

Music to Fill a Vacuum

A recent decision of the U.S. Bishops' Liturgical commission to ease restrictions on modern music and instruments at Mass was greeted with enthusiasm by noted priest-composer who led Rochester last week.

"Absolutely necessary" was the comment of Father Clarence J. Rivers, who conducted his "American Mass Program" at a Mass here on June 8 marking the third anniversary of the founding of St. Martin de Porres Center.

Founded by Mrs. Margaret Muchard in 1963, the neighborhood center is located at 537 N. Clinton Ave. in St. Bridget's parish. The Mass which attracted an overflow congregation, was held at St. Bridget's Church.

"There was a great vacuum" in Catholic Mass participation (in the days of the old silent Masses), in terms of congregational singing, which now must be filled, the 34-year old Negro priest noted. He doesn't feel that current Church music fills the vacuum.

Father Rivers, 34, is assistant pastor at St. Joseph's parish in Cincinnati, Ohio, and a teacher of literature and drama at nearby Purcell High School in that city.

"It's not just the teen-agers" who are impatient with some of the music now being used at Mass, Father Rivers emphasized, noting that many adults were also looking for more suitable music for congregational singing.

The priest voiced a fervent hope that "some real leadership in Church music, by those who are competent to do it," would be forthcoming.

If the capable musicians don't show this initiative, "the results will be less than happy," he predicted.

Father Rivers' "Mass Program," based on the Negro spiritual and Gregorian chant, has enjoyed a widespread success since it was published in 1964.



Father Clarence Rivers leads congregational singing at St. Bridget's Church in Rochester last week.

Asked about the success of this work, a collection of Mass hymns and chants to accompany a low Mass, Father Rivers smiled and said:

"There was a great need, a real thirst for melodies which had meaning for people today, and there was nothing else available at the time."

In addition to leading the congregational singing at last Wednesday night's Mass, the small energetic priest also preached a moving sermon.

Only "the morality of love" can save mankind, he stressed, adding that this is "a morality that we've already been taught," but must now put into practice.

Adding that its not enough

to limit love to those whom one finds lovable, he pointed out: "Christ loved us when we were sinners" (and not lovable) but "that we might become lovable."

Using the ancient fable of Beauty and the Beast to make his point, Father Rivers suggested:

"Sometimes a thing must be loved before it becomes lovable."

The Mass marking the 3rd anniversary of the Martin de Porres Center was offered by Jesuit Father Joseph Gerstz of the McQuaid High faculty. He is spiritual director for the center. It was a concelebrated Mass with eleven other priests offering Mass with Father Gerstz.

Even Indians Now Ecumenical

Gando, N.M.—(RNS)—Establishment of a "Navajo Ecumenical Council" was voted here by representatives of 10 Protestant denominations and the Roman Catholic Church as a means of improving interreligious communication and common planning among groups working on the largest Indian reservation in the country.

The new Council was approved at a three-day consultation called by the National Council of Churches' Department of Indian Work in cooperation with the National Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions.

In another action, the U.S. Congress was urged, when drafting legislation affecting Indian Americans, to involve Indians from the start of preparatory consultations.

Vatican Readies Pointers On Ecumenical Work

Rome—(NC)—The Vatican's experts on ecumenical work have come together to draft a series of pointers on the practice of ecumenism.

These practical directives, when approved by Pope Paul, will be the first step toward the publication of an ecumenical directory or handbook on such matters as prayer in common with other Christians, intercommunion, the organization of ecumenical work on local and national levels, and the methods of educating Christians to an ecumenical outlook through the classroom and from the pulpit.

In session from June 7 to the 15, the eight-day meeting is the first plenary meeting since the end of the Vatican Council. During the discussions the five dozen or so members and consultants of the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity sifted suggestions and questions from the world's national and regional conferences of bishops.

Guitars for Youth Masses Seen Given Green Light

Washington — (NC) — The use of guitars instead of organ music at special Masses for young people has been given a green light by the U.S. Bishops' Commission on the Liturgical Apostolate.

The commission did not mention guitars by name. But it said that the choice of "music which is meaningful" to youth of high school or college age should be considered "valid and purposeful" for worship. But the commission held at the same time that the liturgical texts should be respected and that "the incorporation of incongruous melodies and texts, adapted from popular ballads, should be avoided."

The commission is headed by Archbishop John F. Dearden of Detroit. The recommendations were adopted at its meeting on April 18, but were not made public until published in the commission Newsletter over a month later.

The statement on liturgical music for special groups in ef-

fect took note of so-called folk music Masses by referring to "instruments other than the organ."

The use of folk music and musical instruments such as the guitar at Mass has been gaining in popularity in places such as college campuses in various parts of the country. It is regulated in some dioceses, and in some cases barred, by specific rules issued by the bishop.

The bishops' commission noted that "different groupings of the faithful assembled in worship respond to different styles of musical expression which help to make the liturgy meaningful for them."

No Jazz Mass For Germany

Berlin — (RNS) — The German Roman Catholic Bishops' conference has ruled against use of jazz music in the celebration of Mass.

Its ruling came in the wake of protests against the increasing use of jazz in worship services in West Berlin and several areas of West Germany.

State Facing Major Problems On Constitution

New Rochelle — (NC) — New York state's constitutional convention, which begins in April, 1967, will have to face problems of "education, social welfare, mental health, local health programs, urban renewal, housing, highways, and consolidation of small governmental units into regional ones," Chief Judge Charles S. Desmond of New York declared here.

The major question facing the convention, he said, is the organization of the state government. He questioned the need for two houses in the legislature and for full-time legislators, whether the powers of the governor and the legislature should be altered, and whether the executive branch should be reorganized.

The state must also face the problems inherent in federal and state aid, he said. "We should now drop the term 'grant in aid' and 'state aid' and recognize that what we have is merely a sharing of the costs of services in which all of us share," he said.

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The Man Behind FIGHT Convention

Alinsky - 'Partly Hopeful'

Delegates of the Catholic Interracial Council and other Church groups active in local civil rights programs will attend tonight's annual convention of the militant Negro organization FIGHT at the Rochester Institute of Technology auditorium. It begins at 7 p.m.

Formed with the help of controversial sociologist Saul Alinsky, the FIGHT group will mark its first birthday at this convention.

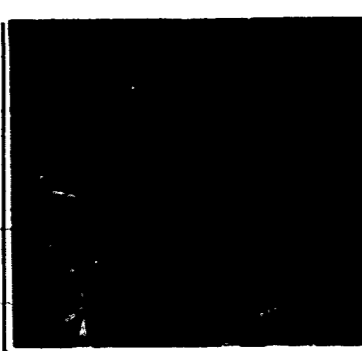
(FIGHT stands for Freedom, Integration, God, Honor, Today.)

Many Rochester area residents, including Catholics, are still puzzled about the blunt-speaking Alinsky.

Sulpician Father John F. Cronin of the U.S. bishops' NCWC Social Action Department recently characterized Alinsky as "a many-sided man."

"I suspect there are three Saul Alinskys," he said, when asked his opinion of the controversial "social tactician" of the Industrial Areas Foundation.

Father Cronin made his comments in a talk to 40 priests from economically depressed



SAUL ALINSKY 'there are three'

areas of San Francisco, in a talk at St. James Church in the heart of the city's mission district.

The first Saul Alinsky, according to Father Cronin, is the master of the shocking statement, deliberately overstating his case to stir up the Philistines and drive off the weaklings. What he has in mind is to make sure that he has no followers who will go just so far and then pull out on him, the priest explained.

The second Alinsky is the "real Alinsky," sensitive, dedicated, partly disillusioned, partly hopeful, trying to work for

the poor the best way he can.

But it is Alinsky No. 3 who is the real center of contemporary debate and the target of both bitter criticism and enthusiastic praise, Father Cronin said. This is Alinsky the social engineer, militantly organizing the poor to fight city hall, and not allowing any in-between approach.

Agree with him or not, "Alinsky is too big, has too long a history, and has played too great a role in the inner city not to be listened to," the priest stated.

Father Cronin told the priests that a vital element of their struggle to assist the poor is a good system of communications — with both civil and ecclesiastical "city halls." He suggested a "platoon system" to help keep lines of communication open.

The inner city group should first decide who the good communicators and the good action people really are, Father Cronin said. "Then they should assign tasks to each according to his ability if they wish to insure both effective action for the poor and good communication with those in authority."

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