

Thar's Gold in Them Thar Words

By JOHN DASH

Joe Wise, the liturgical composer from Kentucky, 45 an alchemist.

Last Saturday, at the invitation of the diocesan liturgy office, Wise demonstrated for more than 225 liturgical leaders his ability to transform the raw materials of the changes in the liturgy, using the touchstone of both his homelife and his theological and philosophical training, into pure gold.

For better than an hour and a half Saturday morning Wise regaled his listeners in St. Basil's Hall at St. John Fisher College with songs and patter and reflections, on the ways Catholics worship.

He told the story of a children's Mass he attended

some years ago, when the children would be ranked in the pews under the watchful eyes of their teachers.

One day, as the pastor was preaching to the group on "the circumcision of the Persons of the Blessed Trinity" — (Wise's aside: "I didn't know they were Jewish!") — a teacher noted that one of the children was talking up a storm, so she sent a child next to her to tell the offender to be quiet.

The child marched up the aisle until he reached the foot of the pulpit and said in a loud voice to the pastor: "Sister says to shut up!"

Wise recalls that was his first experience with lay participation in the Mass. He said the pastor "shut up. What else could he do?"

Wise notes that while Catholics of his generation (he's nearing 40) will "always be way too close to the changes" in the Church, nevertheless "it's been real exciting."

The very act of changing "externals" in the church is an act "to convince ourselves that we are changing, in process, growing," he says.

He links this to the notion of the Church as a Pilgrim

Church, found in the documents of Vatican Council II.

He says that the most profound changes occur from "the things we do," not from the rationalizations we give to events.

The result in the changes is that "we've begun to believe in ourselves as much as God does."

God "waits to reveal himself," Wise commented, "a God who has a future, waits to be surprised, to see what we're evolving into."

He cautioned those present of two statements issued by the Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy in a document Music in the Liturgy. He said the statements are "Good Liturgy is an attractive, human experience," and "Good Liturgy strengthens and nourishes faith, while poor Liturgy, weakens and destroys faith."

Those are "scary statements" for leaders of liturgy he said.



BK Joins Federation

Bishop Kearney High School principal Brother Thomas F. Feerick, C.F.C., recently endorsed parent's participation in the New York State Federation of Catholic School Parents, an organization dedicated to equality in education for Catholic school students. Shown with Brother Feerick are Mrs. Gina Ouweleen (left) Rochester Chapter President and Mrs. Marge Sullivan (right) Bishop Kearney liaison.



Walkathon

Bishop John E. McCafferty teams up with "Bigfoot" to lead more than 800 students, parents, teachers, and area clergymen on a Walkathon from St. Patrick's Junior High School to Notre Dame High School in Elmira. The event raised more than \$7,000 for Catholic Schools in Chemung County.

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Dr. Mindell To Speak

Dr. Phyllis Mindell, an adjunct faculty member at Nazareth College, will present two information sessions on reading disabilities at the Gates Chili Junior High School on Nov. 16.

Dr. Mindell will address professionals in the field from 4 to 5:30 p.m. on models of dyslexia and the research they have generated.

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