



'Til
All
My
People
Are
One

Mass Commentary

The diocese's divorced and separated persons were welcomed to the Mass in Canandaigua by the following statement, written by members of the Corning group of divorced or separated:

What a joyous occasion this is for all of us! We've come together from the four corners of the Rochester diocese to share, to celebrate, and perhaps to grow a little.

For many of us this is an especially joyous occasion, because out of the pain and suffering we have endured, we are discovering in our lives a sense of God's peace, acceptance, renewal and love. Today together with others of similar experience, with our bishop, with our children, and with other members of our community, we are brought together in the wondrous mystery of God's love and our love for each other.

We are celebrating, therefore, a liturgy of unity. How long has it been since many of us have felt a sense of oneness—with ourselves, with our children, and with others in the Christian community, and perhaps even with God?

Yet we are here together, and though each of us is different, we are all somehow alike in our common need to reach out in hope for healing, joy and reconciliation. We have grown through our experiences, and out of our weakness; we are finding the strength to become vital participants in our society.

We are learning, as the scripture readings today will tell us, that we can minister to each other, offering advice and support out of the wisdom we have gained in our lives. And we are learning that through God's grace, through His love for us, we can be healed of our hurts and in gentleness, patience, and forgiveness put on a new self, free from disgrace, centered on God and on love.

So we are joyously celebrating today that though we may be divorced or separated, we are neither separate nor alone, but whole and complete individuals in the sight of our God, that we remain part of the Church, part of the Christian community, part of the vine which is Christ, sharing through the love of Jesus that fruit which brings meaning and beauty and unity to our lives.



Bishop Hogan, St. Joseph's, Penfield, led the singing group, members of St. Monica's and St. Charles Borromeo's groups.



Bishop Hogan, joined at the altar by the other concelebrants, during the offertory.



Beverly Aleo, a member of the St. Mary of the Lake, Watkins Glen, group, reading the Mass commentary.

Text and Photos by
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Sheaves of wheat and sheaves of wheat were part of the offertory gifts.



The reception that was held after the Mass in St. Mary's School.