

# Insights in Liturgy

By MSGR. WILLIAM H. SHANNON

## Local Church Is Place of Discipleship

The local Church, as last week's article pointed out, is not simply a geographical branch of the universal Church; it is the fullness of the Church made present in a particular place. It is the Body of Christ growing in numbers, deepening its faith, caring for the needy and praising God. That is to say, the local Church is the place where a four-fold task is carried out: evangelization (kerygma), catechesis (didache), service (diakonia) and worship (leiturgia).

The local Church is the place of evangelization (kerygma). Evangelization means proclaiming the Gospel to unbelievers so that they come to faith in

the risen Jesus. In simplest terms it means proclaiming that God raised Jesus from the dead. While evangelization is directed primarily to unbelievers, there are many "believers" who need to be "kerygmized" too. For many who have been brought up as Christians have never made a personal response to the message of the resurrection. They believe many Christian things, but they have never been confronted with the Christian thing: the proclamation of the death and resurrection of Jesus. They have never been told: "This is the core of Christian faith. Do you believe? And, if you do, how does this faith make a difference in your life?"

The local Church is also the place of catechesis (didache). The purpose of catechesis is not to convert people. Catechesis


presupposes conversion, namely, that the kerygma has been accepted. Catechesis attempts to spell out for those who believe in Jesus as risen Lord the implications of that faith. Catechesis is concerned with doctrines and practices of faith not so much as things to be learned, but as realities to be experienced. Catechesis aims at edification in the strict sense of that term, namely, building up the Body of Christ in the local Church. As such it must not be limited exclusively to children; it must be the on-going experience of all members of the Church. It must be adult-oriented.

The local Church is, further, the place of service (diakonia), from which the compassion of Christ goes out to the sick, the needy, the lonely, the unbefriended, the dying. The local Church has Christ's concern for the material and spiritual needs of people. It has heard seriously the words of Jesus: "What you do to the

least of my brothers and sisters you do to me." Diakonia shows that the local Church is a caring Church.

The local Church finally is the place of worship (leiturgia). Each week it gathers to praise God and to speak over and over again its faith in Jesus as risen Lord. Each week it gathers to ritualize in Word and Meal its fidelity to the tasks of evangelization (kerygma), catechesis (didache) and service (diakonia).

All this is to say that the local Church is the place of discipleship. It is the place where disciples of Jesus are made and where they learn to live as disciples, growing in Christ and serving Christ in others. It is the place too where they learn the cost of discipleship (that as disciples they cannot shy away from the cross) — but also the joys of discipleship (that they have Jesus ever present in their lives).



**125th Anniversary**  
**Old St. Mary's Church**  
 The people of St. Mary's Parish, Rochester, N.Y., are celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the Laying of the Cornerstone of their church on Sunday, September 17, 1978.

**MASS - 12:15 P.M.**  
 Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, Celebrant

**DINNER - 2:30 P.M.**  
 Mapledale Party House

*Friends and Former Parishioners interested in Dinner Reservations may Phone 232-2422.*

# DPC Agenda Includes Evangelization Discussion

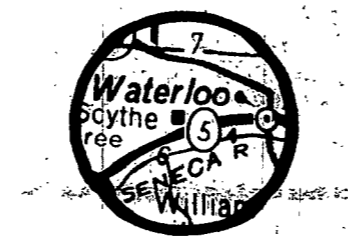
Waterloo—A discussion of evangelization in the Church will be a major agenda item at the Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) meeting Sept. 16.

Meeting at the Holiday Inn here beginning at 10:15 a.m., the DPC will address a variety of topics in its first business meeting of the year.

DPC members will consider developing a "clearer focus on what is being done to promote

evangelization in our diocese," material sent to members explains. The DPC Executive Committee also will present research it has done, and propose possible actions the DPC could take concerning evangelization.

DPC members also will discuss the report on the participation of women in Church activities, completed last spring, and a change in the DPC Constitution which



would alter Father Douglas Hoffman's membership on the council. He is proposing that his membership be changed from a voting position as director of Pastoral Ministry, to a non-voting position as liaison to the Division Directors.

Reports will be made by Joseph Kelly, Center for Continuing Education director, by Father Hoffman, and by the Selection of Bishops and Ministerial Review committees.

DPC members also are being asked to elect a member to the diocesan Council of Conciliation and to comment on a proposal from Father Charles Bennett that a network be formed to monitor taxing programs that threaten the tax exemptions historically allowed religious institutions.

- DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING**  
 Saturday, Sept. 16, 10:15 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
 Holiday Inn, Waterloo
1. Opening Prayer
  2. Acceptance of Minutes and Agenda
  3. Bishop Hogan's Remarks
  4. Chairperson's Remarks, Brother Brian Walsh
  5. Report from Father Douglas Hoffman, liaison from Board of Diocesan Directors
  6. Consideration of Survey on the Participation of Women in the Church of Rochester
  7. Presentation of Amendment to DPC Constitution
  8. Report on Continuing Education Program, Joseph Kelly, Center for Continuing Education director
  9. Evangelization: Challenge and Response
  10. Presentation and Action on Concept of Continuing Education for the DPC in 1978-79
  11. Reports from Selection of Bishops and Ministerial Review committees
  12. Reports from Members on Issues Identified by Constituents

## Humanities For Seniors Scheduled

The Senior Center Humanities Program, a national eight-week course in literature, drama, history and the Bible, will again be offered this year, beginning on Tuesday, Sept. 19 at 10 a.m. in the Senior Center at 33 Hollister St.

The program which is free (it is funded through the National Council on the Aging and the National Endowment for the Humanities), is headed locally by Sara M. Livocchi. Further information is available by calling the center at 342-7530.

**THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER**  
**"The Value of the Funeral"**  
 By Ed Sulewski

There is a tendency today, by some, to regard the funeral as out-of-date and the ceremony, ritual and cost associated with it as unnecessary and serving no real purpose.

In our close association with those who have experienced death, we know that the emotions that accompany their loss — grief, anger, confusion, resentment, even bitterness — are very real. We know too, that the funeral — even though painful at the time — helps them face the reality of death and begin to adjust to it.

The support of friends and relatives attending the funeral confirms that others also feel their loss — and that their loved one held a special place in the lives of many.

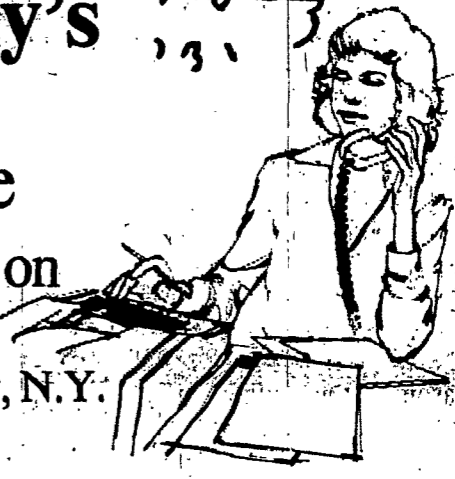
Perhaps the value of the funeral can truly be judged only by those who have experienced the loss of a loved one — and found comfort in the accompanying support and understanding from friends and family before and during the ceremony. If you have questions concerning the purpose and value of the funeral service, please call at any time.

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