

Insights in Liturgy

'New Year's Resolutions'

It always baffles me that many parish liturgy committees and pastoral musicians take the summer off from their work. Now, I have nothing against well-earned vacation time, but the celebration of the liturgy is a 52-week-a-year enterprise and requires careful attention all the time to the planning and doing of the rites.

However, I do live in the real world (most of the time), and so I recognize that, after the summer rest, parish liturgy committees and others will be preparing for a "new year" shortly. In light of that, I would like to propose some resolutions for preparing the coming year's activities.

First, committees and liturgical ministers should set themselves on a year-long program of study. This can be a fountain of renewal for a committee or a minister to review again the basic documents related to the rites or to study in depth one particular aspect of pastoral liturgical concern. Liturgy Training Publications, of Chicago, has recently put out two resources that would be helpful: "The Liturgy Documents: a Parish Resource," including the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, Music in Catholic Worship, Environment and Art in Catholic Worship, and other key documents; and "Liturgy With Style and Grace," subtitled "A Basic Manual for Planners and Ministers." Committees and ministers should spend one-third of their time in study and reflection that pertains to their role in parish worship.

Second, those involved in liturgical planning and celebration should spend another third of their time in prayer. Whether the prayer takes the form of the Liturgy of the Hours before or after committee meetings, reflection on the Sunday readings, or a day or evening

of recollection for liturgical ministers, prayer is a must. We cannot lead people in the celebration of mysteries we ourselves have not participated in.

Third, parishes should do something nice for their liturgical ministers to develop their sense of ministry. The success or failure of liturgical planning rests with the presiders, musicians, lectors, eucharistic ministers, ushers, servers and artists who are entrusted with the task of carrying the plan off in order to serve the people's prayer. Unless these take responsibility for their service and do it with competence and preparation, no plan will ever express adequately the faith and prayer of the community. The skills necessary for this service are developed with practice; they don't fall out of the sky. Parishes, then, should continually foster growth in the sense of ministry for all those serving the community's prayer. Regular participation in workshops, study and periods of reflection will encourage this growth. (See next week's column for 1980-81 Liturgy Office offerings.)

Fourth, those responsible for planning should continually remain in touch with the experience of the whole parish. This is the well-spring of both creativity and authentic liturgy. Knowing the people of the parish — their faith struggles and joys — will suggest a great number of creative expressions of the whole people's worship. It will also enable the wise selection of texts among the many options so that the particular liturgy can be real prayer of the particular community.

Making these "new year's resolutions" will help those responsible for the planning and celebration of the liturgy to fulfill their ministry of fostering the community's prayer. And in doing this ministry of service, God will be glorified in his worshipping people.

Deaths

Ruth Gilligan

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Charles Borromeo Church Aug. 11 for Ruth J. Gilligan who died Aug. 11, 1980.

Prominent in several religious and civic organizations, including the Third Order of St. Francis, the Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of St. John, Greece Women's Republican Club, the Golden Agers and the DuPont Retirees Club, Mrs. Gilligan is survived by one son, Jack; two daughters,

Sister Mary Ruth Gilligan, RSM; and Mrs. Marvin (Jerry) Smith; two sisters, Mrs. Gladys Wall and Mrs. Dorothy Lui; nine grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Leading the final rites were Fathers Daniel Hogan, Robert Kennedy, Donald Haycock, John DeSocio and Elmer Heindl. Also taking part was the Rev. Hugh Outerson, pastor of Bethany Presbyterian Church.

Mary Sheehan

Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated Saturday, Aug. 2 for Mary A. Sheehan at the Chapel of St. Ann's Home. She died Thursday, July 31, 1980.

Miss Sheehan was a prominent figure in educational circles in the community. A graduate of St. Elizabeth College in Convent Station, N.J., she was the first recipient of the school's Founders Award, the highest honor which could be bestowed.

At the time of her death, her wish was made public that memorial contributions be made to the college.

She is survived by two sisters, Mrs. William R. (Margaret) Noonan of Newark, and Mrs. Bartholomew (Mona) Diggins of Kensington, Md.; two nieces, Ann Ryan and Marijo Diggins; two nephews, William Noonan and Peter Diggins; and several grand-nieces and grand-nephews.



FATHER BRADEN

Prexy Named

Father Patrick O. Braden, CSB, has been named president of St. John Fisher College, effective Sept. 1. Father Braden fills the post vacated by the retirement of Father Charles Lavery, CSB, in June.

Father Braden served 12 years as president of the University of St. Thomas in Houston, Tex. A native of Houston, the priest however is no stranger to Rochester. He taught mathematics and physics at Aquinas Institute for a year.

All's Well With Arrupe — Vatican

Vatican City (RNS) — In an apparent effort to end speculation in Europe's press about conflict between Pope John Paul II and the superior

general of the Jesuits, Vatican Radio reported that Father Pedro Arrupe was a celebrant at a papal Mass.

The station emphasized that Father Arrupe had also had several lengthy audiences with the pope in recent weeks.

Italian and Spanish media have been speculating that Father Arrupe's an-

nouncement that he was taking steps to retire reflected friction between him and Pope John. The Jesuit was said to be upset because he was unable to obtain a papal audience and it was also reported that the pope was angry over the liberal tendencies of many Jesuits, especially in Latin America.

Deadline

The deadline for submitting news to the Courier-Journal is noon on Thursday preceding the following Wednesday's publication.

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