## Revised Marriage Service Is Flexible

By FR. FREDERICK R. McMANUS

Father McManus is a priest of the Boston archdiocese who dren as Christian believers. is executive secretary of the United States bishops' Commission on the Liturgy and a member of the canon law school faculty at the Catholic Univer-

The recently announced revised marriage service for Roman Catholics, the first revision a series of innovations.

There will be a choice of alin place of the Epistle and Gospel of the wedding Mass; the declaration of consent will be made by the couple themselves, rather than in response to questions from the priest; three different options will be available for the nuptial blessing referring to both bride and groom instead of the bride alone; and a variety of prayers (Collects, Prefaces) will be available for

The real test of the revision will be the success or failure of the prayer texts which try to express the best human and Christian attitude toward mar-

These prayer texts are largely biblical and traditional in inspiration. They insist upon the marriage of Christian believers as the sign of the covenant between God and man, the image of Christ's union with his people, the Christian Church.

The overall title of the service book of which the marriage rite is an excerpt is The Roman Ritual Restored by Decree of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council.

But the council remembered that the old Roman Ritual, unlike the official missal and breviary, had never been imposed throughout the so-called Latin Church and the council insisted on the creation of national rituals once the Roman Ritual had been brought up to

Thus the new book is flexible and offers the varieties and options already referred to and good pastoral sense suggests that the bride and groom be invited to help in choosing the readings and prayers suited to the circumstances of their wedding, the particular congre-

But the real concept of national rituals goes further than these options, and every kind of reasonable adaptation is provided for.

The door is left open to cuitural variations (the traditional crowning of the bride is mentioned as an example, but at is also noted that the joining of hands and the use of rings may not be acceptable in some countries) and to the development Reserved

The directions given to the priest who blesses the marriage are many.

Instead of the formal intro-ductory instruction that is routinely recited, the priest is told to greet the couple before Mass - either at the church door or at the altar — and to express in his own words the part which the Church takes in their joy, that is, the meaning of celebrating marriage religiously in the midst of the community of Christians.

The instruction itself is replaced by a homily on the scriptural reading to explain "the mystery of Christian marriage, excellence of married love, the grace of the sacraments, and the responsibilities of husband

The rite begins with a new feature that may seem probing and legalistic unless it is well translated. This is an interrogation of the couple concerning

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their free and voluntary choice, invitation: "Since you are ready rite is then resumed, and the blessing are given as optional is a Catholic and the other a partment of Health is planning their pledge of faithfulness to to enter the covenant of holy bride and groom are invited to substitutes.

| Catholic and the other a partment of Health is planning baptized non-Catholic, the identical massive cleanup campaign. each other, their willingness to marriage, join your hands and bring the bread and wine to each other, their willingness to marriage, join your marriage, joi

It is left to national episcopal conferences to retain this In any case it is expected and the fullest Christian sense. present.

fensive stress of the old text This is then confirmed by their

The blessing of rings has upon the bride's faithfulness. common sharing in the cucharsince 1614, is distinguished by change of consent may simply been reduced to a brief formube the declaration of the man la, with optional alternatives, and woman (corresponding to and is immediately followed by obligation of fidelity is express-"I take you ... to have and to the general or "universal" pray-ed, and a blessing upon both most 30 readings from the Bible hold, from this day forward er which is usually called the husband and wife is invoked, rectives for the rite of mixed some dispensations and, excep-Health Department. Abandoned ..") in response to the priest's prayer of the faithful. The Mass Two new forms of wedding marriages. If one of the couple tions even in this case.

Instead, the mutual and equal

baptized non-cathonic like and formulas are April 28 to May 2 in the 250-block Model Cities Area.

the traditional moment of the the couple to enter marriage in peated after the priest as at Christ. But the new text elimi-fection are sacred values sealed absence of complete unity. nates the one-sided and even of by the sacrament of marriage.

gregation.

The reason for this is that Dr. Wendell R. Ames, county The text of the ancient nup- kiss of peace before Commun the celebration of Mass, at health director, said the purdialogue between the priest and hoped that the couple will ex- tial blessing retains the moving ion. When they kiss each other which the non-Catholic is ordi-pose of the campaign is to free the bride and groom or to omit press their consent in the petitions for the bride, whose before the altar in the presence narily not permitted to receive homes and yards of rubbish sity of America, Washington, it It can emphasize before the formula said from memory or love for her husband is com- of the community, it is to be a Communion, can in these cir- and debris that provide nesting congregation the readiness of read, rather than awkwardly re-pared to the Church's love for sign that human love and af-cumstances anly emphasize the places for rodents.

If the local bishop does per-idents of the Model Cities Area common sharing in the euchar mit Mass to be celebrated, it is are being asked to clean up istic meal together with the con. done without "the eucharistic their properties and placing the Communion of the non-Catholic trash at curbside. City DPW person, as not admitted by gen-trucks will collect the trash Of special significance are di- eral law." There are of course under a contract with the cars also will be towed away.

Dr. Ames said the 45,000 res-

Cleanup Drive

ress in eliminating rats," Aimed at Rats Ames said, "By cleaning up the Model Cities Area and keeping it clean, it is possible to create As part of the "War on an environment that will not Rats." the Monroe County De-support rats."

"This cleanup is absolutely

vital in order to achieve prog-

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