

Thanksgiving--Special Feast

By **SISTER VIRGINIA HOGAN**
Sister Virginia, of St. Agnes High School, directs the St. Joseph Sisters' Concert Chorale.

This November we will celebrate for the first time in our nation's history an approved feast day Mass for the United States — the feast of Thanksgiving Day. We have waited so long for this special recognition of the Catholic people in America that it would seem we should celebrate it in a most festive manner.

We are a festive people with a love for national "liturgies", using the word in its broadest sense. The year 1970 finds us leading the world in the arts, claiming not only the greatest per cent of artists and composers in the world, but also the most significant advancement in musical form and style. Unfortunately, we cannot say the same for the music in our Catholic churches.

What has happened to church music? The labor of over two thousand years is almost gone as we jettison the chant, polyphony and sacred music of the significant church composers of recent centuries. The choirs, and often the organists are replaced by a folk group that is

cheaper and entertains us. As the guitar takes over does anyone ask, "Is it going to be played, well", or, "Is this the best instrument we have for worship?"

Little children need a special liturgy, and some teenagers will want only folk music until we show them something better. But what is to be said for the adult who, although he may be frequently found before his stereo or in the concert hall uplifted by the works of the masters, is content to use banal music in his worship?

If the purpose of any art in the service of worship is to give glory to God and to sanctify the faithful, then dignity, beauty and reverence are imperative marks of such an art. Our need is not for cheap, sentimental, "disposable" music for congregations to grow out of, but simple, powerful music for congregations to grow into. The music for the liturgy must be a product of the Church's highest artistic gifts.

Love of neighbor is certainly to be emphasized, but when our hymns concern themselves only with man's relationships to man our prayer is incomplete. Our horizontal relationships with

man must at some point move to a vertical position, a direct relationship to God as we offer Him our love, adoration and thanksgiving. This is what church music should be all about.

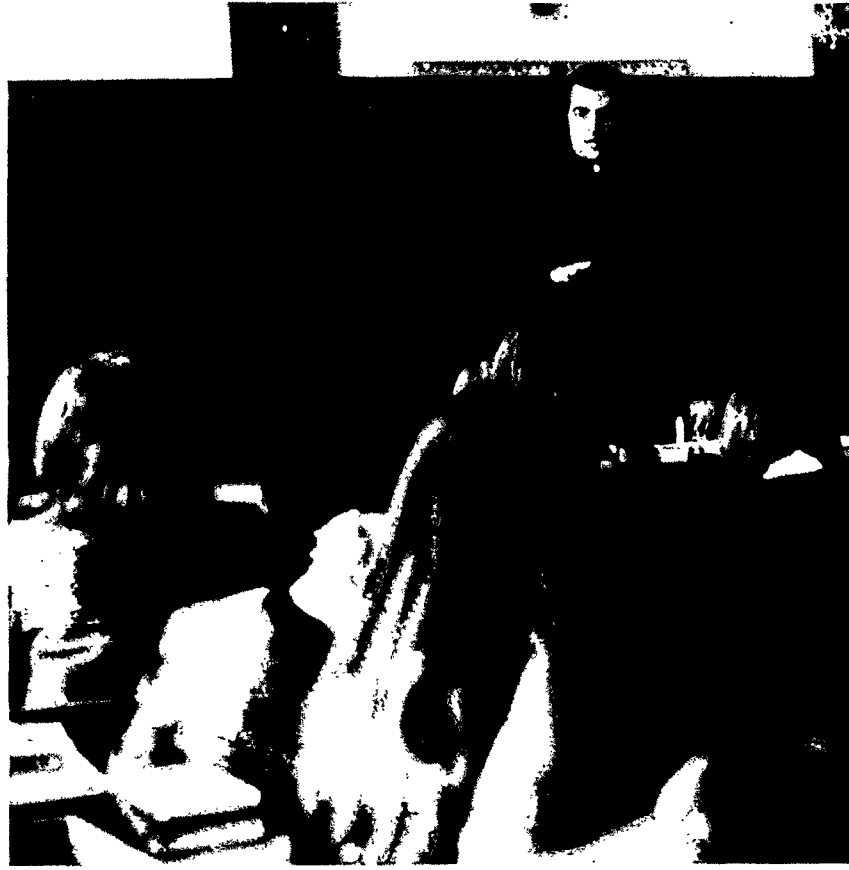
In the last few years we have seen considerable experimentation in the music of our liturgy. How does our church music today compare with ten years ago? At that time every Church had a choir; some two or three. The great feasts of the church year and the Sunday high Masses were carefully prepared and sung by the musically gifted people of the parish.

With few exceptions these groups are disappearing, although the church choir still has an important role in the sung Mass that can only incompetently be taken over by the congregation. Choir and congregation have distinct and complementary roles, each important to the service.

Most parishes have tried folk Masses with various combinations of folk instruments, but what experimentation has been done with the Cantor soloist suggested for responsorial psalms, acclamations and the like? As we enter our churches, is the silence which now greets us to be preferred to the Bach Preludes with which the organist used to uplift us? Let us hope that the best of the folk idiom will be retained, with plenty of room for the more profound music of our Christian heritage.

On Thanksgiving Day morning the Concert Chorale of the Sisters of St. Joseph will have the privilege of joining with Bishop Hogan in celebrating this very special feast in Sacred Heart Cathedral. The Chorale will sing "The Mass of Christ" by William Ferris, the Cathedral organist and one of the most promising church composers in America today.

With every talent and skill of con-celebrants, choir, organist and congregation we hope to bring to the liturgy the finest in the American spirit of celebration for the first feast of the American Church — the feast of Thanksgiving Day.



Father Robert F. O'Neill, assistant pastor of Holy Cross Church, chats with Nazareth Academy seniors during two day-long sessions arranged by the school's theology department. Eight priests participated in discussions on "Youth in the Church Today."

Seminar Conducted at Nazareth

Eight priests discussed "Youth in the Church Today" with students of Nazareth Academy at a two-day seminar conducted last week by the theology department at the school.

Topics discussed, with students either asking questions or offering comment or suggestion, ranged over a wide area of topics, including what is done or not done for or with youth in parishes, marriage and celibacy, religious vows, dialogue or lack of it, abortion, sermons, sin, and so on.

Priests participating included Father Edwin B. Metzger of St. Bernard's Seminary faculty, who was accompanied by some seminarians; Father Lawrence V. Murphy of Becket Hall, diocesan vocation director, and Fathers Phillip J. Lioi, Walter Hanss, Richard A. Hart, Robert F. O'Neill, Patric J. Doyle and William D. Lum.

Arranging the program was Sister Elizabeth Anne, chairman of the school's theology department.

57 Years a Jesuit... Not 1, But 2 Priests

How do you thank a man for giving you 57 years of his life? How do you thank two men?

This was the question the Jesuits at McQuaid High School asked themselves recently. And their answer was a special dinner attended by the McQuaid Jesuits and 45 Jesuits from Buffalo, Syracuse, and New York City.

Father Joseph Hartz and Father James Mulligan were classmates at St. Andrew's Prepara-

tory Seminary here. In 1913 they graduated and together entered the Society of Jesus, the first Rochesterians to become Jesuits.

After more than a half-century of study and work in many different high schools and universities along the Eastern Seaboard, their assignments brought them together again in their native Rochester. For the last five years they have been devoted Spiritual Fathers to the Jesuits at McQuaid.

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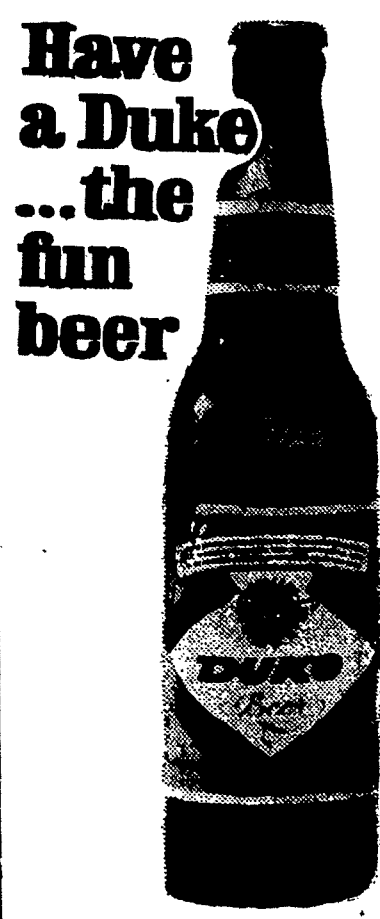
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