

Church Interiors are Topic At Holy Family Church

By MARY ANN GINNERTY

Auburn — The problem of positioning altars, lecterns, and adapting church interiors inaugurated by the Vatican II's renewal of the sacred liturgy came alive in a recent presentation at Holy Family Church by Father Robert McNamara, chairman of the subcommittee on liturgical art and architecture of the diocese.

A church by definition is two things, Father McNamara commented. First, "Church" refers to the people who are called together to worship. Secondly, when called together, then interest is generated in a permanent shelter. Here originated the church building — from countryside chapel to multi-million dollar cathedral.

Since church buildings began to be built specifically as churches in about the 3rd Century, appropriateness and adaptability have been defined according to the times.



For example, altars in early church history faced the people. Altars faced away during medieval times, and in recent years, altars have once again been turned towards the congregation.

When Vatican II authorized and updated the liturgy, changes were reflected in shift of emphasis in liturgical furnishings.

The altar positioning is one change Father McNamara highlighted from the new guidelines for the design of churches and sanctuaries based on renewed Eucharistic liturgy.

Father McNamara indicated the revised Eucharistic liturgy

established three points of focus in the sanctuary; the altar, lectern, and presidential chair.

The altar, as site of the celebration of the Eucharist, stands free from the wall, and while it should be distinguished, should be as close as possible to the center of the congregation, at least symbolically. This can give way to a variety in seating arrangements.

The crucifix, for example, can be anywhere in the sanctuary facing the people, as the celebrant no longer lifts up his eyes to the cross.

The lectern should be impressive, yet positioned for visibility.

The chair of the celebrant, a rather new development for this generation, emphasizes the celebrant as the representative of the bishop. Placed so it presides over the congregation, it stems from the ancient idea of the chair of the teacher, not a throne.

Father McNamara illustrated through slides how the liturgical renewal and the trend in newly built churches are going hand in hand.

As one designer put it, as the essential element is the congregation gathered around the altar, this will be the starting point and an envelope will be built around them. Buildings no longer have to be square for the construction purposes.

Another provision refers to the location of the tabernacle. The four options include placing the Blessed Sacrament in a separate chapel, separate altar, other position with the approval of the Bishop, or on the main altar. However, in the last case, a low tabernacle would be necessary and is considered least favorable method.

Consideration is given to the permanent multipurpose church building in which the auditorium where the people sit for Mass is designed for use in other church related activities. The Holy Eucharist is reserved in a small separate chapel. tasteful planning can result in a church building to meet well the needs of those worshiping there.

Auburn Area Notes

Scipio — The third session, First Communion Meeting for Parents, is scheduled at St. Bernard's Rectory, Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m.

Ludlowville — First Communion Meeting for Parents, Third Session, will meet Thursday, Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m. in the Ludlowville Trailer.

Owasco — Sacred Heart's Christmas bazaar is scheduled Dec. 3.

Port Byron — A bazaar and food sale is slated Dec. 4, in the hall, sponsored by the Altar and Rosary Society for the benefit of the St. John's Church.

Weedsport — The annual smorgasbord at St. Joseph's Church, will be held Dec. 4 at 5 p.m.

Auburn — The St. Alphonsus Christmas Bazaar is scheduled at 2 p.m. Dec. 5.

NEWS DEADLINE

A reminder that Courier-Journal news deadline is noon Thursday for the following Wednesday's newspaper.

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On the Line



Kate Smith recently had the strength to drop 50 to 60 pounds, but none of it came out of her voice. Kate sang "God Bless America" the other night for the umpteenth millionth time after receiving the annual award given by the Young Women's Towne House, which offers chaste and cheerful lodging for girls who come to the big town to work as models, actresses, secretaries, etc.

Her voice is as full, as warm and moving as it was 30 and more years ago. People at the banquet in her honor stood up as she rolled magnificently through Irving Berlin's masterpiece. Hildegard and Marguerite Piazza, two great professionals themselves, joined in the ovation. So did octogenarians James A. Farley and Clarence Francis, retired president of General Foods.

Mr. Francis introduced Kate with the same words he had used in introducing her on her radio program one night in the spring of 1941:

"Let me tell you tonight of a discovery I made. It began sometime back. As a radio fan, I willingly succumbed to the magic of a voice on the air. But at that time it was no more to me than that — a magnificent human voice. And I wondered then: 'What is the secret of this voice's popularity in millions of homes?'"

"I found my answer: tonight, at last, I'm going to unriddle the secret of her success."

"Of course, all of us know the sunshine in this great wom-

an's heart. There is — when you get to know her — some unique and thrilling quality in her personality. Her voice is our voice! She speaks for all of us. As America turns to this amazing young woman, it hears itself. For in the fabric of Kate's joyous manner there is woven a deeply serious nature, one that mirrors our unquenchable spirit of courage, of faith in the ultimate victory of good over evil, and pride in the strength of men and women united in the cause of decency, justice and freedom.

"Kate Smith is more than grand entertainment. She is good for the soul. She is our singing symbol of friendship and mutual respect and fair dealing in a home neighborhood 3,000 miles wide.

"Sing on Kate, and America too will carry on."

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