

Festival Concert Set Sunday

The fifth annual concert of the Diocesan Festival Choir will take place next Sunday (April 29) at St. Thomas More Church, 2617 East Ave., Rochester.

The DFC, conducted by Sister Virginia Hogan, SSJ, will sing Rejoice in the Lamb by Benjamin Britten and Christ Lag in Todesbanden by Bach.

The DFC annually produces a concert in the Easter season. This year it will be joined by two other



religious choirs — the Gregorian Chorale, directed by Father Benedict Ehmann, and the Concert Chorale of the Catholic Sisters of Rochester.

The Gregorian choir will

sing several seasonal Gregorian chants and the Concert Chorale will offer several selections in keeping with the Easter season.

The DFC consists of 80 members and will be augmented by a string ensemble and organist for the performance. About 30 of its members also form the diocesan Liturgical Choir which sings at weekend Masses at parishes throughout the diocese.

Soloists for the April 29

concert will be Paul Rowe, a doctoral candidate at the Eastman School of Music; Dr. Bruce Purrington, director of music for the Brighton Central Schools; Sister Eileen Conheady, and Sister Barbara Staropoli, a member of the faculty at Nazareth College and a doctoral candidate at the Eastman School.

The concert will begin at 4 p.m. and tickets at \$3 each are available from members of the DFC or at the door.

Summer Swim

The Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) is now making plans for its annual Summer Swim Program and is looking for families who are willing to donate the use of their swimming pools for small group swimming instruction.

The CYO asks families with in-ground swimming pools to donate their pools for a few hours per week for lessons given by qualified water safety instructors.

For further information those interested may call the CYO at 454-2030.

CHARISMATIC HEALING MASS GUARDIAN ANGELS CHURCH

Sunday May 6, 1979 3:00 PM

Rev. Leo E. Lynch, Associate Pastor, Member of the Association of Christian Therapists, Member of and Spiritual Director for the Chadash Prayer Group, Hamlin, New York

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Insights in Liturgy

By Msgr. William Shannon

An Alternative To Penitential Rite at Mass

Mass generally begins, after the greeting of the priest, with the penitential rite. There is a certain fitness in calling to mind our sinfulness as we prepare to listen to the proclamation of God's Word and to celebrate the Eucharistic Meal: We have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Acknowledging our sinfulness is a proclamation of our belief that our God is a God who saves and that He saves us, not because we are worthy or sinless, but because He is the Gracious One. A healthy consciousness of our sinfulness and God's forgiving power helps us prepare for the rest of the Mass and makes the penitential rite an appropriate beginning for our liturgical celebration.

Yet there is another perspective with which we may begin the celebration of the Eucharist, namely with the realization that, though sin abounds, grace abounds all the more. We may, in other words, choose to begin our liturgy with a consciousness of our dignity as Christian people who through Baptism initiation have been united with God in Jesus Christ and who,

therefore, in spite of our sinfulness, rejoice in the favor of God so richly bestowed upon us that it makes us children of the father and brothers and sisters of the Lord Jesus.

If we choose to begin the Eucharist from this perspective, namely, highlighting our Baptismal dignity, there is a rite of Baptismal renewal in the Sacramentary that may be substituted for the penitential rite in the Sunday liturgies. The Foreword to the Sacramentary states: "As an alternative to the penitential rite at all Sunday Masses, the blessing and sprinkling of the people with Holy Water may be substituted for the more usual penitential rite." Though the penitential rite is called "more usual," it is worth noting that in the Order of the Mass given in the Sacramentary, the Blessing and Sprinkling with Holy Water as a reminder of Baptism is placed before the penitential rite (the former being labeled "A" the latter "B") — an indication surely that it is an equally significant way of beginning the Sunday Liturgy and that perhaps it ought to be used more frequently than would appear to be the practice in most churches.

The rite is simple and brief: (1) The priest invites

the people to pray, reminding them of their Baptism and of their call to be faithful to the Spirit whom we receive when we are initiated into the Christian community. (2) The priest, standing at the celebrant's chair, blesses the water that is placed before him in a suitable container. There are two alternate blessing prayers plus a special one for the Easter season. The prayers simply and quite beautifully ask that God's life may be renewed in us and that free from sin, we may come into His presence — certainly the right mood for us to have as we begin the Mass-Liturgy. (3) The priest sprinkles himself, the other liturgical ministers, and moving through the church, the whole congregation. The aspergillum or an evergreen branch may be used for the sprinkling. An appropriate song is sung during the sprinkling. (Pre-Vatican people will recall the Asperges or the Vidi Aquam sung during this ceremony at the Sunday High Mass.) (4) The priest concludes the sprinkling rite with a brief prayer:

"May almighty God cleanse us of our sins, and through the Eucharist we celebrate make us worthy to sit at his table in His heavenly kingdom."

All respond Amen. The priest then goes on to begin the Gloria and the opening prayer of the Mass.

Baptism and the Eucharist are the primary

sacraments of the Church. Baptism initiates us into the conversion process that is the story of the Christian's continuing growth to maturity in Christ. Baptism also makes possible participation in the Eucharist, which is the weekly celebration of this on-going process of Christian conversion. Whatever we can do to highlight the intimate unity of these two sacraments in the Christian life is fitting and salutary for the Christian community.

Because we are not a sinless people, it is good for us on some occasions to begin the Eucharistic celebration with the penitential rite; but because we are a redeemed people, united with the Lord Jesus through Baptism, it is equally good on other occasions to begin the Eucharist with the rite of the blessing and sprinkling with Holy Water.



Alumni Weekend

Nazareth College Alumni Association will hold its annual Homecoming April 27-29. Members of the class of 1969 planning the event are (seated, left to right) Bonnie Anne Briggs, Paula Hermance, Doreen Frisk, Anna Melringer, (standing) Catherine McGrath, Linda Felice, Mary Saperstone, Sue Senise and Kathleen Binsack. Highlighting the weekend will be a banquet Saturday which will honor outstanding alumni and three faculty members: Dr. Robert J. Miller, Sister Jamesetta and Sister Margaret Theresa.

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