

Corpus Christi Sets School Run

Corpus Christi School will benefit from a 5.3 mile fun run this weekend. The event, sponsored by Pepsi Cola of Rochester, will begin in the school parking lot at 5:15 p.m. on Saturday, May 17.

According to fliers being distributed through the city, trophies will be awarded to the first and second place winners in seven categories. In addition, tank tops will be given to all registrants and, following the race, free drinks

to all runners. Preregistration is necessary to join the race. Those wishing to participate are asked to register between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. through Friday, at the school, or between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. on Saturday.

No registration will be accepted after 3 p.m. on Saturday, the fliers announce. A \$3 fee is charged. Corpus Christi is located on the corner of Prince and Main streets.

Insights in Liturgy

Introducing New Music

By Sister Nancy Burkin SSJ

Introducing new music to the congregation begins not, as one might suppose, in the church, but in the liturgy planning committee. To be effective, the procedure for teaching new music has to be planned in advance. Spending ten minutes attempting to teach an entrance hymn on the very Sunday it will be used is unfair to the congregation and to the very nature of the entrance hymn.

Once planners become aware that a hymn is appropriate for a certain celebration, that it is worth teaching to a congregation, and that it is an authentic faith expression for that congregation, then adequate preparations to help the people become comfortable with the hymn can be made.

The length of time that it will take a congregation to learn a new song can only be determined by those who know the congregation or by the congregation itself. Sample programs can be offered but they will be effective only if they are adjusted to fit the needs of a particular community.

One sample of teaching a new hymn may follow this procedure: six weeks before the hymn is to be used at Mass, put a note in the Sunday bulletin about the hymn, the number or page where it might be found, perhaps a line or two about the hymn itself, its text or background, a suggestion to read the text of the hymn reflectively. Tell the people in this announcement that the hymn will be played by the instrumentalist(s) during the Presentation of the Gifts that Sunday. The next week follow the same procedure. Change the wording of the bulletin announcement but say basically the same thing. Be sure the instrumentalist(s) emphasize the melody line of the hymn and play it only two or three times. Perhaps the second week, the choir or singing group may sing the hymn. The third week take a few minutes — never more than five — to sing the hymn with the congregation before Mass. The following Sunday spend a few minutes again before the Mass rehearsing the hymn. Perhaps one of these two Sundays would be a good time for the singing group to sing it once more or to have the instrumentalist(s) play it. The next Sunday use the hymn as originally planned.

When is the best time to spend a few minutes in hymn practice with the congregation? The answer to

the question will, no doubt, be long debated. Perhaps we might set aside about ten minutes before Mass actually begins as a preparation time. The greeting of one another has been completed, we can gather ourselves together for worship in silence and spend a short time learning a new hymn or part of one.

Teaching acclamations presents yet another problem. They cannot be sung or played at another time during Mass so people can become familiar with them. They must never be sung solely by the choir without congregational participation. The type of acclamation chosen plays a large part in the area of introducing it. Choosing a "Holy, Holy, Holy" with a Hosanna section that is easily sung by the congregation and whose melody is repeated in the Memorial Acclamation and Great Amen is ideal. In any case, choose a Holy, Holy, Holy with a singable, well-written Hosanna section that can be taught to the congregation and sung as a refrain. By hearing the rest of this acclamation used on several consecutive Sundays, the people will quickly learn the rest of the song. Choose a Memorial Acclamation and a Great Amen that have the same melody and are written in a way that emphasizes their character as acclamations. Like the Hosanna, these acclamations might be taught one week before they are to be used and reviewed the day of their use. Even if the melody is the same, teach only one acclamation at a time.

The Gospel Alleluia, the responsorial psalm and even various other songs should not have to be taught at all. What needs to be experienced is the correct role of cantor/song leader. We have become book-dependant people. We need to strengthen our ability to listen to, remember and repeat short phrases without having them printed before our eyes. Selection of music for cantor and congregation, even choir and congregation with a song leader which have short, singable refrains combined with the ability of the cantor/song leader to invite people's participation in sung prayer is more valuable than any rehearsal time. People will be amazed to see what they are able to do musically when led by a good cantor/song leader.

The key to introducing new music is the music itself and knowing the congregation who will pray with it. Above all, the recognition of the importance of music as a part of the prayer of all the assembled is essential. If music is performance at Eucharist, it is not worth learning. If it is authentic prayer, it will not take much learning.



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WEBSTER, N.Y.

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