

Insights in Liturgy

Minister of Music: Beyond the Benign

By MARY LOU ANDRYCHUK

The church musician's role is being probed and examined today more deeply than ever before in the Church's history. Musical leadership, always more or less important, has emerged in the post-Vatican liturgical renewal as a vital - yes, indispensable part of the Christian Assembly's act of worship.

For musicians, this opens a whole new bag of opportunities, but responsibilities as well. For many, it means a place to share gifts, or display talents, or discover new ways to communicate. For some a need to express oneself, for some a sense of identity or comradeship with others of like interests. Still for others it may be a source of achievement and recognition, and sometimes even a means of livelihood.

Whatever the motive or benefit, the church musician today cannot escape or ignore the responsibilities that accompany these opportunities. Lest we become weary enumerating the requirements considered basic to the effective liturgical musician, suffice it to say that technical musical proficiency and a working knowledge of liturgy are prerequisite, a nice and clear "given" for any person assuming this role.

Beyond these lie more subtle, less tangible qualities absolutely sine qua non for the true musician-worshiper, the authentic leader-in-musical-prayer. These qualities have to do with the purpose of worship, the role of music in worship, and the relationship of the musician to both.

The purpose of worship is, essentially, praise and thanksgiving. For Christians, worship is a community event in which faith in Jesus as Risen Lord is expressed, renewed and deepened in other words, celebrated. The musician's relationship to worship will be identified by or will reflect one's own relationship to Christ.

"If you don't believe that Christ is a real part of your

life — and if you don't believe that it is Christ who improves your vision and lights the creative spark in you — then you'll be producing concerts, not liturgical music. Whether or not Christ is a part of it makes the difference between an aesthetic and a religious experience."

This conviction, spoken by Dr. Alexander Peloquin, upholds a very personal and yet at the same time universal insight for church musicians. (Dr. Peloquin is himself Composer in Residence at Boston College and Director of Music at the Cathedral of Ss. Peter and Paul, Providence, R.I., and is a well-known composer of liturgical music.)

The role of music in worship is unique. It serves to unify the worshipping community by affording them with an expression of faith at a level and intensity achieved by no other means. And so the church musician becomes the one through whom this unity in Christ is profoundly affected. The musician becomes "minister" and the minister's leadership may make or break the effect of the community's worship.

Again, Dr. Peloquin states: "So many actions of the musician must be seen in light of their unifying effect on the parish. When the parish musician ministers to the community with music at the liturgy, he must be active and alive. And when he is not ministering with music, the musician must be in active attendance. It's not easy because once he's through with his musical obligations, he can let down and forget he is part of the whole liturgy and that he has a responsibility throughout the community's celebration."

The minister of music, then, not only shares a gift with others, but is the recipient of the community gifts. The parish musician not only displays talents, but invites the community to enter into the depths of those talents and recognize their Source. The leader in musical prayer not only discovers new ways to communicate, but in fact facilitates communication that is unspeakable, awesome.

The fruits of the true minister of music are born only out of much dying and rising — sensitive (often uncomfortable) openness to the needs of others, persistent (usually grueling) hard work, and courageous (always unrelenting) wrestling with a life of prayer.

TUTORS SOUGHT

The Immaculate Conception Youth Ministry has a number of West-side youngsters looking for help in school subjects and is seeking volunteers to serve as tutors two to four hours a week. The program covers grades 2 through 12. Details may be obtained from Dawn M. Williams at 546-5513.



Consider the Birds of the Air

How many sixth graders know how to sneak up on a bird or snatch one from the air to study its structure? Here, Mrs. Sandra Mitch of Holy Trinity School in Webster "catches" a pheasant to give her bird watchers a close look. The class was meeting in the natural science gallery of the Rochester Museum and Science Center, where study by touch, as well as sight, is encouraged.

Melkite Rite Church Is 50 Years Old; Apostolic Exarch to Help Celebrate

Archbishop Joseph E. Tawil, D.D., Apostolic Exarch for all Melkite churches in the United States, will be here this weekend to help the people of St. Nicholas celebrate the 50th anniversary of their Eastern Rite parish.

He will speak at a dinner at Valle's at 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 22. At 11 a.m. Sunday, he will celebrate Mass with Father Salem Faddoul, pastor, in St. Nicholas Church, which

stands at the corner of Remington and Leo streets.

Parishioners and their friends are invited to stay for brunch after Mass. At the dinner party, the Arab-American songstress Hanaan, her musicians and a costumed dance troupe will entertain. Clergymen from Catholic and Orthodox churches and some city and county legislators will be among the guests. Frederick W. Sarkis will be master of ceremonies.

St. Nicholas Church, built by immigrants from the Middle East and the Near East, was dedicated Oct. 30, 1927, by Bishop Thomas F. Hickey. The original parishioners came from Syria, Lebanon, the Holy Land, Iran and Iraq. Their religious backgrounds were associated with various Oriental churches that are in communion with Rome. The parish never has had territorial boundaries.

A gradual conversion of

the liturgy from Greek and Arabic to other languages was begun in 1955 throughout the Melkite Church, more than a decade before Latin was replaced by the vernacular in Roman churches. Accordingly, the little church — it seats 130 — scored a first in Rochester. In 1958, four years before Vatican Council II assembled, the first Mass in English in this city was celebrated at St. Nicholas Church.

Second Touch Gathering Dec. 3 To Mark 10 Years of Cursillo

The first cursillo weekend ever staged in this diocese took place 10 years ago. A "Second Touch" gathering Dec. 3 at Mercy High School will mark the anniversary.

Second Touch is the official name of such a celebration, according to Ruth Page, diocesan lay director of the Cursillo Movement. The day will begin at 9 a.m. and close with a reception after a 5:30 p.m. liturgy celebrated by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan.

"The purpose of Second Touch," Ruth Page said, "is to highlight the apostolic method which the Cursillo Movement has taught since its founding in Spain in the late 1940s."

"The program will feature five talks by experienced

Cursillo people showing how a Christian can help influence a particular group or environment by the witness of his or her life and with support of the Christian community."

There have been 36 weekends for men and 25 for women since the first one, held at McQuaid High School in 1967. All of the

2,300 men and women involved are invited to the anniversary convocation, and they are asked to get the \$3 registration fee to some member of the committee well in advance of Dec. 3. The committee includes Joe Cannito for Rochester; Bernie Celso, Newark; Bill Denike, Elmira; Chuck Flansburg, Hornell, and Jane Doty, Owego.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are needed by the Association for the Blind to transport blind persons to and from the association's orientation and mobility programs, craft classes and recreation programs. The association provides insurance coverage beyond the liability of the individual's insurance policy. Shopping assistants, readers and friendly visitors also are needed. Persons wishing to volunteer are asked to call Mrs. Evelyn Hartigan at the association, 325-1030.



Sarah Child

There are three, maybe four kinds of people on this earth. They can be categorized thusly: 1) Dog lovers, 2) Dog haters, 3) Those who tolerate dogs but have no strong feelings one way or the other.

The fourth possible category are those individuals who are afraid of and or are allergic to them and probably fit into one of the above categories but are too intimidated by the species to find out just which one.

I belong to the first category — except when our mutt turns me into an idiot, which is fairly frequently.

A spaniel of sorts, she, at 10 months is charming, willful, undisciplined, lovable and a general pain in the neck (and sometimes even lower regions.)

Logically, enough, I guess, she obeys only one person in the house — the master who is very stingy when it comes to bestowing attention and affection upon her.

The children and I, on the other hand, act complete fools, talking dog talk (a language akin to baby talk, only worse), scratching her stomach for long periods of time when she so desires, slipping choice morsels to her under the table and putting up with all kinds of temperamental behavior.

My rationale: so too do a lot of other people.

The other day for example at a drive up window at a bank branch, the mutt responds to friendly overtures from the teller behind the window with loud barking and dashing about on the station wagon deck like a wild woman.

Embarrassed I was eager for the teller to transact the business so I and the mutt could disappear. When the window opened however, it was not my envelope that was there. Instead two dog biscuits had been proffered.

My worst problem is how to retrieve her when she

escapes from the front door as she did recently as the kids left in a pouring rain for the bus stop. Still in housecoat I cajoled, pleaded, begged her to return. No luck. Worried about the imminent arrival of the school bus, I tried a fool proof method.

Still in housecoat, I dashed out into the rain and opened the car door and in my syrupiest voice trilled, "Wanna go for a ride?"

She ran up, surveyed me critically, her tongue hanging out, one ear rakishly askew, and backed off.

Was this creature really smart enough to know I didn't go out in the car in a housecoat. No, but then a light dawned and I went back inside and flung my purse over my bathrobed shoulder, keys in hand. This time I jingled the keys and after a quick glance at my "business" outfit of bathrobe cum purse she hopped in.

Jubilant, though drenched, I warned the children not to tell their father and I led her back into the house and hoped none of the neighbors had been watching.

Courier-Calendar

Holy Family Halloween Party— Dance, midnight lunch in parish auditorium Oct. 29, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., music by the Blue Notes, sponsored by Rosary Society and Mens Club to help pay for school's new fire alarm system.

Nazareth Hall Parents Dinner-Dance— At Ridgemont Country Club, 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12. \$35 per couple. Anyone interested should call Mr. and Mrs. James Vincent, 458-7399.

McQuaid Aides Annual Luncheon— The fifth one, at Monroe Golf Club, 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 26. Reservations with individual circle leaders, Mrs. Edward Norton, Glenbrook Road, Fairport, or Mrs. Louis Dwyer, Courtenay Road, Pittsford. Non-members interested should call Mrs. Joseph Siconolfi of St. Paul Blvd.

World Hunger Workshop— Tomorrow night, 7:30-9:30, at St. John the Evangelist, 549 Humboldt St., open.

Marriage Encounter Information Nights— Friday, Oct. 21, 8 p.m., at the Judsons', 229 Main St., Newfield; Sunday, Nov. 6, 7:30 p.m., at the Sullivans', 1649 E. Shore Dr., Ithaca. Details from the latter, 607-272-8979.

Seton 80 Monthly Meeting— Tonight at 8:30 at home of Mrs. Arthur Collins, Dauntion Drive.

St. Louis Rosary Guild Festival— Friday, Oct. 28, in school gym, 8 p.m.; includes auction, refreshments. Mrs. Victor Guzzetta, Mrs. John Wheeler in charge; tickets from Mrs. Raymond Naber, 244-6114, or Mrs. David Melroy, 552-7258.

Job Services— Free noon-hour programs Thursdays through Dec. 15, courtesy of Rochester Public Library, at Rundel Memorial, South Avenue. Also there, Job Information Center, open during regular library hours, telephone 428-6797.

Calendar items should be mailed to the Courier-Journal Calendar Desk, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. Deadline is Wednesday noon, one week ahead of the publication date.