

St. Alphonsus Liturgy Program Slated Sunday

By MARY ANN GINNERTY

Auburn — "Celebration of Our Parish Life" will be the topic of the keynote address to be delivered by George Walker of the Diocesan Liturgy Commission at the Liturgy Workshop sponsored by the St. Alphonsus parish liturgy committee, Sunday, Sept. 21.

Open to all St. Alphonsus parishioners, there are additional openings for six representatives from each parish in the Auburn area.

"The Liturgy Workshop is designed to emphasize the way the various ministries work together, as well as to offer some concrete suggestions to encourage those already involved in these aspects of parish family life. It will also aid us in the recruitment of new people into the parish life of the parish as parishioners may attend two workshops they feel might be of interest to them," said Father Edward Palumbos, liturgy committee advisor.

"We feel that in our parish there are people in the pews who would welcome a chance to become more involved in our

celebration of the liturgy, but don't know how to begin or haven't been asked. Sunday's experience in celebration will be the opportunity to get the feel of what it is all about and come to an appreciation of other ministries as well," he said.

With the exception of the lector workshop, which will be offered in two parts, each workshop will be offered twice to enable participants more exposure to areas of ministry.

Homer Bliss, radio announcer, and Father Robert Kennedy, Diocesan Department of Liturgy, will cover the theory and practice needed for lectors.

Deacon Peter Clifford from St. Alphonsus will lead the workshop on Eucharistic Ministries. Father Ronald Stacy, formerly at St. Mary's and now at St. Monica's in Rochester, will work with servers. George Walker with ushers, and Joseph McCaffery will lead the workshop for choirs and musicians.

Registration begins at 1:30 p.m. with the keynote address at 2:15 p.m. Workshops will be repeated at 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. Father Robert Kennedy will lead the closing session set for 4:45 p.m.

The Church 1975



Fr. Andrew Greeley

There is some good news for Catholics. Despite the decline in church attendance, vocations, and contributions, and the increase in apostasy, there has been a surge of piety where you can get it.

What are they pious about? Respect. Respect for what? For the American political and social experiment in spite of the hate-America bicentennial celebration of the USCC? No. For the Catholic laity against the charges of the liberation theologians who call them energy pigs? No. For reason and rationality against the lunacy of the charismatic healers? No. Then respect for what?

Bishops, of course. What else? The editors of a number of Catholic papers — the San Francisco "Monitor" and the Boston "Pilot," most notably — have recently read me stern lectures on the need for respect of bishops. The ship is sinking, but we've got to maintain respect for the officers on the bridge as it goes down.

(To offset the complaint that I never say anything good about bishops, I will now say something good: The way Archbishop Gerety put down Arthur Jones, that bumptious and arrogant Englishman who is the new editor of the "National Catholic Reporter," made me proud to be American, Catholic, and Irish. Hit 'em again, your grace!

I wonder whether there are any editors outside the Communist world who are so obsessed with respect for leaders. The truth of a journalistic commentary is not what is important; it is the tone that counts, and particularly the respectfulness of the tone. The issue is not whether the Archdiocese of Chicago is in chaos; the issue is whether it is respectful to say so. You certainly

have to protect the laity from hearing about their leaders — especially since the laity can safely be presumed not to read either the secular press or "Time" magazine.

Exactly how important truth is to some Catholic editorial writers is evident from the "obiter dicta" in their lectures to me.

One writer deplored my wearing flamboyant clothes. I don't own any flamboyant clothes. I don't even own any ties — which must make me the only priest in the country who doesn't. The editor in question never met me. How does he know what I wear? And could I dress in anything more flamboyant than the purples and reds and crimsons that our leaders sport? And does it make any difference what kind of clothes a man wears?

I think clerical black is dreary and a bad symbol for men who are supposed to be celebrants, but I still wear it — and probably more than most priests. And what if I didn't? What effect would that have on my accuracy as a journalist or my insightfulness as a commentator?

More serious is a charge of Gerald Sherry, that flying Dutchman of the Catholic press (how many papers is it now?). I am guilty, Mr. Sherry informed his readers, of exploiting white-ethnic hatred of blacks. Now let us concede that rumor has it that Mr. Sherry has his eye on the Chicago "New World" and hence is eager to please the Ordinary of that archdiocese. Such a falsehood is still unconscionable. My writing on ethnicity has invariably stressed exactly the opposite point; that is, the need for a coalition between blacks and white ethnics and the possibility of that coalition because the ethnics do not in fact hate blacks. This position was echoed recently (on the basis of our data) by Vernon Jordan of the Urban League. Mr. Sherry had better have good evidence that I am trying to stir up white ethnics against blacks; otherwise I am going to have to charge him with lying about me.

Of course it could be that Mr. Sherry has never been able to comprehend the pluralism of his adopted country and thinks that an interest in ethnicity involves hatred of blacks by definition.

But he does respect bishops. After all, what else matters?

Parish Bids Pastor Farewell

By LORRAINE DRAZEK

Ithaca — The parishioners of St. Catherine of Siena here gathered at Mass Tuesday Sept. 9 to say farewell to Msgr. William M. Roche. Following the Mass a reception was held in the Parish Center.

Msgr. Roche has been pastor for nearly six years. He was transferred to St. Mary's in Canandaigua. He will now be active in a parish of about 3,000 compared with the 900 at St. Catherine's. The church community also has a parochial elementary school.

Before being named pastor at St. Catherine's in 1969 he had been superintendent of Rochester diocesan schools for about 10 years, and he said he plans to become involved in policy decisions for the school.

During his tenure at St. Catherine's he worked towards moving in the direction of Vatican II. Parishioners have been increasingly accepting

responsibility for leadership. For example, the parish council has been effectively functioning for the past five years, the women as well as the men of the parish serve as lectors, servers, as extraordinary ministers and are laymen distributing Communion.

The physical arrangement of the altar and pews has recently been changed to bring the glory of the Mass closer to each participant.

A parishioner remarked that though they had not been assigned a replacement as yet, the inspiration and leadership

that Msgr. Roche has given them over the past six years will continue to guide them throughout this time of transition.

"It is hard to say good-bye to all the friends I have made in Ithaca," he said, but added, "it seems like an extremely engaging challenge."

This past weekend the parish held its 2nd Northeast Festival with great success, not only did the weatherman cooperate but the people generously supported it joining in the work and in the fun.

CFM Program 'Goes Public'

Newark — A leadership training course, first presented here by the Christian Family Movement more than a year ago, will be presented again — this time for the general public — on Saturday, Sept. 27, in the conference room of Columbia Bank.

The all day program, 10 a.m. to

7 p.m., will cover developing leadership techniques; taking an active role in a stimulating discussion; and building confidence.

Registrars for the group are Chuck and Ruth Marin of Pamela Lane. Registration information is available by calling 331-8892 or 331-6698.

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