

# Insights in Liturgy

By Father Charles Mulligan

## Liturgy And Social Concern

"And now, brothers (and sisters), I beg you through the mercy of God to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, so that you may judge what is God's will, what is good, pleasing and perfect." (Rom. 12:1-2) God saw all creation as good. Men and women created in God's own image and likeness are appointed stewards over all creation to make life on earth fruitful, full of peace and beauty. The vocation of Christians

who are part of the world, living in the world, is to "work" the earth, invest in it, glory in it, dwell in it, become passionately attached to it, and ultimately lift all up in worship as a gift to God. This is the liturgy of the earth, the liturgy that we celebrate in construction work, farming, politics, repairing machines, in raising families and organizing neighborhoods. Christians are called to offer their bodies, their talents, all creation, as living sacrifices, spiritual worship.

God so loves this everyday world of ours that he sent His only Son in the basic act of love that is celebrated in all Christian worship. Christians offer every act of the day, everything, in the same basic liturgical act. The founda-

tion of the liturgy is this specifically, worldly love of God for people. The foundation of social concern is exactly the same. After all, we only have one heart. If we live in Christ we love the real people on this earth in him.

There is much that can be said about the relationship between liturgy and social concern. Most basic to me is the ability to see through the Eucharist or the sacraments to God-grounded living in the world, and in the same spirit the ability to allow Christ to be all in all, lifting every action of ours as a gift to the Father, a small and humble sign of what we long for.

We need to "see through" the Eucharist and the sacraments to our daily life in the world. Our communal acts of worship offer the deepest stimulus to our hearts and our imaginations. At the Installation of Bishop Clark, when the crowd rose as one to applaud Bishop Hogan's entrance in thanksgiving for his service, each of us was free and spontaneous, acting in personal love, and yet we acted as one. It was a powerful moment for me, teaching how deep a unity is possible in a pluralist society. There are many other such moments. For example, the rich and the poor receive the same host, no more and no less. All class and status are

but passing phenomena before the reality of our communion. We sit and listen, attending to the words of Scripture, seeking instruction of wisdom. Unity is a result of openness and not a product of management, procedures, or regimentation. The liturgy offers so many examples of what transformed renewed life can be that it saves us from "conforming ourselves to the age." Like Mary we turn over the experience of liturgy in our hearts and learn wisdom about this world.

So, "seeing through" the liturgy leads us to behavior in the world which is not in conformity with the common sense of this age. So, we learn to be present at the Eucharist in our daily lives. We listen to one who suffers, and with a painful sense of our own poverty we offer a sign of our support trusting that the Lord will strengthen and deepen our gift transforming it into a sign of His presence.

Liturgy helps us to experience the fountain of mystery which springs from our common life with God. Social concern is the expression of our spirit creating and renewing this earth in love.

(Father Mulligan is director of Social Ministries for the Diocese of Rochester)

# Feminists to March Against Pornography

More than 100 Rochester feminists will join thousands of other East Coast women in a March on Pornography on 42nd Street in New York City, Saturday, Oct. 20, according to Rochester Women Against Violence Against Women.

The RWAVAW has scheduled a videotaped show of "A Crime Against Women" and discussions of the origins of its organization at 8 p.m., Friday, Sept. 28 at the Friends Meeting House, 41 Westminster Road. Child care will be provided and the suggested donation is \$2.

The RWAVAW has chartered two buses for the trip and has scheduled activities to raise funds for expenses.

For further information on the March on Pornography or local events, the telephone numbers are 442-7401 and 288-6530.

New York Women Against Pornography have been actively waging campaigns against the Times Square pornography district and have set up an office on 42nd Street to organize the demonstration.

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## Auxiliary Dies

Rockville Centre, N.Y. (RNS) — Auxiliary Bishop Vincent J. Baldwin of the Rockville Centre Diocese died Sept. 16 after a long illness.

Bishop Baldwin, 72, also was pastor emeritus of St. Joseph's Church in Garden City, from which post he retired in June.

## CWC Barn Sale

The Catholic Women's Club will sell "collectibles and next-to-new items" next week at St. Paul's Exempt Club, 690 Thomas Ave. The barn sale will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Oct. 4 and 5. It is a money-raiser for the CWC scholarship fund. Members are asked to work at the sale and to bring their donations to the Exempt Club Oct. 2 and 3, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Calendar**

**MOZART SONATAS**— John Celentano, violin, and David Effron, piano in recital at 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 28, Kilbourn Hall; open, free.

**FRENCH FLUTE MUSIC**— Bonita Boyd, with Kimberly Schmidt, piano, at 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 30, Kilbourn Hall; benefit Eastman School women students' aid fund. General \$5; students, seniors, \$2.50; family, \$10.

**ROCK N' ROLL**— Dance party at Pyramid Gallery, 1255 University, 9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 28, featuring The Vores of Buffalo; \$1.50. Gallery hours: 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday.

**RAPA PLAYERS**— Fun night, 8 p.m. Oct. 13; Rochester Academy of Performing Arts, 97 South Ave., Webster; dinner, cocktails, entertainment. Tickets \$10, through Ray Piccini, 544-2740.

**LANDSCAPE PHOTO-GRAPHS**— Exhibition of black and white photos by Joseph Jacom and Mario Giacomini, through Oct. 20

at Visual Studies Workshop Gallery, 31 Prince. Hours: noon-5 p.m., Tuesday-Friday.

**IZQUIERDA ENSEMBLE**— Four feminist musicians from Portland, Ore., in concert of original music, instrumental and vocal, 8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 6, New Life Community Church, Monroe at Rosedale; benefit Rochester Safe Energy Alliance. Tickets \$2,3,4, at door; none in advance. Free child care.

**CLASSIC FILM SERIES**— Tuesdays, 2 and 8 p.m., Eisenhart Auditorium, Rochester Museum and Science Center. Oct. 2: Three Wise Girls (1932).

**TEMPO ART GROUP**— Exhibition at Nazareth Arts Center opens 8 p.m. Oct. 3, runs through Oct. 28; free. Hours: Monday-Friday, 9-9; Saturday, Sunday, noon-5.

**OPERA THEATRE**— Verdi's Un Ballo in Maschera, sung in Italian, 8 p.m. Sept. 29, Eastman Theatre.

**NOONTIME AT HOCHSTEIN**— Wednesdays, 12:15-12:45 p.m.: Today, Samuel Cristler, cello, and Lois Burge, piano, play Beethoven C Major Sonata. Oct. 3, Bill Dobbins in piano improvisations.

**SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT NAZARETH**— Richard Loomis, Louise Morrice in program of piano and poetry; 3 p.m. Sept. 30, Nazareth Arts Center. Free.

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