

**THE OPEN WINDOW**



Fr. Louis Hohman

Tell me something about the communal penance services in which there is individual confession and absolution.

The form in general is one with which you might be familiar through penance services of recent

years. It begins with an entrance song and then the priest greets the congregation and gives a brief explanation of the service. The priest then invites the community to pray in silence for a short period and then says a Collect or a prayer in the name of all the people. Then we have one or several readings interspersed with a song, a psalm or silence, followed by a homily based on the text and designed to lead penitents to examine their consciences and renew their lives. All present then spend time making an examination of conscience. A leader may help in this regard. All kneel or bow and make a general confession of sins. Then all say the Our Father. The penitents then make their individual confession, receive a penance and are absolved. The other parts of individual confession are omitted at this time. The obvious reason is that they have already been taken care of in common. Priest and penitents now stand and offer praise for God's mercy, usually through a song. There is then a final

blessing.

Now tell me something about the common penance service in which there is general confession and absolution. When may this take place?

In this third rite everything takes place as in the Rite of Reconciliation of several penitents with individual confession and absolution, except for the individual confessions and absolutions. At the end of or during the homily those seeking general absolution are instructed as to the proper disposition necessary for absolution, contrition for sins, resolve to repair any scandal or harm, resolution to confess in due time each one of the grave sins which cannot be confessed at the present moment. An act of penance is suggested which all might do

Instead of the individual specific confession the penitent makes a general confession such as the confession we find in the Mass, "I confess to Almighty God, to you my brothers and sisters, etc." And then general absolution is given to all.

As to when this may be used, let me quote from the Bishop's Study Text on the Rite of Penance, page 37. "Particular and occasional circumstances may render it lawful and even necessary to give absolution in general to a number of penitents without their previous confession. The 1972 pastoral norms require serious necessity, namely when in view of the number of penitents there are not enough Confessors at hand to hear properly the confession of each within an appropriate time, with the result that the penitents through no fault of their own would be forced to do

without Sacramental Grace or Holy Communion for a long time. This is not lawful however when Confessors are able to be at hand, merely because of a great concourse of penitents such as can for example occur on a great feast or pilgrimage. The judgement as to the presence of any of the above conditions belongs to the Bishop of the Diocese who must take counsel with the other members of the Episcopal Conference."

So there is a kind of uncertainty about when this general absolution may be used. We'll just have to see what our bishop has to say about it and how the whole practice develops in the next several years. As you might expect, some people give a very strict interpretation of the causes which would justify general absolution, while others give it a very lenient interpretation.

**Courier GM in Protest**

**Censorship Charge Colors CPA Election**

New York [RNS] — Eleven members of the Catholic Press Association are seeking to nominate for the CPA presidency a priest-editor who has strongly criticized the CPA leadership for failing to act on the firing of another priest-editor in Fall River, Mass., it was learned here.

[Anthony] Costello, general manager of the Courier-Journal, is among the 11.

The proposed nomination of Msgr. Salvatore Adamo, editor of the Catholic Star Herald, Camden, N.J. — whose supporters include two New York based magazine editors, James O'Gara of Commonweal and Father Joseph O'Hare, S.J. of America — has not

been submitted to the CPA office in Rockville Centre, N.Y., because there is a question of eligibility.

James A. Doyle, executive director of the CPA, told Religious News Service that CPA bylaws state that only members of the CPA board of directors may be nominated for the offices of president, vice president and treasurer. But he added that the CPA will ask for a ruling by the CPA's legal counsel.

Msgr. Adamo, a former member of the CPA board, said that his supporters were "simply following Mr. Doyle's instructions in a letter of March 5 in which he announced the board's nominations of Father Jeremy Harrington and Gerard Sherry. In that letter, Mr. Doyle said additional nominations could be made by members at large."

Underlying the bid by Msgr. Adamo's supporters has been a running dispute between the Camden priest and the CPA board over what Msgr. Adamo has characterized as the board's "failure" to take a firm stand on the case involving Father Edward Byington, dismissed editor of The Anchor, Fall River diocesan paper, and Bishop Daniel Cronin of Fall River, who fired him.

Msgr. Adamo charged that Father Byington was dismissed on the "pretext" that he challenged the bishop's authority as publisher. He claimed, however, that documentation showed the priest was fired because he objected to "prior censorship" of that paper.

In a Feb. 20 statement, the CPA said it would make no judgment on the matter but generally expressed "deep concern over instances of editor-publisher conflict." The statement observed that the board required a formal request from one of the "aggrieved parties" and more information than was available.

The four CPA officers, led by Father Harrington, later said that such a dispute could be brought to the floor of the general CPA meeting in May for consideration by the full assembly.

**ANNIVERSARY**

Elmira — The Immaculate Heart Society of SS. Peter and Paul honored Father Edward Foy, pastor, at a buffet luncheon March 17, the 31st anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

**Fr. Dailey**

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As assistant pastor of St. Ambrose, Father Dailey directed construction of the church opened in 1960, and also of the building that replaced the school after a fire in 1962. The parish's Dailey Hall commemorates this endeavor.

**The New Rite of Penance**



Here's to You

It was a grand Irish affair the day before St. Patrick's Day when officials of Aer Lingus, the Irish airline, visited Rochester to pay tribute to some Rochesterians. Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Riley, at right, receive an Irish flag from Aer Lingus representative Deirdre Griffith, second from left, and Father Paul J. Cuddy, center, was given a shillelagh by Lee H. Gow, upstate manager for Aer Lingus, third from left. Also present for the ceremonies thanking Father Cuddy for leading four Courier-Journal tours to Ireland and the Rileys for making each of the tours were Sister Stephanie, left, the Rileys' daughter and principal of St. Stanislaus school.



Photo by Ben Susso

**Scouts Honored at Mass**

Girls from Brownie Troop 73 and Junior Girl Scout Troop 795 were honored at Christ the King Church on Sunday, March 7. Eleven brownies received the "Ave Maria" medal, and three girl scouts were presented the "Regina Coeli" medal. Both medals are awarded for work and study in religion.

**Diocesan Appointments**



Father Thomas R. Statt, to Becket Hall as rector; from Campus Ministry, SUC Geneseo.

Father James B. Callan, to Corpus Christi, Rochester, as assistant pastor in internship.

**Fr. Hohman 'Enrichment' Speaker**

Father Louis Hohman, widely known columnist and lecturer, will conduct a day of "Spiritual Enrichment" on Sunday, March 28, for parents, faculty and friends of St. Agnes High School.

The program, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the school library, includes Mass, talks and discussions on personal enrichment and a better understanding of our teenagers today.

The day of enrichment is sponsored by the St. Agnes Parents Club. Further details may be obtained by calling Mr. and Mrs. James Keating (442-7121) or Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Zaepfel (889-1082).

**Fr. Clifford**

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following which he entered St. Bernard's Seminary.

As a student at St. Bernard's, Father Clifford did field work at a number of parishes including St. Thomas the Apostle, St. Andrew's, and St. Charles Borromeo. He also worked at Rochester General Hospital and in the diocesan tribunal. He served his Clinical Pastoral Education at Tewksbury State Hospital, a geriatric center in Massachusetts.

He has served his deacon internship at Holy Ghost Parish. Among those expected to attend Father Clifford's celebrations are his sisters Mary Ann and Theresa.

AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL  
1776-1976  
**Your Heritage**

March 25, 1911. The American Catholic hierarchy sponsors the foundation of the Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America ["Maryknoll"]. In 1908, the United States was officially removed from the list of strictly "missionary" countries by Pope St. Pius X. The Catholic Church in this country, no longer a mission land, now had a stronger obligation than ever to assist bringing the faith to less fortunate lands. Two American priests, Fathers James A. Walsh and Thomas E. Price, came up with a plan for a society of American foreign missionaries, sponsored by the United States bishops. On March 25, 1911, Cardinal Gibbons of Baltimore proposed this to the American archbishops. The archbishops voted their approval on April 27. Launched that same year, "Maryknoll" grew rapidly, extending its efforts to the far East, Latin America and Africa. A religious order of Maryknoll Sisters was founded in 1920 to assist the Maryknoll Fathers. Inspired by the example of the Catholic Foreign Mission Society, many other religious communities in the United States undertook missionary work in the "field afar." — Rochester Diocesan Bicentennial Commission.