

Our Parish COUNCIL

by Bernard Lyons

Pastors and music directors have a tough time of it at weddings.

This thought struck me again while reading one of those "action line" columns in papers.

A man wrote in to request the words and music for a television commercial song to be played at his daughter's wedding. The commercial plugs a savings and loan association: "Everything's a changing, names are rearranging, and you wonder where it's all going to go . . . and you wonder . . . and you don't really know . . . but even so you'll be there together."

"Wouldn't that be great for my daughter's wedding, played on the organ?" asked the father. The action line column got the words and music for him.

Put yourself in the pastor's or the music director's shoes when that father and the bride-to-be come for wedding rehearsal.

The pastor and the music director will bear the blame if they don't go along with the father and his daughter. They will also get the blame if they go along, but with the "fire" coming from some other parishioners.

In the meantime, what has the Worship Committee been doing? "I've become increasingly disgusted with the music performed at weddings in recent months," says one music director. "It's very often a combination of the newest pop love song or a number from a musical production that has little relevance to the sacrament being celebrated." This music director blamed the pastor and other music directors.

"I don't berate bridal couples for this situation, as much as I censure pastors and parish musicians for copping out. It is easy to have an 'anything goes' approach to weddings, and easy enough to justify this attitude by saying, 'It's the couple's wedding.'"

This music director says she surprises wedding couples with the "wealth of music" that can be had. Most of them want good music, when they know it's available.

"The logical conclusion, then," she says, "is that pastors and musicians are not willing to spend time showing people what is available as an alternative to the unliturgical garbage that is being performed."

The Worship Committee, Liturgical Commission, or Music Committee, or whatever you call the properly responsible committee in your parish council, should also share some of the blame for inappropriate music at weddings.

After all, it is pretty late in the game to educate a young man and woman on the liturgical significance of their wedding celebration when they come in to make the arrangements for their wedding day.

Certainly, the priests should have been preaching on the community aspects of the wedding celebration and the Church's liturgical norms. And the music director should have been helping to educate the parish on the enriching possibilities of the music and the conduct of the Sacrament and the Mass.

The Worship Committee, too, should have been getting their messages across to the young couples and their parents — long

before the wedding day.

Couldn't Pre-Cana conferences include liturgical ideas for the wedding celebration, with the cooperation of conference leaders and the Worship Committee? Couldn't the Worship Committee hold a program on the wedding celebration for engaged couples and young adults (and their parents), thus reaching them months before their weddings and educating them to the options available to them? A wedding not only celebrates the love of two people, but also the love of Christ in the community. The Worship Committee should express that viewpoint — and also take some of the heat off the pastor and the music director.

Blue Army Schedules All Night Vigil Oct 6-7

The Blue of Our Lady of Fatima is planning a special all night vigil Oct. 6 and 7 to note the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary Oct. 7, the 400th anniversary of the rosary.

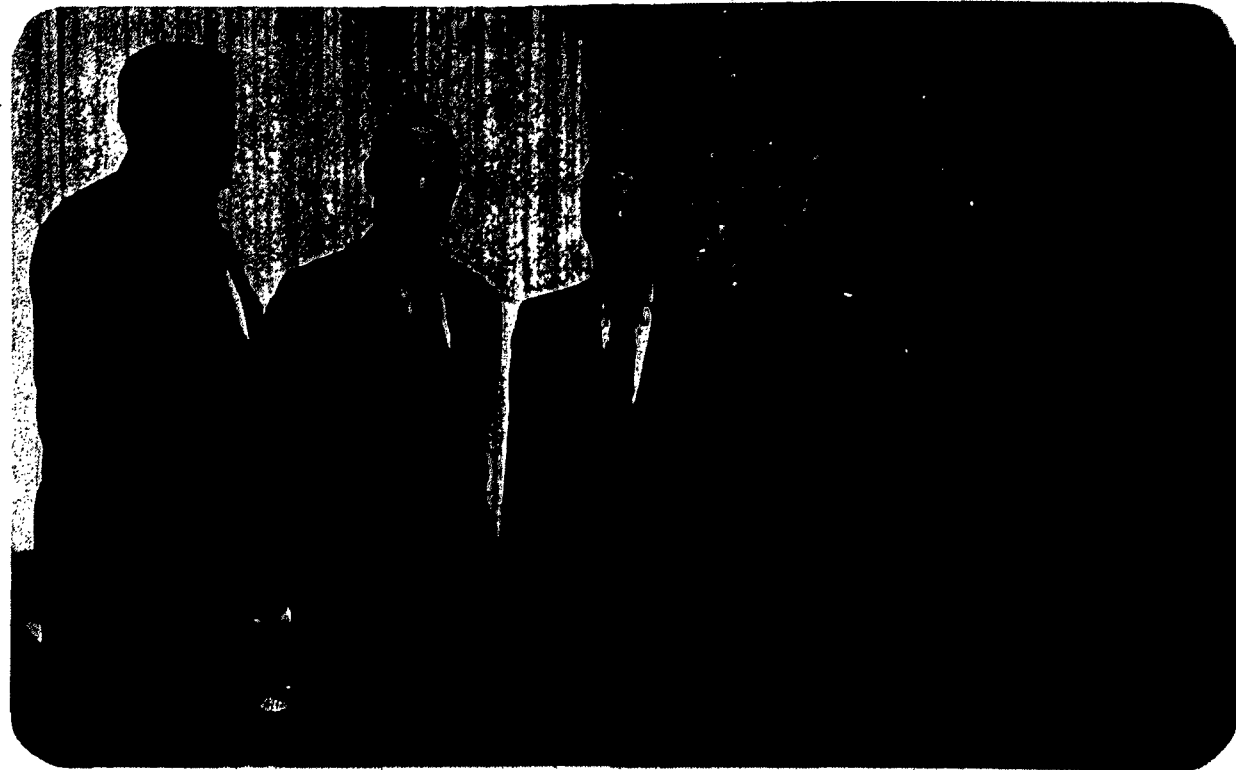
The vigil will be at Holy Rosary Church from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. Oct. 6 and 7. Scheduled are a Fatima procession, Mass and homily, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, rosary with "presentation of roses", worship service of thanksgiving, reparation, petition and meditation, Stations of the Cross, benediction of the

Blessed Sacrament and a second Mass at 6 a.m.

All are invited to attend the entire vigil or any part of it.

POW — MIA MASS

American servicemen who are prisoners of war or missing in action in Vietnam and Korea will be remembered at a Mass at Our Lady of Victory Church on Pleasant Street, Friday, Sept. 29 at 11 a.m. Rochester members of the Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation are sponsors.



CYO Membership Drive

This year's 41st annual membership drive will run October 2-18, with a goal of 5,800 members. New officers of the CYO board of directors are, from left: Paul Schmidt, director; Lawrence Oberlies, vice-president; Richard Stillman, president; Jack Palvino, secretary; and Thomas Banaszewski, finance chairman of board.



WHY PEOPLE BUILD CHURCHES

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In hundreds of towns and villages in our 18 country mission world. In Arampilly, India for instance. . . . The parishioners have tried for several years to build a church on their own. They have pooled their meager financial resources as well as their physical energies. The poverty of the parishioners prevents continuation of the work. You can complete this church all by yourself for as little as \$2,500; You'll be doing something needed, where it's needed, for Christ—and for people who cannot do for themselves. . . . Do something at least, as much as you can (\$100, \$75, \$50, \$25, \$20, \$15, \$10, \$5, \$3, \$1) to help build this church! Your gift of any size will be a Godsend! . . . Have you been

looking for something meaningful to do? Help these people build a simple but lasting church. Father Kundukulam, the pastor of Arampilly, will write to thank you on behalf of his people. We will send you a sketch of the proposed church, when we thank you.

YOU CAN DO IT NOW BY MAIL

HOW YOU CAN HELP INDIA'S POOR TO HELP THEMSELVES

Archbishop Mar Gregorius will write personally to say where he'll locate it if you enable him to buy (\$975) two acres of land as a model farm for a parish priest. Raising his own food the priest can teach his parishioners how to increase their crop production. (A hoe costs only \$1.25, a shovel \$2.35.)

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