

Special Concert Notes Chorale 10th Anniversary

When a group of Sisters of St. Joseph stepped on stage in 1965, it was a conscious effort to improve "the image of religious women in a world where nuns were a novelty," according to Virginia Hogan, SSJ, founder and director of the Concert Chorale.

On March 23, which is also Palm Sunday, the group will hold a tenth anniversary gala at the Nazareth Arts Center. The concert, scheduled for 8 p.m., will include a cavalcade of recent favorites. Including selections from musical theater, great religious classics from the past, and contemporary compositions.

"Like any group of performers, we have a need to please our audiences," she said. "In addition, we reach out to people through music to emphasize human and spiritual values."

While performing at Mt. Saviour Monastery near Elmira several years ago, Father Damasus, one of the Benedictine monks hosting the visit, dubbed their efforts "a ministry of music."

Highlights of the past ten years include a performance at the

White House Christmas observances in 1973, television appearances in several Upstate New York cities, the production of a record album, and recently, a new program of ecumenical liturgies performed in area churches.

The performing sisters' initial annual performance has expanded to a year-long season of church appearances and live concerts.

The Chorale is a member of the Arts Council of Rochester and a not-for-profit group. Proceeds from their anniversary concert provide funding for their performing expenses, and will also be shared by a benefit project for the local chapter of Church Women United. Target for the donation is a "Path for Good" project in Bangladesh where 3,000 infants will be given doses of Vitamin A to prevent blindness caused by malnutrition.

According to Sister Virginia, "We are planning a very happy celebration as we begin our second decade, and in the spirit of thanksgiving, feel that this is a vital way that we can share our performing success with the needy of the world."

The recent oil crisis is a fine example of this theory. Supposedly the free enterprise system was at work. Oil companies told the public that tighter supplies and increasing costs forced them to raise prices. Closer analysis, however, showed that these companies were making exorbitant profits while at the same time squeezing out smaller operations. It became obvious to even the most unsophisticated observer that some sort of agreement (whether implicit or explicit) was worked out among the oil giants that prices should go up. Competition played no part in the entire drama.

That situation was just one example what is happening throughout America. Interlocking directorates and shareholdings tie the giants together. Some say that the situation is exaggerated, but look at the facts. In 1941, two-thirds of all manufacturing assets in the nation were controlled by 1,000 large corporations. Today, 200 giant corporations control this same percentage. The supporting myth that these corporations are owned by the people just is not true. 80 per cent of all corporate stocks are owned by the top 1.6 per cent of the population. Not only is the wealth of the nation, i.e. factories, banks, etc., owned by a small percentage of the population but the yearly national income is equally maldistributed. The power of a relatively few wealthy families and financial interests control the basic economic directions of American life and our system of taxation. The result is gross injustice.

Why in a trillion dollar economy do we have so many people in poverty, so much unemployment and underemployment, and so much insecurity? Why are so many of the so-called "middle class" struggling just to get by? Why is there so much frustration and injustice?

The answers of course are not simple, but the recent economic developments should make us take a hard look at some of our long-held values and myths. Should profit, for instance, be the sole measure of worth and our chief motivating factor? Do we really have a free market economy or is America run-by a small corporate power elite? Are corporations now so big and powerful that they are stifling not only economic life but many other human enterprises as well? The measure of justice we achieve can be our only standard in dealing with these questions.

Church And Politics



Sister Frances

Faithfully he brings
true justice/
He will never waver
nor be crushed/
until true justice is
established on earth/
for the islands are
awaiting his law.
—Isaiah 42:4

The theme of justice is a reappearing one in both the Old and New Testaments. The prophets are constantly challenging the people of God to be faithful to the demands of justice; They warn time and time again against false and empty religious observances that are not accompanied by a quest for justice. Jesus brings this theme to completion in his life by constantly calling for people to be concerned about justice for their neighbor.

Today, this struggle for justice is championed by two competing ideologies: capitalism and communism. They both propose to have the solution to the question of how justice can be obtained for all. One attacks the problem through "free enterprise," the other through a "planned economy." The debate about these two systems has surfaced in recent years leading to a more careful and objective analysis of both systems. Some of the research confirms what many have suspected all along: about the shortcomings of each; it also shows that there are marked similarities between them.

Capitalism, for instance, is based on the theory of the free market system. Competition is supposed to bring about the greatest degree of justice for all. The question asked today is whether or not we really have the free market system that we say we have. Some contend that in many ways our economy is controlled and planned to much the same degree as is Russia's, the only difference being that ours is regulated by a wealthy elite.



SISTER VIRGINIA

Their anniversary will be observed with Gregorian Chant, hymns by Bach and Mendelssohn, and a contemporary anthem, "Canticle of Celebration," commissioned especially for the Chorale and composed by William Ferris.

Popular music will include a medley from "Fiddler on the Roof," "Porgy and Bess," and a group of American folk spirituals.

Featured soloist will be Barbara Staropoli, SSJ, a faculty member in the music department of Nazareth College. She has performed solo roles with the Rochester Opera Company, and is also a regular member of the Chorale.

Hornell News

SENIORS ELECT

Bath — Senior citizens recently elected officers during a pot luck dinner at St. Mary's Hall. The new officers are: Canon Means, president; Harold VanGorder, first vice-president; Marjorie Rumsey, second vice-president; Alice Miller, secretary; and Arlene Miller, treasurer. The next meeting will also consist of a pot luck dinner. It will be held March 27 at St. Mary's Hall.

ANOINTING RITES

Wayland — On Palm Sunday at 3 p.m. there will be a communal Anointing of the Sick service at St. Joseph's. It will consist of Mass, sermon, administering the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, and reception of Holy Communion. Those who may receive the sacrament are all persons 65 years of age or older and persons under 65 years of age with any kind of a chronic health problem.

LENTEN SERIES

Hornell — After Stations of the Cross at St. Ann's, 7:30 p.m., March 21, the last of the Lenten Series "Reconciliation: The World" sponsored by the Adult Education Committee will be presented in the school.

Father Robert Meng, pastor of Holy Rosary, Rochester, a former missionary in Africa, distributing food and clothing, will show slides and lecture. Father Meng was associate pastor of St. Ann's several years ago.

COUNCIL NEWS

Hornell — The Parish Council at St. Ann's reports that Donald Crosby, Barbara Arnault and James Mooney have been elected officers on the Education Board for the coming year and that Josephine Ciancaglini is the council's nominee for the Diocesan Pastoral Council from this region.

Mozart Requiem Set at St. Ann's

By PEGGY PEASE
Hornell Area Correspondent
324-3353

Hornell — The Hornell Area Festival Chorus, sponsored by the Hornell, New York State Council of the Arts will perform Mozart's "Requiem" under the direction of Dr. Melvin LeMon, professor emeritus, Alfred University, on Palm Sunday, March 23 at 8 p.m. at St. Ann's Church. Soloists are Mrs. Betty (Riggenbach) Giles, soprano; Sandra Davidson, alto; Herbert Berry, tenor; Paul Giles, bass; The organist will be Howard Kilbury, a native Hornellian and former organist at St. Ann's Church.

Mozart's "Requiem" will be the sixth production of the chorus since its organization in 1973. The group comprises 80 voices, and represents more than 17 communities in the Hornell area. The chorus performed Handel's Messiah with a group of 120 voices during the Christmas season.

For several reasons, the Requiem is one of the most personal of Mozart's creations. The commissioning of the work in July, 1791, by a mysterious

stranger, only six months before the composer's death, together with his suffering from physical disorders and from mental anguish brought on by debts and frustrations, contributed to the feeling that Mozart was composing music for his own memorial.

How close the "Requiem" was to Mozart's heart was proven just before his death. On Dec. 4, 1791, he gathered some of his friends around him to join in singing the "Lacrymosa." Midway, he burst into tears. All the rest of that day and evening, he was still thinking of his Requiem although he had been stricken by partial paralysis. A few hours later, he was dead.

The last three sections were only sketched by Mozart but they were completed by his pupil, Snessmayer, so successfully that there is no sign of creative deterioration.

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