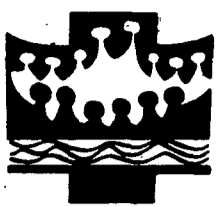


Insights In Liturgy

By Gretchen F. Dent



Ministers As Prayers

"Liturgical minister" is a title we all hear more frequently today. Liturgical ministers are becoming commonplace in our parishes. But what does liturgical ministry mean?

Perhaps what comes to mind first is "service" — the bringing of diverse gifts to "serve" the celebrating community during liturgical celebrations. Indeed, ministry is service, but it cannot end there. When Christians minister, it is not to "do things for" others, but to be with them, to "be-present to" them. Personal presence is primary in effective liturgical ministry. What comes first is not the competent exercise of each one's role (although quality and competence are essential), but that through the exercise of this role, the minister can be present, be there to others.

In order to do this, liturgical ministers must be in touch with those they serve. They must reach out to them, know them, experience their needs and be present to them not only during liturgical celebrations, but in their daily lives. These alone are demanding criteria, and yet, in addition, liturgical ministers must attempt to communicate the mystery being celebrated without calling attention to themselves. How can all of this happen?

Our ministers must be first and foremost people of prayer. One cannot help others to pray unless he or she can pray him/herself.

Prayer is an uncomfortable thing. There is often a conspiracy of silence on the subject, yet it must become a major part of a liturgical minister's life. There are formidable obstacles to prayer; growth in prayer is not easy, but beginnings must be made. There are no tricks or shortcuts, only complete trust in God. Who constantly leads us to new beginnings each time we allow Him.

Liturgical ministers can have all the right training and skills, but without the

desire and ability to pray, both personally and with the assembly, and to share that experience with God in their lives, they cannot "be present to" the assembly of believers. To develop that prayer, the minister must be willing to confront difficult questions about her/himself; questions about values, priorities, fears, sin, faith and God. It must be done privately with God, but it cannot be done solely by oneself. It also needs to be shared with others.

Liturgical ministers should gather in groups to pray, and get in touch with the ways God moves in each of them. Lectors, ushers, music ministers and all the various groups of ministers should meet with their specific ministry groups on a regular basis to pray together and to benefit from ongoing education. At least once a year, all the different ministerial groups should come together to pray and grow in their awareness of God's presence in their lives.

We have moved from simply filling liturgical-ministry roles with anyone who will volunteer, to expecting people to have the talents and gifts necessary for the role and providing necessary programs for their growth. Now we need to move forward again — to an understanding of liturgical ministry as a way of life. The roles must be filled by those willing to go deeper, to get in touch with the ways God moves in their lives, to proclaim that ministry in their daily lives and to become "prayer-ers."

The challenge of being prayer-ers will not be met easily and will not happen by creating new programs. It will require a willingness and deep commitment to become engaged in the act of praying. Specific time set aside each day for personal prayer, and gathering as liturgical ministers to pray together, will mark the beginning. By responding to God's desire for prayer, those who minister will find their lives enriched by His presence and their ministry will proclaim the spirit of His law.

Maquid jesuit HIGH SCHOOL
1800 S. Clinton Ave • Rochester, N.Y. 14618
(716) 473-1130
College preparatory curriculum • Small classes Distinguished Faculty • Comprehensive athletic and extracurricular program • Serving 32 communities • Financial aid based on family need • Grades 8 through 12.
INVEST AN EVENING FOR YOUR SON
OPEN HOUSE FOR NEW PARENTS AND SONS
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25
7:00 PM-9:00 PM

Wedding Guide
RECEPTIONS: Maple Dale Party House, Rose Cali's Village Landing Restaurant, Scarlata's Party House, Take at Island Cottage.
DECORATORS: R.C. Shaheen Paint Co., Decor World, Filmar Florist, Flowers by Stephen.
FURNITURE: Mangurian's.
RECIPES: Palmer Fish N' Seafood.
FLORISTS: Filmar Florist, Flowers by Stephen.
JEWELERS: Bernard J. Hensler & Son Jewelers.
TRAVEL: The Travel Experts.
BAKERIES: CHEESY EDDIES.
BRIDAL SHOPS: Trio Jewelers, 70 STONES to serve you.
PHOTOGRAPHERS: Wedding Candid by Aiwyn Studios, Ted Suss, WEDDING CANDIDS by Bart Shapiro.
PRINTERS: ABBA, TANYA.
CAKE DECORATORS: Martha's Cake Decorating Supplies.
Pampered Pantry, parkleigh, Irondequoit BRIDAL CENTER.

Editor: This anonymous...
My Eucharist...
The full-...
to boy...
Bish...
Father...
and a...
and...
Anti...
Ans...
Editor:
My Eucharist...
The Cou...
one we...
the mai...
and thr...
hater of...
Green.
Chronic...
"explain...
to peopl...
anti-Cat...
there wa...
seems a...
only wa...
sender, a...
reads th...
I feel...
either n...
obvious...
is simp...
actual...
of learn...
very ea...
pletely...
that I...
what I...
Green...
"teacher...
one! H...
"proven...
books a...
against...
himself...
he so pu...
Hand...
Chronic...
the wc...
Wisdom...
God." (
"Take t...
eye!"...
and dri...
not en...
heaven...
Oh, I...
Catholic...
and pra...
before...
Howev...
because...
St. Pau...
by the...
might...
persec...
Christia...
partaki...
the w...
proteste...
teaching...
Paul di...
name...
knocker...
horse...
Damas...
wanted...
How...
the ch...
you, K...
what y...
if you...
comple...
His mc...
Heart, ...
every...
loving...
sinless...
your co...
so muc...
He cou...
better u...