



Gigantic Sale

The St. Agnes Garage Sale Committee is making final arrangements for the May 16,17 sale. Working with the Parents Club are Pat Crowley, chairperson, and Sister Christina Welch, publicity coordinator. The committee will accept donations until May 14 and items may be brought to the school after May 1.

Insights in Liturgy

Singing To God

By David E. Nowak

In Paul's letter to the Colossians the ideal of Christian living includes the instruction to "sing gratefully to God from your hearts in psalms, hymns, and inspired songs." (Col. 3:16) Much later, St. Jerome was able to describe worship in the Roman basilicas as a very noisy affair. The Amen of the people, he says, "resounded like heavenly thunder." Truly, these Christians inherited the Psalmist's command to make a joyful noise unto the Lord. In fact, nothing in our central tradition of liturgical prayer appears to account for the tiptoe and hushed whisper many middle-class American Catholics reserve for church and funeral parlors.

Where there is life there is noise. Where there is noise there are people awake to the tension and promise of life in the presence of God.

Music clears the way for prayer. It awakens our hearts, turns us away from petty distractions, to be, as it were, lifted-up by our song of praise.

Music creates a sense of delight in God. The difference between reciting and singing a text is the difference between liking it and enjoying it. To sing it is to let it get a hold of you. It is to discover the energy, the spirit, within you echoing to the words.

Some people insist that singing is a specific talent belonging to a few with the necessary voice and ear. Yet, our ordinary experience of birthday parties and sing-alongs tell us that with sufficient reason and support singing is a general talent. People differ in singing as they do in all other things. Some are better, some worse, but if you can breathe you can sing.

The failure to sing often is the result of unhappy past experiences, especially if you were ever told you had a "bad" voice. Some of us may sing less capably than others, but it is never "wrong" to sing as well as you can.

Singing is the natural and appropriate expression of our hearts rejoicing in God. If your talent for singing needs improvement you may be excused from entertaining the congregation with a solo performance. But that does not excuse you from praising God.

Everyone at one time or another has found themselves able to sing to some degree. There are times and occasions of joy, gratitude, or anticipation that make us express our sense of it in song. The emotion that stirs deep within forces us to let our voices take part in it. If on

these occasions someone refused to join our song we wouldn't say they had no ear for music. We would assume they were not participating in the spirit of the moment. We would conclude the dullness is in their hearts, not in their ears.

Likewise, when people share an authentic experience of God's merciful love, feeling a true joy at the discovery of His presence in their lives, it is a short step to allow their voice to express the movement of their heart.

William Law once wrote, "singing, as it signifies a motion of the voice suitable to the motions of the heart, is as natural and common to everyone as it is to speak high when they threaten in anger, or to speak low when they are dejected and ask for a pardon." All are singers in the same way; all think, speak, laugh, and lament. It is no more unnatural or artificial than grief or joy.

If our congregations are silent, or need constant coercion to sing, it is not their voices that need training but their hearts. Silent celebrations are not first of all a problem for musicians, but a symptom of the piety of our communities. It is not singing it is because our lives are not tuned to sing God's praises. It is because our hearts are asleep to the mounting crescendo of the promise of salvation.

Further, as singing is the natural effect of joyful hearts on festive occasions, so also it has the power to make us joyful if we are unsure. As liturgy itself, singing is not only what we do, but what is done to us.

As anger produces angry words, so too angry words produce anger. Outward actions have the power of raising or lowering our hearts and minds to the meaning and intent of our actions. If we only give music a chance it will lift our lives to new planes of delight and peace in God.

Singing should be done as much in support of the attitudes which produce song, as for the natural expression of them. Singing is the medium of our prayer.

Singing is a mode of speaking which enhances the word itself, as it penetrates far below the conscious levels of thought and feeling. Music is not an instructional device to instill scriptural lessons or doctrinal definitions. Nor is music a way to play upon the emotions of a yet impenitent sinner. Simply, the heart of worship is praising God and music is our instrument of praise.

Inner City Catholic Principal De-Fizzes Coke Promotion

Special to the Courier-Journal

The Coca-Cola Company is taking steps to remove its promotional "Find the PiBB Girl" contest from the market after the principal of a Catholic high school in Chicago declared the contest racist and sexist.

Contest rules and posters were mailed to schools around the country, promoting the search for a girl with "the eyes of Susan Anton, the hair of Pam Dawber, the mouth of Debby Boone, the face shape of Melissa Sue Anderson and the nose of Kristy McNichol."

Father Christian Reuter, OFM, principal of Hales Franciscan High School, wrote in his April 10 letter to the president of Coca-Cola, "It is immediately apparent to any sensitive person that non-Anglo contestants need not apply. I also find this contest offensive in its sexist connotations. To offer a prize solely for having certain physical features, based on a composite drawing, is both unenlightening and demeaning to all women."

Father Reuter wrote, "I would have thought such misjudgments impossible in our multi-racial, liberated society of the 1980's."

He stated his refusal to publicize the contest and his intention of encouraging his colleagues to do the same. Father Reuter threatened to remove all Coca-Cola products from the lunch program and refreshment stands.

Father Reuter sent copies of his letter to the U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the NAACP, the National Office for Black Catholics and other organizations.

Dianne McKaig, Coca-Cola's vice president of consumer affairs, responded to Father Reuter's letter stating, "While we would not

Charismatic Mass

Perry — Father Linus Hennessey, the nationally known charismatic preacher, will lead a prayer service for the Family of God prayer group of St. Joseph's Church here, on Monday, May 12 at 7:30 p.m. Father Linus is the author of the popular program, "Comfort My People."

Deaths

Lelia C. Emo

A concelebrated Mass of Christian Burial was offered for Lelia C. Emo on April 16, 1980, in St. Boniface Church. Principal celebrant was her son, Father Eugene Emo, who is chaplain at St. James Mercy Hospital in Hornell. Burial was to be in St. Pius Cemetery in Cohocton.

Mrs. Emo, wife of George V. Emo of Cypress Street, died April 14. She was a member of the St. Boniface Rosary Society.

Survivors include a daughter, Dretha Emo of Tempe, Ariz.; two sisters, Mrs. Beatrice Stetson of Prescott, Ariz., and Mrs. Arthur (Frances) Jarvis of Rochester, and several nieces and nephews.

have intentionally developed a promotion that offended anyone, your letter has persuaded us that the 'Find the PiBB Girl' contest could be open to that interpretation. Because of this and because we wish our promotions to be applicable to all, steps are being taken to remove this promotion from the marketplace."

McKaig claimed that the company has "a legal obligation" to honor its commitments in accordance with the published rules, but that it will "low key" its promotion, according to a press release from Hales Franciscan High School. McKaig stated that local bottlers have been asked to retrieve as many of the promotional materials as they can. The company will quietly crown the PiBB Girl on June 21.

The winner of the contest will receive a trip to New Orleans and \$5,000. The organization or individual who nominates the winner will also collect \$5,000. May 7 is the postmark deadline for entry photographs.

Hales Franciscan is an inner city Catholic high school for boys on Chicago's south side. All of its 400 students are black, and almost all are college-bound, according to the release.

Focus on the Eucharist

Focus on the Eucharist will begin with evening prayer at 7:30 tomorrow, May 1, in Christ the King Church, 445 Kings Highway S. Father Howard J. Keon, CSB, will celebrate Mass at 8:15. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will follow.

"The business community, in particular, needs to get the message that schools will not be its tacit partners in human degradation," said Father Reuter in the release.

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