



Reunion

Back in 1927 the graduating class of Holy Family Grammar School and the priests of the parish posed for the above photograph. More than 50 years later, about 60 per cent of that same group gathered for a gala golden reunion at Dandrea's Party House. Special guest of honor at the event was Sister Alverus, who not only taught the eighth grade girls but also is still in residence at Holy Family.



### Insights in Liturgy

## The Preparation Rite

#### Part I: The Gifts

By DAVID E. NOWAK

Many liturgical planners fail to notice that what is commonly called the "offertory" of the Mass is described in the Sacramentary as the "Preparation of the Altar and Gifts." This is not simply a semantic distinction but points to a significant misunderstanding.

The "offertory" (Preparation of the Altar and Gifts) is not intended to be a separate, autonomous rite which is understood either as an isolated or preliminary act of "offering." It is essentially the preparation for the act of offering expressed in the Eucharistic Prayer.

The offering of the congregation is made simultaneously with the priest-president in the Thanksgiving Prayer of the community, the Eucharistic Prayer. The Preparation of the Altar and Gifts is simply a gracious gesture of preparation for the solemn act of offering which will follow it.

The Preparation of the Gifts is not the "people's offering" and the Eucharistic Prayer the "priest's offering." Both the Preparation of the Gifts and the Eucharistic Prayer are participated in by all the faithful. The Preparation of the Gifts is not a "half-time show" created to balance what the priest does in the

"eucharist proper." It is a measured, reflective gesture pointing to the gifts themselves, the "extravagant gesture of creation," and not to "gimmicky" offertory processions.

In the classical fourfold action of the eucharist, the first action is "taking", not "offering." This is followed by "blessing", "breaking", and "sharing." The Preparation of the Gifts is not the offering of our gifts but the presentation of God's gifts. When the community presents the bread and wine, they are acknowledging what has been given to them from the Source of all good things.

The bread and wine are brought forward as a symbol of all the good things we have received through the week, and the focus of our thanksgiving response. The Preparation of the Gifts is not intended to "play up" the people's part, but to establish a direct link between the people presenting the gifts and the gifts themselves.

Often the Preparation of the Gifts is ritually practiced to convey the impression of a bartering position, a gift-exchanging posture before God: we offer Him our gift so that He will return His greater Gift. However, this practice upstages the dominant character of "thanksgiving" prevalent from beginning (Preparation of the Gifts) to end (Communion) in the Liturgy of the Eucharist. So doing, it obscures the true sense of "offering" shared

by priest and people in the Eucharistic Prayer.

The entire Eucharist is a thanksgiving procession of commitment. The faithful come bringing gifts, abilities and themselves, renewing their commitment to love and serve the Lord. It is not the exchange of one set of gifts for another, but the free and responsible acknowledgement of the Person from Whom all good things come.

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## Regional Highlights

### Tompkins-Tioga Region

A workshop on "What It Means To Be Church" will be featured at the Oct. 16 meeting of the Tompkins-Tioga Regional Assembly slated to begin at 2 p.m. at St. Margaret Mary's, Apalachin. All parish council members, delegates to the Regional Assembly, Priests, Sisters and other interested people are urged, by the region, to attend.

Conception, Jack Evans, Ithaca College and St. James, Glenna Wickline, St. Anthony (Groton) and St. Francis (Cataonk), Emilie Stuhmiller St. Catherine of Siena and St. John the Evangelist, Ron Jones St. James the Apostle and St. Francis Solanus, and Dennis and Marion Geiser, St. Margaret Mary and St. Patrick.

This year in an effort to become more familiar with the various parishes in the region, the region's executive committee will meet at a different parish each month. The next scheduled executive committee meeting will be at Holy Cross, Dryden on Oct. 25 from 7:30-9:30 p.m.

This year's parish liaisons who will be responsible for channelling all information between the executive committee and regional parishes are: Beth Stefano, All Saints and Holy Cross, Valerie Rynne, Cornell University and Immaculate

**ALL IN THE FAMILY**

Sarah Child

— so what else is new? But, conversation pieces — I've got them in every room. Sometimes two or three.

Take the living room — a football helmet discarded at the front door and flung with abandon is about as personal an accessory as you could ask for. Giving the room a "custom look" is the dog's rawhide bone, the rough texture contrasting nicely with the shiny plastic smoothness of the sports equipment.

In the kitchen, the play of two irregular apple cores against the symmetry of a pile of text books highlights the honesty, the strength of the pine table (with formica top of course)

The principle of balanced arrangement is typified in the family room. Floor cushions are balanced on the bookcase, couch cushions are balanced on the floor and all empty snack dishes have been arranged with scale in mind — the smaller glasses are stuck in the bigger ones.

And last if not least the mix of fabrics makes for a coordinated, if not perfectly matched look — that is the blue jeans requiring a patch in the posterior area complements the somewhat soiled Brownie uniform, both echoing the mood of the chair over which they are draped.

I've been studying one of those homemaking magazines you pick up at the grocery check-out and have discovered that obviously I know a great deal more about professional decorating than I realized.

The trick, said the magazine, to decorating as if you were a top notch designer is to understand the principles, then go about using them as you wish

I read over the 13 principles which dealt with things like contrasting textures, adequate storage space and using fresh plants and flowers among other things.

But the principle which convinced me that I am a pro was Principle No. 5.

"Include at least one conversation piece", instructed the author. "By putting something in a room that doesn't match, like a hand me down chair with steer horns for arms in the middle of an Oriental mix, you avoid an overly coordinated look and create interest."

Hand-me-downs. I could write a book on them. And furniture that doesn't match

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