



New Elmira junior high faculty meets.

Owego Liturgy Up to Date

By DICK BAUMBACH
Elmira Correspondent

Owego—When a person receives Holy Communion at St. Patrick's here he might find the Holy Eucharist being distributed by either a priest, a male member of the laity, or a woman.

The Liturgy Committee at the church asked Bishop Joseph L. Hogan for permission to have extraordinary ministers appointed to help distribute Holy Communion.

Bishop Hogan granted the request and now four male members of the church and two women are allowed to distribute the Hosts at Masses.

This is just one of the many areas where St. Patrick's Liturgy Committee has been in the forefront in instituting revisions in the Catholic Church's ever changing liturgical programs.

James Raftis, a member of the committee, says one of the most important steps the committee has taken since it was formed in October 1968 is the "breakthrough" in the line of communications between the priests and the laity.

Other areas where the Owego church's Liturgy Committee has forged ahead are in revision of funeral Mass liturgy, and the intensive use of the Sign of Peace during Mass.

Raftis explained the reaction of the parishioners to the changes saying, "The people seem to take to the changes very well because we take a long time to make everything perfect."

"An example would be in the area where the whole congregation sings. We start out using very common hymns and practice them with those attending Mass before the service actually starts.

"We are now preparing to go onto more involved hymns, but at this point the parishioners are ready for the advancement."

St. Patrick's was one of the first parishes in the diocese to use white vestments during a funeral Mass. "We used all the new techniques, such as wearing the white vestments and greeting the mourners and casket at the front door of the church," Raftis said.

Courier-Journal

The Liturgy Committee member said it was several months after his parish started using the new funeral liturgy that he heard a priest at a liturgical conference in Elmira explain the new program to individuals from other parishes.

"I guess it was because we were one of six parishes picked in the diocese to be experimenters with the new liturgy that we are doing new things before other parishes even hear about them," Raftis said.

The assistant pastor at St. Patrick's, Father Thomas Watts, said "The Liturgy Committee meets every month to review and renew the changes in the liturgy at St. Patrick's. This allows for continued review of the old liturgical forms and permits the free expression of new ideas."

On the subject of women lecturers, Raftis said St. Patrick's plans in the near future to start using women to perform the duties of lecturers, but at the present time only has a woman lector at the church's mission in Nichols.

Raftis explained the intensive use of the Sign of Peace at St. Patrick's saying, "The lector just says 'It is the practice in our congregation to turn to your neighbor and say whatever form of greeting is appropriate

for this particular church season.' This approach works very well and all the people are now accustomed to it," Raftis said.

"I think the most important function the committee has performed is helping the priest to plan the Mass. We are now at the point where both the priest and the laity are getting involved in the service. The Liturgy Committee feels that this is what is needed in the church of today," Raftis concluded.

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Mrs. Estelle Awarded First 'Oppy' at Hospital

Elmira—St. Joseph's Hospital here recently presented its first "Oppy Award" to an employee of the hospital for her "friendly and outstanding service to mankind."

Mrs. Philip Estelle, a dietary aide at St. Joseph's, received a plaque from the chairman of the Board of Directors of the hospital, Charles F. Kennedy, who said Mrs. Estelle "has set an outstanding example for us to follow."

Mrs. Estelle was chosen from more than 100 nominations for the award made by patients, visitors and employees of the hospital.

The "Oppy Award" was inaugurated in January of this year to honor, on a quarterly basis, an employee of the Catholic hospital.

Mrs. Estelle, her husband and

son, Peter, reside at Chemung RD. 2.

Sister Margaret Adelaide, administrator of the hospital, in commenting on the establishment of the award said, "St. Joseph's Hospital is in business to take care of people. Anything we can do to inspire all to remember this in performing their daily duties for our patients, their families and friends, then the more successful will be our team efforts to provide the best health care there is.

"With all our employees working toward that extra effort, our task of 'health care' can, and will be productive.

"There are many in our hospital family worthy of recognition for their outstanding performance and I hope that those of you aware of this kind of person will take the time to submit their names to the 'Operation People Committee'."

Open House Today At Sonyea School

Craig State School at Sonyea is holding its annual open house today, May 5, from noon until 4 p.m.

Walking tours will take in ward areas, the nursing school, occupational and recreational therapy and education classes. There will be exhibits and a stage program by residents, in addition to a video tape presentation. Department heads will be on hand to answer questions.

3 More Added To School Staff

Elmira—Three more teachers have been added to the staff of the recently created St. Patrick's Junior High School here.

The new junior high school is part of the consolidation program for Catholic schools in the Elmira area.

The recently appointed teachers are: Sister Davidica Carapella, John Cain and Mrs. Nancy Trumble.

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