

Fr. Louis J. Hohman



The Open Window

Unity Instead of Uniformity

Dear Father Hohman,

An area that seems to need clarification is the lack of universality in the Church. It certainly is difficult to understand the various ways celebrating Mass is permitted in the Rochester area,

when the bishop has forbidden attendances at Latin Mass.

Personally, I cannot imagine why Latin is forbidden when altar girls, nuns reading and giving sermons (both, I believe, out of step with the Pope's guidelines), many varieties of distributing communion and improvisation by the priest as to consecration and other parts of the Mass, are accepted.

Don't you think that we of the "older" generation, who were always taught that universality was a necessary quality of the Church, have a need for some enlightenment on the subject?

I look forward to your comments on the above.

(Signed) H.N.

Dear H.N.,

Latin is not forbidden. As a matter of fact there is a Latin text in the back of the Sacramentary (the official liturgical book for Eucharistic celebrations) and it may be used especially when there are people of various languages attending the Eucharistic celebration. The other variations you speak of — use of many

varieties of distributing communion, improvisation by the priest as to consecration and other parts of the Mass — there are limitations to these imposed by law. However, since the liturgical reforms of Vatican II, the Church has felt that it was much better to look for unity rather than uniformity. It saw the value of respecting the traditions of various and sundry people by making allowances for their cultures and ways of looking at things. There also was and is, an endeavor to personalize the liturgical actions so that they did not become robot-like and absolutely conform to type.

It probably has never been told to you, but, for all the centuries of the Church there have been a goodly

number of other rites or ways of celebrating the Eucharist in other parts of the world. The one which we use, the Roman Rite, has prevailed in Europe and the Western Hemisphere but it is not the only one. I don't know whether you have ever attended an Eastern

Rite Mass but it is a very beautiful experience. I personally would not prefer it as a way of celebrating Eucharist but certainly there are many people who do and that is good. Just try to keep in your mind the difference between uniformity and unity.

Seminary Hosts Workshop

Two workshops on Estate Planning will be offered at St. Bernard's Seminary on Nov. 11 and 18. The conferences will deal with the Estate and Tax, Gifts, Wills and Bequests, Charitable Remainder Trusts and Life Insurance," a seminary release

said.

The workshop begins at 7 p.m. at the Hogan Center for Continuing Education, St. Bernard's, 2260 Lake Ave. All are invited. For further information those interested may call (716) 254-1020.

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

Cleanness Sacred, Profane

To the Town Council, Killarney, Ireland

In 1975 I visited Killarney and stayed at the Great Southern Hotel, opposite the Franciscan friary. With some urgency I had occasion to need and to enter the well built stone convenience (men's side) across from the friary. I was appalled at the filthiness of the graffiti on the walls: obscene pictures and messages. Knowing you have a jealous regard for the reputation of your youth I wrote my reactions to your Council and asked you to instruct the caretaker of the public jacques to keep the walls painted and clean; and did receive a nice reply from the secretary.

Once a year I have been in Killarney since then and have personally inspected said locus. Each year it has been satisfactory. Also I have had Father William Hickey of our Rochester diocese stop in and make a report. However, this past September I was escorting a group through Killarney and we had only a few minutes in your city. So I took my group for the few minutes to visit the Blessed Sacrament at the Franciscan church, while I inspected the disturbing jacques across the road. I must have been a spectacle for the angels to see the priest inspecting a public convenience while the faithful were adoring the Lord. But I am of the opinion that walls free from obscenities are more helpful to the spiritual life of the tempted youth than exhortations from the pulpit. I was dismayed by what I beheld on the walls. Each year I have sent a check to the Franciscans for the care of the troublesome walls. May I ask you to contact the friars and make a happy settlement of this matter? P.S. May I have the courtesy of an acknowledgement from your secretary?

From Mrs. X, Apalachin

I read your article in the Oct. 8 Courier-Journal and I want to respond to your statement about purifying one's fingers after distributing Communion. I do not know about elsewhere, but here where we have only one priest, no nuns and about 750 families, we have about 50 lay Eucharistic ministers. From the start five years ago, we have always had small dishes for water and a cloth on either side of the sanctuary. They are for the express purpose of the ministers to purify their hands before and after distribution of Communion. Thanks to the devotion of our pastor, Father Schmidt, this is our practice.

To Mrs. X of Apalachin

You have a priceless pastor and I hope that vocations will come from Apalachin through the prayers and correctness of so many prayerful people in your parish. Glad that the parish is so correct about washing the fingers, not only after but also before Holy Communion. The only other place I know where this is so thoroughly done is St. Joseph's, Weedsport. Oh, yes, Father Elmer McNamara of Bloomfield also has a bowl — big enough to have a great hand washing. I wonder is there something about people named "Elmer."

To Father Atwell Memorial Committee:

It is a curious twist, normal enough in the life and mind of Father Atwell, but thanks to his invitation when he was editor, I have been writing for the Courier these past 13 years (Oct. 13, 1967), clearly presenting ideas with which he was often in disagreement, but which he good-naturedly tolerated. After some altercations with him about his sometimes bizzare theology, he wrote to me, "Why don't you write a column for the Courier? There are some people who do think like you." I often smiled at his wonder that there existed such people with such a mind-set, and often reminded him of his invitation. May God be good to his immortal soul; and to all of you who love this loveable priest. Enclosed is a donation for the memorial.

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REMEMBER THE UNBORN ON NOVEMBER 4th VOTE ROW D

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Bill Bastuk Congress - 34th District

Edwin Foster State Supreme Court

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