

Insights in Liturgy

By FATHER JAMES M. SAUERS

Artistic Celebrations: A Challenge

Father Sauer was recently appointed to St. Mary's, Canandaigua and presented a workshop on the Ministry of Artist at the recent Liturgy Institute 1978.

"At all times the Church needs the service of the arts of former times, the regional diversity of esthetic expression. While preserving the art of former times, the Church also tries to adapt it to new needs and to promote the art of each age. High artistic standards should be followed when commissioning artists and choosing works of art for Church. These works of art should nourish faith and piety and be in harmony with the meaning and purpose for which they are intended. Church decor should be noble and simple rather than sumptuous. It should reflect truth and authenticity so as to instruct the faithful and enhance the dignity of the sacred place" (Sacramentary #254, 279).

If you are involved in the Liturgy of the Church as congregation, presider, planner or whatever, you are called to contribute to the celebration in the best artistic expression that can be found. The above-mentioned excerpt from the Sacramentary presents us with the "ideal" for creating tasteful and artistic liturgies. At times we may be tempted to dream about the glories of the Church in former times, but we ultimately are called upon to consider the present moment and evaluate what is being proclaimed by us today.

In dealing with the topic of art in the liturgy we may be tempted to say that we are not qualified in that discipline or we are not concerned with that area of worship. Artist and liturgist are so intimately connected that they cannot be considered

separately. The ministry of the artist and the ministry of the liturgist are ones of beauty and integration. Artist and liturgist do not stand separate, but rather weave together everything that takes place within the tapestry of worship. "Everyone called to worship must be concerned about the vital roles art and environment play in the central action of the community of faith, the household of the Lord" (Archbishop John Quinn).

Again, the "ideal" is placed before us. It would be great if everyone could be interested in our liturgical worship, but the reality tells us that the job ultimately rests with the various ministers (lectors, musicians, cantors, special ministers of the Eucharist, ushers, presiders), and those often-criticized but seldom praised members of the parish worship committee. In this article and the one to follow I would like to raise some key points in our task as planners and worshippers involved in artistic celebration.

The process of planning and celebrating rests on four basic principles: Prayer-Reading-Atmosphere/Environment-evaluation. They sound simple enough. Yet how easily we find ourselves leaving one or more of the steps out.

PRAYER: It seems foolish to think that we need to mention prayer as the starting point of our planning, yet it is an unfortunate reality that too many times our committees and sub-committees go about their duties with little or no time for prayer. All of our efforts, no matter how great or small, must necessarily flow from our prayer life. It is that prayerful expression of our faith that makes us a Christian community. If you find that your meetings are filled with frustration and your celebrations are "dry and empty," you might take a moment to consider the prayer-life of the planning group. There are many

different styles of prayer that may be used: the Liturgy of the Hours, a Bible Vigil, a holy hour, or prayerful reflection on the rite which you are planning at that particular meeting. Prayer can have a soothing effect on the committee members. If we spend at least a half hour in prayer it can aid in quieting one's pace, so the work that needs to be completed will be less of a burden and more of a joy.

READING: After we pray as a committee, we will most likely find ourselves in discussion about the particular celebration which we are planning. Unfortunately, we frequently gather to discuss aspects of the liturgy without doing "professional" reading on the topic beforehand. This can easily lead to a session of shared ignorance or minor changes in the liturgy which are made for the sake of variety rather than to enhance the prayer experience. What should we read? Paramount to any liturgy work is a knowledge of the Constitution of the Sacred Liturgy of the Second Vatican Council. An equally important document is the Sacramentary. This volume, which is used daily at the celebration of the Eucharist, contains many important notes about the liturgy in the introductory section. Environment and Art in Catholic Worship, a text published by the Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy provides a thorough approach to the ideals of art in the liturgy. And in Touchstones for Liturgical Ministers, Virginia Sloyan provides a thorough "digest" treatment of the various ministries within our Church today.

Dealing with these various publications as a beginning to continuing education for the committee members would be most beneficial. Equally important is the need to study the prayers and texts of the various rites which the committee plans during the Church year.

Next week we will consider the two remaining principles: Atmosphere/Environment and Evaluation.



MALIBU MADNESS SALE!

SAVE \$1,000 TO \$1,300!

SAVE!

Imagine! 65 Brand New Chevy Malibus, every one, selling for less than \$4,900!

Big selection of colors and options! Read this partial list... Come in, see the rest!

CHECK THESE EXAMPLES

'78 MALIBU CLASSIC LANDAU

2-dr. Sport Coupe, 305 V-8, Automatic, P.B., P.S., AM-FM, Console, Landau Option, Bumper Guards, Electro Clear Rear Defogger, Remote Control Rear View Mirror, Deluxe Body Side Moldings, Radial White Wall Tires, White Vinyl Roof, Light Camel with White Buckets, Black Accessories. Was \$6191.54

NOW \$4823⁰⁰

'78 MALIBU

4 Door Sedan Stock #1687 305 V-8, P.B., P.S., Auto Trans., Wheel Covers, Radial White Wall Tires, AM Radio, Electro-Clear Rear Window Defogger, Wheel Opening Moldings, Dark Carmine Metallic w/Carmine Vinyl Interior. Was \$5515.22

NOW \$4314⁰⁰

'78 MALIBU CLASSIC WAGON

2 seat, Stock #1686 305 V-8, Auto. Trans., P.S., AM-FM, Rear Speaker, Electric Clock, Power Tailgate Window Release, Deluxe Body Side Moldings, Door Edge Guards Electro Clear Rear Defogger, Rear Window Air Deflector, Remote Control Rear View Mirror, Radial White Wall Tires, Bumper Guards, Roof Carrier, Dark Carmine Metallic with Camel Vinyl Interior. Was \$6225.54

NOW \$4855⁰⁰

ON PREMISES FINANCING!

HEINRICH
214 LAKE AVE.



OPEN TIL 9 THURS/FRI. OPEN TIL 6 SAT.

CHEVYLAND
ROCHESTER, N.Y. — 458-2940

This free booklet tells why every father should make a will... even if he's young and healthy!

Sixteen pages, clearly written and colorfully illustrated, tell why you should make your will and how to go about it. Charts on page 3 show what your heirs can lose if you die without a will. Page 5 discusses why you need a lawyer's help in drawing up your will. Page 6 goes into detail about how to start and what to include. No father, young or old, should neglect his will. Maryknoll's booklet will convince you!

Mail the coupon for your free copy today!



Free Booklet on Wills

The Maryknoll Fathers
71 Jewett Parkway
Buffalo, New York 14214
(716) 834-6065

Dear Fathers:

Please send me your booklet on making a will. I understand there is no obligation.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____



Testimonial Set

A dinner to celebrate John Schneider's election as Supreme President of the Knights of St. John's is set for Nov. 26, at Mapledale Party House. Planning committee members pictured here are, left to right, seated: John Bittner, Lester Burke, Al Miller, Joseph Cimino and Charles Keller; standing: Leonard Bossert, Arthur Sanger, Joseph Cooper, John Lloyd, Edward Palumbos, Vernon Hart, George Schultz, Robert Smith and Santo DiBella. John Bittner, 120 Versailles Road, Rochester 14621, has the tickets, at \$9 each.

8
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100