

Last Chance for Camp

Camp Stella Maris, diocesan camp on Conesus Lake, can still accept boys for the one week camp period July 30 to August 5, or girls for either one week or two week camp periods August 6 to 19. Reservations may be made at the camp office, 50 Chestnut St., Rochester, phone 454-2030.

God's World

Making Mass More Inviting

By DENNIS J. GEANEY, O.S.A.

The celebration of my twenty-fifth anniversary in the priesthood was the occasion for me to move from an arm-chair liturgist to an liturgical activist. I have written on Mass happenings, but really I had never set out to actively stage one with a Sunday Mass congregation.

He even suggested that a Greek rite Epiclesis should be included. I have not yet taken time out to find out what an Epiclesis is, but I would imagine that it would help our Sunday worship because everything else this layman said made sense.

More Feedback Needed
A second impression I got from our meeting is that this is what should happen every week. Members of the laity and the clerical staff should sit around a table and carefully plan next Sunday's liturgy. The laymen should be invited to give the feedback from the benches that is so necessary for the priest who just does not appreciate their feelings. The meeting should be leisurely and thought provoking.

This experience has convinced me that the Roman liturgy, as it is, has much more flexibility and room for imaginative celebration than I had ever dreamed. If our liturgy on Sunday is drab and dull, place the blame where it belongs, and not with the Post-Conciliar Liturgical Commission in Rome.

Consult the Laity

In the post-Vatican II era everything begins with a lay-cery committee. I called one into being by inviting four laymen to join me. They were invited because of their competence.

Two were leaders of song in different parishes, one an organist, and another a layman who would put together a program booklet. Each brought to the meeting ideas and copies of musical odds and ends he would push to be included. I retained veto power.

I must confess that it was a layman at the meeting who showed me that the rules or rubrics for singing or not singing are much more flexible than I had imagined. For example, one can have hymns at Mass, sing the preface, and the Our Father, but simply recite the Gloria to God and the creed which tend to slow down the movement of the Mass in the early stages. It means you have the best of both, the high Mass and the hymn Mass.

With this basic ground rule of freedom to sing or not to sing a particular part we were able to proceed from the professional to the recreational in achieving consensus on how we would handle each part of the Mass. The result was familiar hymns for professional and recreational like, "Praise to the Lord," and "Now Thank You All Our God," and a less familiar interlude after the first lesson and bidding prayers from the American Mass.

Suit the Occasion

After we polled our musical resources, someone asked about the offertory procession. I said it would be the traditional bearing of the bread and wine. The woman in the group thought that I was missing an opportunity for bringing many other types of gifts to the altar. I replied by telling her that I did not want the offertory to be too pronounced. She had, nevertheless, sowed the seed of doubt.

Within a few days I was consulting people, drafting and redrafting an offertory procession that would be a liturgical, "This is Your Life." I felt like a movie producer who both writes the script and casts the production. For example, who of all my students in sixteen years of teaching would symbolize this part of my life? What would he carry?

My consultant was a drama major, a nun, who herself would carry the relic of St. Augustine imagining my 32 years as a member of the Order of St. Augustine. The first draft we had six of the nine people carrying books of one kind or another. The final draft had it cut to four. I found all this exciting and if I were younger, the taste of it might have inclined me to that profession.

I am working on the assumption that the Mass is something more than a mechanical "grace producer" which only requires that the priest be validly ordained and say the words of consecration correctly and with the right intention. I believe that grace also depends upon the effectiveness of the liturgical performance to pull the people into the action and elicit that kind of personal response which the liturgical action suggests.

Boredom does not produce grace, so anything that slows down the action of the Mass must be toned down or eliminated. A y t h i n g that can heighten the experience must be prolonged or added. The grace of Christ hinges on the dramatic quality of the action.

Some New Insights

What impressed me most in this enriching experience was the contribution that lay people have to make the liturgy and the responsibility priests have to consult them. One layman in an aside, remarked that the present canon is too long and expressed the hope that the Liturgical Commission in Rome will shorten it, even after it is in English.



Family Bound for Missions

Worcester — (RNS) — The William Barnatt family of Blackstone, Mass., are departing for permanent mission work on the Rocky Boy Indian Reservation in Montana. Seated from left are: Marian, 12; Stephen, 10; Louise, 16, and Thomas, 14. Standing: Mr. Barnatt, a retired Marine lieutenant colonel, Mrs. Barnatt, Christine, 20, and William, Jr., 18. The Barnatts' seventh child, Patricia, recently took her perpetual vows in the Passionist order. She is a fourth grade teacher at Assumption Grammar School in Providence, R. I. The Barnatts will go to Montana under sponsorship of the Worcester diocese.



Volunteers for Haiti Orphanage

Brooklyn — (RNS) — Three volunteer workers have been commissioned by Bishop Albert F. Cousineau of Cap Haitien to establish an orphanage in Haiti under the patronage of Our Lady of the Angels. They are, from left: Florence Sundberg, Valerie Valvassori and Trina Battaglia. In their native Brooklyn on a fund-raising effort, they kept in practice by helping children at St. Charles Hospital.



Apostolic Delegate

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — Archbishop Luigi Raimondi, Apostolic Delegate to Mexico, was named by Pope Paul to be Apostolic Delegate to the U.S. He succeeds Egildo Cardinal Vagnozzi. Archbishop Raimondi, 54, is a former Papal Nuncio to Haiti. He has been an archbishop since 1954, and has served in Washington previously. From 1942-49 he was secretary to Amleto Cardinal Cicognani, then Apostolic Delegate and now Vatican Secretary of State.

Pope Stresses Teaching of Peter, Paul

Vatican City — (NC) — The teaching function of the Church is traceable back to the first Apostles who insisted on their authority from Christ, Pope Paul VI told his weekly general audience.

Commenting on the recent feast of the martyrdom of Sts. Peter and Paul, the Pope noted that their teaching role made them "intermediaries between us and Christ" and that this role "characterizes Christianity in an essential manner."

Expanding on this theme (July 5), the Pope said: "The Apostle is the teacher. He is not merely the echo of the religious conscience of the community. He is not merely the expression of the opinion of the faithful, almost the voice which enunciates and legalizes the opinion, as the modernists said and as some theologians dare to assert today."

Instead, said the Pope, "the voice of the Apostle is the generator of faith and, just as it brings the first good tidings of the Gospel, so it defends its true meaning, defines its interpretation, guides the acceptance of the faithful and denounces erroneous distortions."

The written words of Scripture cannot be detached from the Church's magisterium because the teaching authority of the Apostles is an essential element in the Church, Pope Paul said. The demands of the magisterium do not "permit that which pleases so many men of today and of yesterday; a free examination of the divine word, that is to say, a detaching of the written word of sacred Scripture from the spoken living faithful and the actual word of the ecclesiastical magisterium."

Conservative Catholics

Minneapolis. — (RNS) — A group of those members of the flock whose carefully preserved consciences cannot admit ideas harmful to their integrity.

The curious thing is that this violence to the conservative conscience is being perpetrated in the name of freedom of conscience," he commented.

"The liberal mind will reproach and condemn you. But the Pope prays for you," Father McCarthy said, in an address dealing with the Pope Paul's exhortation for observance of a "Year of Faith."

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Get Involved, Clergy Told

Notre Dame — (RNS) — The chief message at a day-long symposium for 200 priests, ministers, nuns and laymen here could be summed up quite easily: Get involved!

Challenges to become involved in the community were issued by several speakers at the symposium for Christian clergy-men, held in the University of Notre Dame's Center for Continuing Education.

Father Andrew Greeley, senior study director of the National Opinion Research Center in Chicago, set the stage. "No priest seems to be able to cope with the educational needs of this modern world. But then, who is?" asked the co-author of the Greeley-Rossi book, "Catholic Higher Education Today."

Father Greeley said that a 20th Century clergyman "must have first a quality of leadership guided by a collegiality or consensus of opinion garnered from the faithful he serves." The priest also must provide an atmosphere whereby the people can retain their own identities, but at the same time listen diligently and perceive the charismatic will of the Holy Spirit.

"However, this might take a quarter of a century to perfect, since the evolving of an opinion-taking structure coupled with clerical personality systems able to descend to public-opinion-taking, are still in their formative stages. The other attribute that the Christian hierarchy must possess is vision, or sight of the big picture of man's response to the call of God. They become an uncertainty absorber for the layman."

Father Greeley proposed that the church must serve as a guide, and that a priest or theologian cannot do that with any degree of believability unless he is constantly re-thinking his positions and undergoing "continual retraining" in the area of his vocation to the apostolate.

"Without learning, the priest will become stagnant and ineffective," he added, urging priests to resist un-initiative change to our campuses. Exchange visits might reduce the vagueness and disinterestedness in religion with which many students view government and society.

The quest for moral and legal authority for government persists. Students curious about answers are not satisfied with clichés. Brooks Hays, former Congressman from Arkansas and now professor of practical politics at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, told an assembly at John Brown University here that theological elements in political science might be more apparent "if we could avoid confusing theology with ecclesiasticism or with dogmatic religion."

"There is a deception," he said, "in the popular feeling that religion has to do only with the spiritual life of individuals, and government only with the material life of society. In both areas — theology and politics — there is a concern for both the individual and society. The theologian advances the great truths identified with the dignity of man and the responsibility which he bears to God. And the political scientist, stressing an orderly and just society, could not get very far without acknowledging such theological principles."

"Our generation would therefore profit by a stimulating discussion of this relationship," he continued, "but it must be done without parading piety and, obviously, the dialogue would be more significant in the non-partisan atmosphere of odd-numbered years when we are not plagued by politics of a partisan kind."

"State and federal law can be reconciled far more easily when the unchanging laws of God are logically invoked in the social conflicts which descend upon us," Mr. Hays argued. "Theology becomes effective where legalisms fail."

He also invited education into the dialogue. "We teachers of government, for example," he said, "should welcome theologians to our campuses. Exchange visits might reduce the vagueness and disinterestedness in religion with which many students view government and society."

Theology Dialog With Politics

Siloam Springs, Ark. — (RNS) — A former Congressman and advisor to Presidents Johnson and Kennedy who was once president of the Southern Baptist Convention has called for a dialogue between theologians and politicians.

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Mount of the Beatitudes

On a hilltop overlooking the Lake of Galilee, Bishop Sheen said he had the same feeling he had when he stood on the Mount of the Beatitudes overlooking the Lake of Galilee — and he hoped "the message will be the same too."

He spoke to close to 200 people at an outdoor, afternoon Mass dedicating the new retreat house.

Thunder tumbled in the distance and a downpour of threatened throughout the Mass but nary a drop fell.

The Bishop said the retreat house was "an open window for what he termed 'the spirituality'."

The "old" spirituality, he was "individuals talking to individuals about God" and the "new" form of spirituality would take form of "persons in union with other persons talking to Christ."

He stressed the need for people to be aware that day to day heartaches and "difficulties are a sharing in the passion of the contemporary Christ." He cited St. Paul's frequent references to the coming "redemptive" suffering of Christ in His mystical body.

"There is great need for more and more to get back to the life of Christ, with emphasis on His human life," Bishop Sheen said. "To me His life was like ours. He was hungry, thirsty, exhausted and He never turned the other cheek."

He said this example of Lord teaches us "we have learned to live life as it is, concluded by referring to the title of the retreat house, the Blessed Virgin Mary who form retreatants into the life of Christ."

Consultors From U.S.

Vatican City — (NC) — Americans, including a layman, have been named consultant to the Commission for the revision of the Code of Canon Law.

The four are Msgr. Stephen Kelleher of New York; F. Frederick R. McManus of Catholic University of America; Msgr. John Quinn of Chicago and Stephen Kuttner, professor of history of canon law at the University of Navarre, Spain.

Kuttner is one of five laymen now named to assist the commission in its revision of the Code of Canon Law in the light of the Vatican Council's decisions. Name consultants of the commission at the same time (Kuttner nominated March 29) Prof. Orlo Giacchi of the Catholic University of Milan; Prof. Pedro Lombardia of the University of Navarre, Spain.

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