



Service to Youth

Thomas Emmanuel, second from left, receives the first annual Rev. Joseph T. Maloney Memorial Award for outstanding service to youth from Thomas Cotterill, second from right. Emmanuel has been associated with the Rochester District Basketball Officials Board for 50 years, 42 of them as an official. He recently was inducted into the Rochester-Monroe County High School Hall of Fame. Father Maloney, for whom the award is named, was a priest of the diocese active in CYO programs and activities. He died in 1965. Looking on are William Schmitz, left, CYO vice president, and Joseph Judge, CYO basketball supervisor.

Insights in Liturgy

By Father James Sauer
Associate Pastor, St. Mary's Canandaigua

Benediction Where Is It Today?

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament is full of meaning and nostalgia for most of us in the "over thirty" age group. I remember the service as a time of great beauty and mystery which offered a distant vision and understanding of the meaning of Eucharist. In the Pre-Vatican II Church benediction provided an opportunity for the silent laity to "participate" in liturgy through song and communal prayer (i.e. The Divine Praises). The service was so short that it was seldom celebrated as an individual form of prayer, but rather it was attached to novena prayers, rosary devotions, stations of the cross, and even Mass. And the climax of the experience occurred when the congregation was blessed with the consecrated host that was contained in the monstrance. It was a meaningful experience which reflected our understanding of and attitude towards the Eucharist, but the benediction we knew is no longer an accepted rite in the Roman Catholic Church.

Six years ago on the Feast of Corpus Christi (June 21, 1973), the Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship issued the document: Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside Mass. In this beautiful document the interested liturgist finds a renewed vision of the place and specialness of the Eucharist outside of Mass, as well as the directives for bringing communion to the

sick; the appropriate place for reservation of the Eucharist; the essential elements of a communion service for the faithful and the proper form for Eucharistic processions. Chapter three of this document is devoted to the various forms of worship of the Holy Eucharist. It is in this particular chapter that we find this renewed vision of benediction, now known as the Rite of Eucharistic Exposition and Benediction. Paragraph 89 states clearly: "Exposition which is held exclusively for the giving of benediction is prohibited."

If you find yourself wondering why the rite has changed I believe the answer may be found in the explanation of the new rite. The Sacred Congregation is not denying the richness of Eucharistic adoration. To the contrary, Eucharistic adoration is affirmed and praised as a form of prayer which draws us closer to the meaning of the Paschal Mystery. "Exposition of the Holy Eucharist, either in the ciborium or in the monstrance, is intended to acknowledge Christ's marvelous presence in the sacrament. This kind of exposition must clearly express the cult of the blessed sacrament in its relationship to the Mass. The plan of the exposition should carefully avoid anything which might obscure the principal desire of Christ in instituting the eucharist, namely, to be with us as food, medicine and comfort."

The revised rite, though longer than the old, is still a simple, beautiful expression of the place of the Eucharist in the Church today. Briefly, the elements of the new rite are as follows:

(1) After the faithful have gathered the service may begin with a song as the minister approaches the altar.

(2) The ciborium or monstrance is placed on the table of the altar which is covered with a cloth. The minister immediately incenses the sacrament.

(3) During the exposition there should be prayers, songs and readings to direct the attention of the faithful to the worship of Christ the Lord.

(4) There should be readings from scripture with a homily to develop a better understanding of the eucharistic mystery. The community should respond to God's word by singing and by spending some time in religious silence.

(5) If there is lengthy exposition, part of the liturgy of the hours may be celebrated before the blessed sacrament.

(6) Toward the end of the service the minister goes to the altar, genuflects, and kneels. A hymn is sung during which the minister incenses the sacrament. Afterwards the minister calls the community to a moment of silent prayer followed by a prayer which is included in the rite. This prayer may be sung or read.

(7) The minister then genuflects, takes the ciborium or monstrance and blesses the people, in silence. He then immediately places the sacrament in the tabernacle. During this time the people may sing or say an acclamation, and the minister leaves.

As the Feast of Corpus Christi is celebrated by the Church throughout the world it seems an appropriate time to reflect on the meaning of eucharist for you as an individual and for your parish community. Hopefully this will be a time of renewal in your celebration of the Rite of Eucharistic Exposition and Benediction.

Mercy Camp Slated

The Mercy Basketball Camp for Girls has slated two full-week sessions this summer for June 25-29 and July 2-6 at Our Lady of Mercy High School gym, 1437 Blossom Road, in Brighton.

The camp is open to all girls entering the seventh, eighth or

ninth grade in September this year. It will operate from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Enrollment is open for either one or two weeks.

The camp offers swimming, game time, conditioning and basic basketball skills, taught

by Sister Mary Ann Kosakowski, coach at Blessed Sacrament Junior High, and Sister Sheila Stevenson, coach of Our Lady of Lourdes School.

Registration forms are available at 601 Edgewood Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14618, or by calling (716) 244-2175.



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Miss Kenny Received As Mercy Novice

Patricia Ann Kenny was received into the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy on Sunday, June 3, during a prayer service in the Motherhouse Chapel. She thus began her novitiate year,

having spent the past year as a postulant at the Motherhouse.

Miss Kenny is a 1974 graduate of Mercy High School. She is a graduate of the St. Joseph Hospital School

of Nursing in Syracuse and has worked as a nurse at Strong Memorial Hospital for the past two years. Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. James Kenny of St. Louis Parish, Pittsford.