order received small respect; traveling was far from safe; bandits roamed almost at will through the hills of the Papal States; morals were at low ebb.

Impelled by an intense devotion to the Precious Blood of Jesus, St. Gaspar set out on the mission trail to lead men back to order and sanity, back

to God and sanctity. In his mission work he constantly called attention to the Sacrifice of Christ, who had shed His life's Blood to the last drop for the love of all men. "I would have a thousand tongues," he cried, "to move all hearts to the Most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ." He urged everyone to imitate the Lord's love and example, and instead of bringing misery to neighbor, to help him with charity, prayer and meaningful sacrifice.

"Devotion to the Precious

The congregation of the Most Precious Blood, which marks its 150th anniversary this year, has two foundations in Rochester — Most Precious Blood Parish, Stenson St., and Most Precious Blood Seminary, Highland Ave.

The Precious Blood Fathers came to Rochester thirty-five years ago to care for Italian-speaking Catholics of the city's northwest section. Father Anthony Pece was first pastor and was succeeded in 1937 by his curate, Father Sebastian Contegiacomo, present pastor.

The seminary, founded in 1962, began with nine students headed by the Very Rev. Matthew Quaranta, C.S.S.P., rector. The young men attend classes at St. Andrew's Seminary and St. John Fisher College. Present rector, Father Nicholas Arioli, is the only native Rochesterian who is a member of the Precious Blood order.

Blood," the saint insisted, "is the best weapon against modern evils" and he predicted that devotion to the Precious Blood would save the world: "Times will come much more lamentable and divine justice will be appeased through the devotion to the Blood of Christ."

Many young men were drawn to join the new group of Precious Blood missionaries, and the young Society soon prospered in Italy. Then, providentially, a Swiss priest named

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Our sincerest wishes to you for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year from all of us at Lincoln Rochester.

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