

Time for a 'Re-run' of Gregorian Chant?

Washington, D.C. — "A lot of people are saying it's about time for a re-run" of the ancient Gregorian Chant, Theodore Marier contended recently. Marier is director of the Boston Archdiocesan Choir School and is a champion for the return of the music based on prose rhythms and named after St. Gregory the Great.

Center for Ward Method Studies at Catholic University of America, which will host a symposium here on Gregorian Chant June 19-22.

That symposium will cover such topics as teaching the music by a system devised by Justine Ward more than 60 years ago, and the role of the chant in liturgy, and research and performance develop-

ments. The music has been in a period of decline ever since Vatican II, even though that council encouraged its maintenance and use. Many believe that it was fitting for the controversial compositions to fall into disuse because they were not in the vernacular.

But, with that decline, "unity was destroyed and the tradition that was so much a part of our heritage and culture was disappearing," Marier said.

He stated that two generations of Catholic children have no knowledge of this musical heritage. "Many who come to Boston tell me that they are hearing Gregorian Chant for the first time," he observed.

Peter LaManna, director of music for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia concurred. He said that it is imperative to train future Church leaders in understanding the liturgical force that Gregorian Chant can provide.

"It is the epitome of melodic expression. Its elements result in a technique and science of melody as well as art. Composers study it for this reason," he said.

Marier explained that chant is a free rhythm music, one that has little or no recurring beat or point of intensity. "It tends to wrap itself around the words that

are being sung in a way that enriches the words. It breeds an atmosphere," he said.

A study of the origins of Gregorian Chant has become widely accepted as a research subject in university circles, he noted.

Scholars do not agree on the exact date of the composition of many chants, but considered opinion among many experts indicates the existence of the chants in the psalm tone formulae as early as the origins of Christianity.

Ambrosian hymns are known to date from the time of St. Ambrose, the fourth century, and the propers of the Mass in the official "Graduale Romanum" are believed to have existed and been performed at the time of St. Gregory who died in 603.

Use of the chant has gone through slumps before, most notably during the 16th century because of the preference for polyphonic singing in that period. However chant revived by the mid-19th century, largely thanks to the monks at the Benedictine Abbey at Solesmes.

"Their great contribution was that they produced accurate and musicologically sound transcriptions of the earliest chant, and books edited with great care," Marier said. "They also produced a choir that could show you how it goes and a method of teaching.

"That's where Justine Ward came in. She synthesized the interpretation and produced step-by-step methods of instruction for use here."

Marier admits that bringing Gregorian Chant back to

the position it once enjoyed will be an uphill battle. "But what gives me hope is the reaction I have received from people who have heard about the symposium. A lot of people are saying it's about time for a re-run."

Chant Featured At Pope's Mass

Vatican City (NC) — More than 20,000 choir members from throughout the world are expected to sing a Mass in Gregorian Chant Sept. 25 to mark the 25th anniversary of Pope John Paul II's ordination as a bishop, according to Vatican organizers of the event.

Pope John Paul is scheduled to celebrate the Mass in St. Peter's Basilica four days before the opening of the World Synod of Bishops. The organizers chose the Gregorian Chant Missa VIII "De Angelis" for the celebration.

The pope, born Karol Wojtyla, was ordained a bishop Sept. 29, 1958, as Auxiliary Bishop of Cracow, Poland. He was 38 and became the youngest bishop in Poland.

The anniversary also coincides with the 80th anniversary of St. Pius X's "motu proprio" on sacred music and the 20th anniversary of the Vatican II apostolic constitution on the liturgy, "Sacrosanctum Concilium."

The choral groups scheduled to sing at the Mass include members of the Italian Scholae Cantorum.

Other church choirs may apply to participate by contacting Associazione Italiana Santa Cecilia, Piazza S. Apollinare 49, 00186 Rome, Italy.



Spring Fling

Nazareth College will host an evening of dinner and dancing on Friday, May 20, at the Otto A. Shults Community Center. The event is open to the public and will feature Gene Taylor's orchestra from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. A social hour at 7 p.m. will precede dinner at 8:15 p.m. Committee members planning the affair are, clockwise from lower left, Rosemary Boyle, Olive Thomas, Marie Glavin and Rose Mary Dorsey. Tickets are \$20 per person and reservations can be made by calling the Nazareth College Office of Planning and Development at 586-2525, ext. 385.



Anniversary Liturgy

Some 50 School Sisters of Notre Dame of the Rochester diocese gathered at the Bishop Kearney High School convent last Thursday, May 5, to celebrate the order's 150th anniversary, and also to honor the recent declaration from the Vatican announcing that their foundress, Mother Mary Theresa Gerhardinger, has been recognized by the Church as a woman of "heroic virtue," an honor preliminary to beatification. Concelebrating the Mass were Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, left, and Msgr. Gerard Krieg, fourth from left. Also in attendance were members of the Provincial Team — Sisters Claire Bonneau and Jeannette Blatz, center. Sister Rita Brereton, right, of Boston, was the guest speaker at dinner afterwards.

Church Musicians Forming Association

A number of Rochester area church musicians have long thought that it would be beneficial if an organization were formed to provide a forum where pastoral musicians, clergy and those seriously interested in liturgical music could gather for mutual support, education, social and spiritual opportunities.

With that purpose, the

Genesee Area Music Ministries is being organized. A meeting has been scheduled at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 17, at Old St. Mary's Church, 15 South St., Rochester. All interested are invited to attend and share thoughts and concerns as well as providing input into the direction the organization might take.

The meeting will feature a discussion of music and liturgy led by Father Robert Kennedy, diocesan director of Continuing Education, following an informal social hour. The agenda also will include a business meeting and a brief concert by the Old St. Mary's choir, under the direction of Thomas Donohue, and will conclude with sung Night Prayer (Compline).

Membership is open to all either presently involved in liturgical music or seriously interested in liturgical music and is not restricted with regard to religious affiliation or church of employment. Further information may be obtained by contacting John Kubiniec (328-3210, 473-0754) or Vincent Lenti (275-3015, 338-1784).

Spring Cleaning? Call Us!

We'll pick up your household discards of clothing, furniture, appliance, automobiles, to help the needy.

Volunteers of America
CALL 454-1150
Donations are Tax Deductible

SPINA BIFIDA . . .

A Dark "Secret" Too Long
MAY IS SPINA BIFIDA MONTH IN ROCHESTER

- ★ The Child with Spina Bifida And Hydrocephalus — Educational meeting with presentation by the Greater Rochester Spina Bifida Association and the Birth Defects Center, Strong Memorial Hospital. Film entitled "What is Spina Bifida" with discussion period. Open to public. Free of charge.
Al Sigi Center — 8 P.M. — May 12
- ★ Spina Bifida Association Ninth Annual Appreciation Dinner — To thank those in our community and in our own membership who deserve recognition.
May 20 — The Rochester Hilton — 7 P.M.

Every hour of every day somewhere in the United States a child is born with this major birth defect. Spina Bifida occurs 7 times as often as Muscular Dystrophy and 5 times as often as Multiple Sclerosis. For more information on the nations number 1 birth defect, contact your local chapter at Box 3, Fairport, N.Y. (381-3359).

An Affiliate of the Spina Bifida Association of America

"A SECOND OPINION"

Professionals like your doctor, lawyer, accountant, or funeral director welcome another's opinion, since they know it provides you with peace of mind.

I will, without any obligation, provide a second opinion, as well as information on pre-need, pre-arrangements, or cremation.

This is another way we are carrying on a fifty-two year tradition of guidance, support, and dignified service.

FRANKLIN GRANATA

POLVINO and GRANATA FUNERAL HOME INC.

FRANKLIN G. GRANATA
371 LAKE AVE., ROCHESTER, N.Y. 14608 458-3341

COURIER-
For
On
The dioc
on Young A
conjunction
sity of Ro
Community
educational
May 21, a
Interfaith
theme, "Yo
Hidden L
explored
workshops,
interaction.
NFP
Office
Natural
Education
elected new
Tim Pa
director o
Services D
the new
Charles L
Fisher i
Patricia
Rochester,
health nur
tary, and
of Roches
Center
ty/Junior
at Roche
Technolog
Eight br
elected to
Greg C
Hevero
Neuderfe
Mary Rir
and Mar
Rochester
mert of W
Other
Sister He
Dr. Ruth
and Mar
of Roch
parsons.