



ALL IN THE FAMILY  
Sarah Child

Father William J. O'Malley, a Jesuit priest, in a series of articles entitled "The Mass and Teenagers," gave a list of practical suggestions which he believes would help turn our young people on to the Mass instead of them turning away.

After reading his list I felt like A. Standing up and cheering. B. Writing a letter to the editor. C. Writing to Father O'Malley to congratulate him.

Being the typical lazy newspaper reader I did none of the three.

To respond — because I think readers should be responsive to that which they feel strongly about — I repeat Father O'Malley's list with some comments.

**1. The Priest.** Father suggests the priest be more alive, smile, maybe even insert a little humor in the homily. A beautiful thought. A conspicuously joyful priest is a catalyst, a spreader of joy. In short he is contagious. Those priests who fear that they may overstep the bounds of dignity to become a figure of ridicule need not worry. For we in the pews would indulge an excess in this direction a thousand times over. It's the deadly drone we find unforgivable.

**2. Homilies.** Relevance is the same, Father says, in both rich and poor parishes. The gut issues are self-distaste, loneliness, the need to love, the risk of loving in return. I might add they are also the issues in both well-educated parishes and poorly educated parishes.

Once after hearing a homily on leaving crumpled Kleenex in the pews I ventured to ask a priest under cover of the confessional why we had to be talked down to. I learned my lesson. He took 40 minutes to tell me that since the majority of parishioners were

illiterates, his hands were tied. As I left the confessional to the interested stares of those long waiting it occurred to me that I should have pointed out that anybody who could understand crumpled Kleenex could understand love but I did not have the courage to take it up again.

Intelligence need not be equated with formal education. Even those who may not understand four-syllable words can easily grasp the concepts those words describe if they are properly couched. We may be a captive audience. But we are not easily captivated.

**3. Standing, Sitting.** Less movement is suggested. I have, however, to agree with him that in a dull Mass the movement at least keeps one awake.

**4. Hymns.** Father says that ten familiar hymns would be better than learning a new one every week, pitched so high that few can sing it. I know a few people who want to say their rosary in church and be left alone. They are I think in the minority. As for me I want to sing — loudly, preferably something with a beat. It feels so good. And while I'm at it I'll add that I love the greeting of peace, shaking hands all around, kissing my husband and hugging my children.

**5. Length and Sameness.** "No Mass should go longer than a half-hour or so." Amen, Amen. How much more valuable a half-hour Mass where the priest is alive and the people vitally responsive than a 90-minute celebration in which most concerned are no better than zombies.

If you like Father O'Malley's suggestions you could write him a note. He teaches at McQuaid Jesuit High School, 1800 South Clinton Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14618.

Better yet, tell your pastor.



Shrine Blessed

Father George Wood, pastor of Our Mother of Sorrows parish blesses a life-size statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary at the dedication of the parish's new outdoor shrine, Oct. 9. The project was initiated by the Legion of Mary and the statue was donated by a parishioner. The shrine is located outside the main entrance of the church.



Members of Sun, St. Augustine's folk group, have cut their first album to be released at the end of October. Performing at a parish Mass are [left to right] Doug Mueller, Paul Ciminelli, Sue Imperial and Mark Macaluso.

Sun Cuts Disc

By PAT PETRASKE

"Here comes the sun" is a popular folk song but it can also be used to describe St. Augustine's hottest parish folk group, which recently cut its first album. Yet unnamed, Sun's album will be released near the end of October.

The idea of a recording was first tossed around last Christmas and a \$1,300 loan from the parish council set the process in motion. Taping took place in the church by Lifetime Recordings in July. The LP stereo album contains thirteen contemporary folk songs including Day is Done, Oh Happy Day, selections from Godspell and a medley of Negro spirituals.

Advance sales have pledged 89 per cent of the 325 albums that must be sold "in order to make expenses," according to the group's 19-year-old president, Michael Ciminelli. The total order is 500, at \$4 each. Ciminelli added that any excess revenue will be placed in the general parish fund.

Members of Sun — approximately 25 — range in age from 14 to 23. Their proudest accomplishment, believes Ciminelli, is that in their three-year career "we've never had any adult leadership. We handle everything ourselves." All the musical arrangements found in the album are originals done by Dennis Caiazza, who is attending the Crane Music School at the State University of New York at Potsdam. Even the album's cover was designed by one of the girls in the group.

Sun performs not only at the 9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass at St. Augustine's but has given concerts in area hospitals, nursing homes and church groups. "I tend to discourage payment because it's against the philosophy of the group," Ciminelli said. He explained the analogy behind Sun's name. "It's a comparison of

bringing sunshine to people's lives with the Son of God."

Reaction to the group's enthusiastic style has become more favorable. "At first people ac-

cused us of doing a vaudeville routine," Ciminelli said. People now clap along with the fast beat music produced by guitars, bells, a miniature xylophone and a harmonica.

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SCHOOL SUPPORT

Elmira — Catholic education in Elmira is not receiving its share of the "Catholic dollar," according to the president of the Chemung County General Education Board, which oversees the Catholic schools.

Frank VonHendy of Ss. Peter and Paul addressed his own parish and St. Cecilia's on recent Sundays. No general sacrificial spirit is obvious, he told them, in reference to Sunday collections. If Catholic parents would give both financial and moral support to the school system, its problems could be solved, VonHendy said.

He predicted the survival of the Catholic school and said the local system was keeping itself in business by enforcing rigid economies and with the cooperation of the many lay teachers.