

New Lenten Liturgy Is Recommended

A booklet of liturgy suggestions recently presented to pastors and parish committees should transform this year's observance of Lent, the Diocesan Liturgical Commission predicts.

Beginning with a pastoral letter from Bishop Hogan on the Lenten theme of "conversion and reconciliation" and offering a dramatic Ash Wednesday evening service, the instructions contain new material for all the Sundays and Wednesdays.

Bishop Hogan's letter will be read at all Masses on the weekend of Feb. 20-21, preceding Ash Wednesday on the 24th.

The blessing and distribution of ashes may take place at the usual parish morning Mass. But the Commission recommends that the blessing service "preferably" be held in the evening at Mass or a Bible service designed to explain the meaning of the acceptance of ashes.

The Lenten timetable:

The Commission suggests that ashes be distributed only during Mass, after the homily. A new statement, "Repent and believe the Good News," should be used instead of "Remember man, that thou art dust . . ."

Week of Feb. 28 — theme:

Reconciliation with the poor. Sunday homily on the theme. Wednesday evening, Mass followed by a "sharing supper."

Week of March 7 — theme: Reconciliation within the Church. Sunday homily on the theme. Wednesday, Bible service on concern for the Church.

Week of March 14 — Parish worship committees encouraged to plan their own theme and program for this week.

Week of March 21 — theme: Reconciliation within families. Sunday homily on the theme. Wednesday, Bible service on the theme.

Week of March 28 — theme: Reconciliation within the nation. Sunday homily on the theme. Wednesday, Bible service on the theme.

Week of April 4 (Holy Week) — Wednesday, evening Mass of reconciliation; Thursday, Friday, Saturday — the new Holy Week liturgy.

The suggestion of a "sharing supper" on Wednesday, March 4, is that after early evening Mass a simple meal of nourishing soup and bread be provided for the congregation in the parish hall. An advance ticket sale, at a price proper for a full

meal, would leave a profit for the poor either in the parish or other parts of the diocese.

Families might pay the equivalent of what their supper at home would have cost. It is recommended that children buy their tickets out of their own earnings or savings.

The supper menu would be symbolic of the deprivation endured daily by the needy. But the occasion should be cheerful, the commission recommends, with music and song as well as appropriate prayers to give the gathering a spiritual significance.

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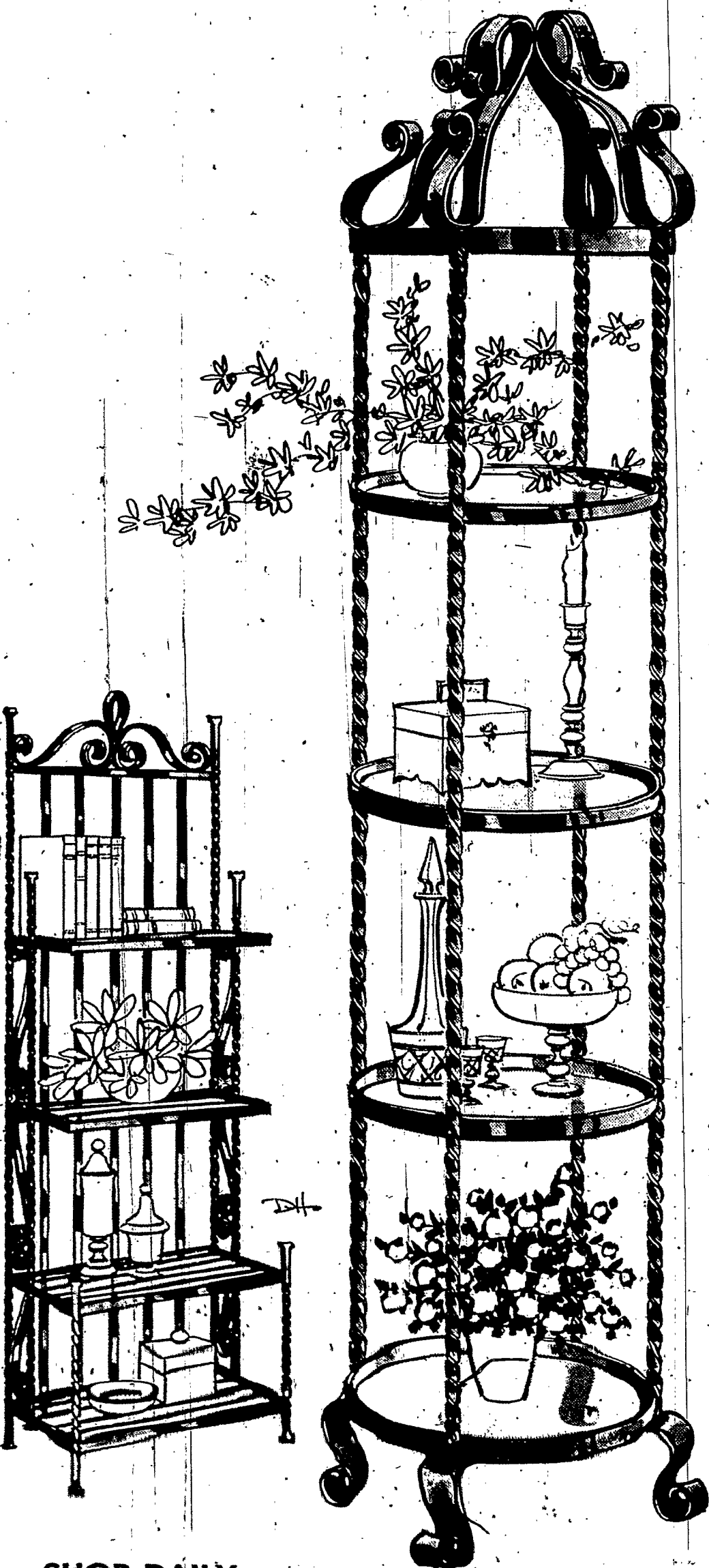
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