

# Special Liturgy Suggested To Stress Yule Season

Special liturgy for Wednesday, Dec. 16 and Sunday, Dec. 20, may blossom in a score of parishes following inspiration given to members of Parish Worship committees in area meetings last week.

About 125 persons attended a gathering at Nazareth College on Wednesday evening to hear and see examples of liturgical action for the Advent season.

Father Robert Mc Namara of St. Bernard's Seminary discussed suggestions for parish celebration of the fourth Sunday of Advent. Father Benedict Ehmman, pastor of St. Michael's Church, spoke on the state of hymn-singing in the diocese.

Nazareth students and a group of seminarians and parish

lectors presented an exemplification of a pre-Christmas program, suggested for the evening of Dec. 16, which a parish could offer, as Msgr. William H. Shannon suggested, "to give parishioners an elevating evening to get away from the confusions of the Christmas rush and find the spirit of Advent from readings of the Scriptures."

Urging an "easy colloquy" "at least once a month between parish priests and their worship committees as essential for good parochial liturgy, Father Mc Namara declared: "Such planning makes the liturgy what it should be: a community effort, a community celebration."

He suggested special efforts to make the last Sunday of Ad-

vent meaningful for the entire worshipping parish. Seasonal music, banners, carefully composed prayers of the faithful and novel treatment of the offertory procession and the kiss of peace should be used.

"Christmas gift giving has little validity unless it includes a remembrance of the needy and sharing with them," he said. The offertory procession might include, he suggested, besides the bearers of the usual gifts of bread and wine, three others carrying items of clothing, food and drink intended for the poor.

"Banners with a colorful, simple Advent theme are highly commended as the cheapest and most moving seasonal decoration," he said. They should be carried during the entrance procession and mounted in the sanctuary to maintain a visual mood for the entire liturgy of the day.

## Josephite Superior Resigns

Baltimore — (NC) — Father George F. O'Dea, SSJ, superior general of the Josephite Fathers, announced here he had resigned because of failing health. Father Matthew J. O'Rourke, vicar, will serve as superior general until an election next summer.

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## Buffalo Priest Heads Columbans

St. Columbans, Neb. — (RNS) — Father Richard Steinhilber, S.S.C., a 43-year-old native of Buffalo, N.Y., is the first native American to be elected superior general of the Society of St. Columban, a Roman Catholic missionary order founded in Ireland 52 years ago. He has been director of the North American region since 1967.

The election took place in Navan, Ireland, where delegates from all parts of the world met in general chapter.



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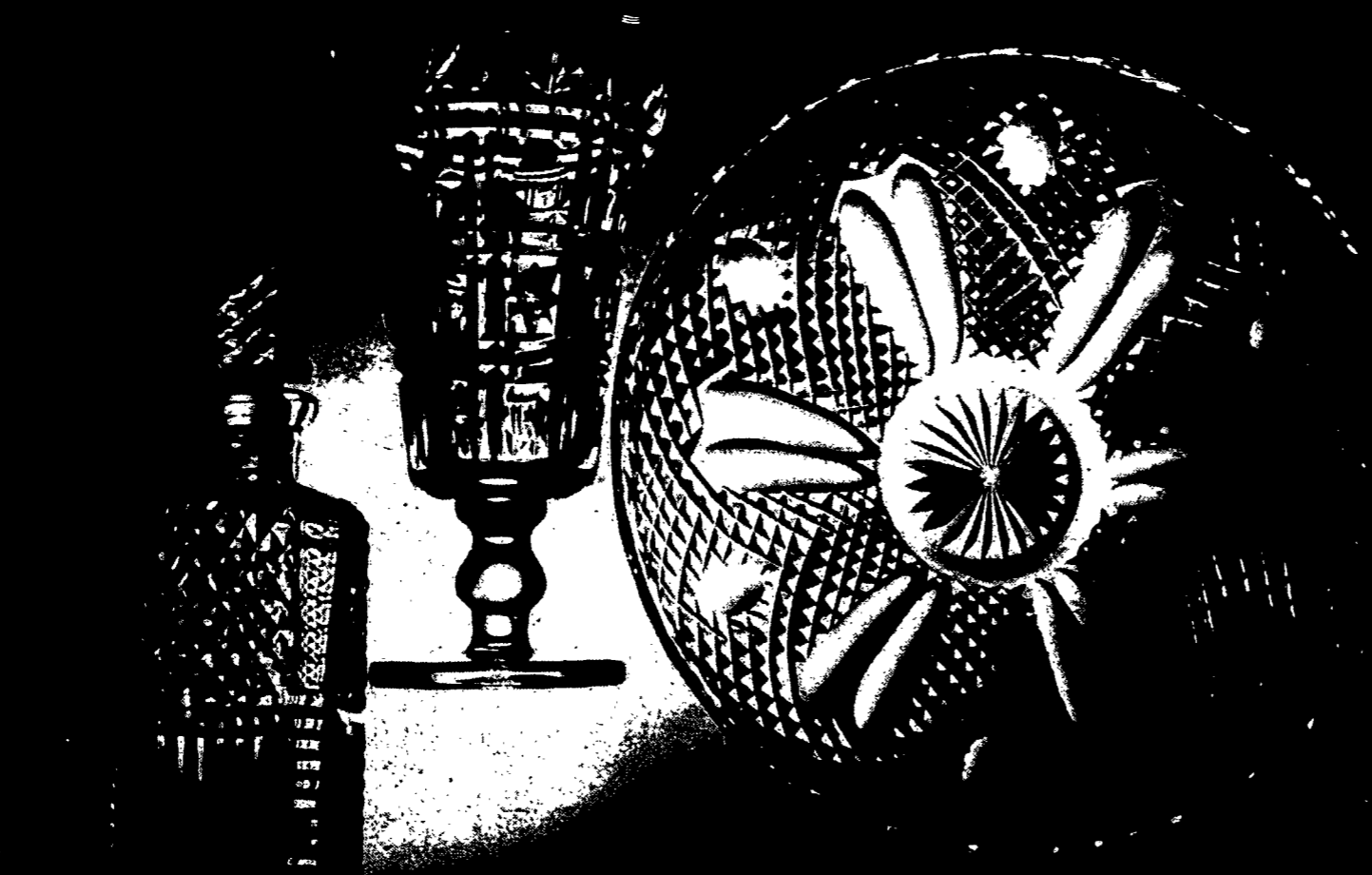


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