

Today's Parish a Many Splendored Thing

(First of a two-part series.)
Mrs. Antoinette Bosco has been a staff writer for the Long Island Catholic since its founding in 1962. She has worked 20 years in CCD and is involved in human relations work. She has had more than 300 articles and two books published.

By ANTOINETTE BOSCO
 The Sunday announcements were over and the pastor paused, looking around at his people. The parish had been newly established six months before with an instant congregation of 1,000 families taken in chunks from surrounding parishes.

The parish had been named after a layman — St. Thomas More — to emphasize this as the age of the layman, and the pastor was trying to set the tone of his parish as up-to-the-minute progressive. As one change, he had requested that a family volunteer for each Sunday Mass to carry the bread and wine to the altar during the Offertory.

Now, he looked at his people and complained, "Why can't we get families to come forward? When I first invited families to participate this way in the Mass, I thought I would be deluged with responses. Instead, we aren't getting enough families to even continue this kind of Offertory procession."

Some explain this silence as "the name of the game is asphy — the why should I care?" crowd." Others add that "people insulate themselves from anything that interferes with their own comfort; they're the — why should I bother?" crowd."

After a four and one half year study of 10 Long Island parishes in depth from history to current life, I have concluded that these explanations are over-simplifications. The stimulus of the changing Church itself has caused most of the dissatisfactions within parish life today.

It has produced both a sense of loss — confused over the new terminology of involvement, community, commitment, and threatened by new practices such as chewing the host, Communion under both species, no first Confession, and other major shifts in Catholic living; and an enthusiastic laity, serious about the directives of Vatican II, anxious to work for their implementation, but not at all sure how to do this.

My studies indicate clearly that the first and basic need must be to clarify the spectrum of differences which exist among people located within the same parish.

The parish today has outgrown its once homogeneous character. In most dioceses, people still become fellow parishioners on a strictly geographical basis because they happened to buy or rent a house in a certain area, and not because of any interest, work, educational or philosophical relationship.

This fact demands consideration. Because if a parish does not contribute to the development of community and relationship among its people, can it be called a parish? Without doubt, there should be some redefining of exactly what constitutes a parish.

Examples of this people-variety show up at almost any parish meeting today. Violent differences of opinion exist on almost any subject, particularly the touchy ones like sex education in the schools, the racial situation, war and peace, and the updated theology.

Non-controversial programs get only a spotty response. In one parish of nearly 4,000 families, a lay-initiated lecture series, open to the public, tackled topics such as Scripture, Conscience, Freedom, the New Morality, given by faculty members

of a nearby major seminary and a Dutch theologian. The average attendance for this high-level series was around 100, with a majority coming from other parishes and Protestant churches, and only a few from their own.

Finding people who care about their Christian mission is still a tough job. One woman trying to recruit college-trained adults for high school Confraternity teaching had poor results. One man said, "No, I'm jealous of my time." A woman with only one 8-year old child gave as her excuse for refusal, "My dinner hour is too hectic."

Liturgical changes get mixed

reactions, sometimes unexpectedly affirmative. One parish offers a folkrock Mass, with the original words of the songs — Simon and Garfunkel, the Beatles, Pete Seeger, and such — unchanged. The homily is often a reading of items from the Sunday paper, with commentaries.

The priests report that this Mass is jam-packed with a turn-away crowd of young, medium-aged and elderly each week.

Thus, within the large parish system today, you find people:

- who couldn't care less about what the parish offers from the sacred to the secular — who have yet to be stimulated and motivated to be concerned beyond their own life sphere.
- who want to experience contemporary liturgies
- who want "quiet" Masses
- who want parish-initiated activities of social concern
- who want novenas.

People complain that in a church-auditorium or a big church where you have upwards of 1200 people, Mass is an impersonal experience.

One suggestion has been to provide occasionally an in-between liturgy, one which would be somewhat "custom-designed" for special groups, or for groups with a common interest. Examples would be an excellently prepared folk Mass for teenagers; a Mass for confraternity workers, members of a discussion group, senior citizens in a parish, widows, and so forth.

Eight families found that by sitting together, the relationship they felt took the isolation of being in a crowd at Mass, and the effect was a joyous Eucharist.


"We meet in front of the church before Mass and go into church together. Afterwards we gather at one of our homes for coffee and donuts. This way we really feel we've been joined together in love," said one of the women.

St. Anne's parish in Brentwood, Long Island began a summer Saturday morning family Mass, which was followed by refreshments on the lawn. Over 100 people have participated each week for two summers now. A repeated comment was that the warmth and friendliness of Saturday morning carried over to Sunday's Mass.


(To be continued.)

MR. CLAM MAN
 WILL BE AT
HOLY CROSS CHURCH FESTIVAL
 IN CHARLOTTE
JULY 17, 18, & 19th
 SERVING RAW & STEAMED CLAMS
 FROM 6 P.M. TO MIDNIGHT

SCHEG ASSOCIATES, INC.
 —INSURANCE—
 PROMPT, EFFICIENT CLAIM SERVICE
 Phone (716) 586-7220



Conrad Pittsford



Tom Henrietta

HOME AUTO LIFE

POM POM Quality Cigars
OPERAS
 Box of 50
1.45

Miller, Better With Perfection
 Binder

NEW, Improved
 ELECTRO-COATED
Personna
BLADES

- Disp. of 10 Double-Edge Blades
- Disp. of 11 Injector Blades

...Values to \$1.49

77c ea.

Extra! You Can Get Additional 69¢ Refund Coupon and Details At Any DAW'S Store

Sale Ends Wed. Night, July 23rd
 Quantity Rights Reserved

DAW'S
 PRESCRIPTION
 DRUG STORES

There's A Big, Modern DAW'S Near You:

- RIDGE HUDSON PLAZA
- 1900 CLINTON AVE N
- 388 PENFIELD RD
- BRINTON PLAZA
- 151 E. LEE AVE
- EAST ROCHESTER
- LAITA S. DEWEY
- 1148 L YELL AVE
- RIDGE S. DEWEY
- 1750 E. EAST AVE
- EMPIRE PLAZA
- CULVER RIDGE PLAZA
- EASTWAY PLAZA
- PITTSFORD PLAZA
- BROOKPORT PLAZA
- BULL S. HEAD PLAZA
- 1627 MT. HOPE AVE
- GOODMAN PLAZA
- STONE RIDGE PLAZA

SUMMER BUYS
 Rugged... All-Weather METAL
PATIO TABLE
 For Porch, Patio, Lawn
 For Outdoor Snacks, for Bar-B-Q's, for Drinks, etc.



97c
 Reg. \$1.29

Decorated Metal Top Fits Firmly On Sturdy, Brass-Finish Folding Legs

Tipped Feet Won't Mar Floors

Extra Wide Brim
COWBOY STRAW HAT
 Colorful... Made in Mexico... With Colorful Braided Cord



29c

• Mexican Sombrero... 69c

arrow copter
 HELICOPTER FLYING TOY
SOARS 300 FEET



\$1 Value
66c



BARBASOL
 CONCENTRATED LATHER

Regular or Menthol 11-oz. Size
98c Value

37c



DAW'S Quality
 Stannous Fluoride TOOTH PASTE

Family Size Tube Compare at \$1.05

38c



DIPPITY-DO
 SETTING GEL For Body... Easier Setting

8-oz. Reg. or Hard to Hold \$1.25 Value

73c



PEPTO-BISMOL
 For Upset Stomach

8-oz. Size 98c Value

72c

Partitioned, Deep-Well
 Colorful **STYRENE PLASTIC PLATES**



Good Size: 13-in. Long
29c

Perfect for Lunches, Picnics, Vacation Use
 Durable... EASY-TO-CLEAN

"Easy Pop"
ICE CUBE TRAY
 Practically Unbreakable... So Convenient! So Handy!



19c

Super Concentrated
STP OIL TREATMENT
 FOR ALL OILS



Value **78c**



PACQUIN
 Extra-Dry Lotion or Silk'n Satin

10.5-oz. Size \$1.09 Value

57c



MODESS NAPKINS
 REG. or SUPER

Box of 48 \$2.13 Value

99c



VISINE Sterile
 EYE DROPS Gels The Red Out

15cc. In Glass or Plastic \$1.50 Value

92c



Johnson's **KIT**
 PRE-SOFTENED Cleaner/Wax

12-oz. Tub With Applicator Reg. \$1.99

1.59

CLEAR PLASTIC Auto Seat Cover
 Form Fitting



So Easy to Install
 Reg. \$9c

Protects Against Stains, Water and Dirt

29c

RUBBER EAR PLUGS
 Permits Normal Hearing



25c

NOSE CLIPS
 PROTECTS NOSE AND SINUSES



39c

BEACH BALL
 It's the Brightest... Bounciest Ball Ever Inflates to 16"



27c



QUAKER MAID
 OUTBOARD MOTOR OIL

Quart Size 79c Value

39c



DAW'S Quality
 SACCHARIN 1/2% Grain Tablets

Bottle of 1000 Tablets

37c



MAN-POWER SUPER-DRY
 ANTI-PERSPIRANT DEODORANT

4-oz. Size \$1.79 Value

56c



ONE-A-DAY
 MULTIPLE VITAMINS

100 Plus 30 FREE \$2.94 Value

130 Tablets (With Iron)... **1.87**

U.S. Coast Guard Approved
BOYANT LIFE JACKETS



Child Size Up To 50-lbs. **2.99**
 • Medium Size... 3.39
 • Adult Size... 3.89

ASHTON Quality LONG HANDLE LAWN TOOLS

Weeder **43c** Reg. 69c
 Grass Whip **73c** Reg. 97c

NEW LOW PRICE!

50-ft. PLASTIC HOSE
 Reg. 99c **79c**

HEAVY-GAUGE STEEL GREEN ENAMELED HOSE HANGER
 Holds 100-ft. of HOSE **43c** Keeps Your Hose Neat and Handy

Cool... COMFORTABLE **FOOT SOCKS**
 •Nylon SEAMLESS S-I-T-E-T-C-H Protects Your Feet




33c Pr.

INSECT REPELLENT CITRONELLA CANDLE
 Great Size **59c**

•Sneakers, Flats **49c**

Have a Duke... the fun beer



DUKE makes any time a fun time... It's the kind of beer you can live with... beer after beer! And if you're only having one DUKE, you're missing half the fun!

PITTSFORD BEVERAGES INC.
 144 Humboldt St. 482-9583
 CLOSED MONDAYS
 Duquesne Brewing Co., Pittsburgh, Pa.