



Hospital Altar Dedicated

Bishop Matthew H. Clark was the main celebrant at a special liturgy on Tuesday, Nov. 1, at Rochester General Hospital. A new altar was dedicated in the name of Dr. Francis A. Dobrzynski (1915-1980), an attending physician at the hospital since 1947. Also concelebrating were Father Louis Vasile, the bishop's secretary; Father Donald Schwab, Roman Catholic chaplain at General; and Permanent Deacon Gene Furst. Right, Bishop Clark greets some of the 150 that attended.



Peace Group Honors Bishops

Palo Alto, Calif. (NC) -- The first annual Beyond War Award will be presented Dec. 10 to the U.S. bishops for their pastoral on war and peace. Archbishop John Quinn of San Francisco will accept the award on behalf of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops during a dinner in San Francisco, sponsored by the Creative Initiative Foundation of Palo Alto.

"This award is being made in recognition of the conviction, courage and effort of the bishops in the publication of their historic pastoral letter," Richard Rathbun, the foundation's president, said in a statement.

The foundation, an educational group attempting to change attitudes toward war, plans to give the international award annually to the individual, group or organization making a significant contribution to building a world beyond war, a foundation spokesman said.

Mercy Prayer Center Sets Peace Workshop

A workshop on "Community Discernment toward Peacemaking," was brought to the Courier-Journal's attention late last week. The workshop will be led by Sister Muriel Curran, SSND, and Sister Margaret Mary Mattle, RSM, Nov. 11-13, at the Mercy Prayer Center, 4490 Lake Ave.

The event is organized for parish staffs, church committees, religious committees and other leaders.

The program is billed as one of "reflecting on

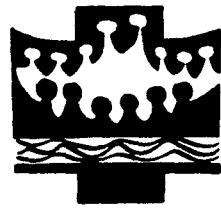
personal and communal history; understanding the patterns of grace and sinfulness that enable and/or limit our capacity for making peace in particular situations; building consensus; setting goals; and learning a process to facilitate others."

The program opens 7:30 p.m. on Friday; and ends 2 p.m. Sunday.

The organizers asked for advance registration, by contacting the prayer center, (716) 663-5351.

Insights In Liturgy

By Father Thomas P. Mull



Liturgy And New Law

On Jan. 25 of this year, Pope John Paul II promulgated a revised Code of Canon Law for the Latin Church. This Code becomes effective on the first Sunday of Advent, Nov. 28. In his talk at the promulgation of this legislation, John Paul said: "...its end is to create such order in ecclesial society that, assigning primacy to love, grace and charisms, it at the same time renders more active their organic development in the life both of ecclesial society and of the individuals belonging to it." ("Sacrae Disciplinae Leges," 1983)

Pope John Paul explored the dynamic effect Vatican Council II had on the Church and how the spirit of the Council deliberations and decisions have been incorporated into the 1983 Code of Canon Law. He concludes: "...it is naturally to be desired that this new canonical legislation will be an effective instrument which the Church herself may use to perfect herself in accordance with the Second Vatican Council, so that she may make herself ever more equal to her salvific task in this world." (Ibid.)

This Code of Canon Law affects all areas of Church life. Liturgy, too is affected and directed. In this article, and one to follow, I want to simply indicate the liturgical areas which are delineated in this Code.

Of primary importance is the fact that people should not expect dramatic change. There will be none. When the document on liturgy

("Sacrosanctum Concilium") was published in 1963, it gave clear direction in which liturgical revision was to occur. In the subsequent years, the celebration of Eucharist and the various sacramental celebrations were discussed and revised. We find even today that the revisions are continuing (e.g. the recently issued "Rite of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick"). With each revision, a General Instruction (GI) was appended. The GI was meant to give indication of guidelines for the celebration. It provides flexibility for local adaptation. The GI for Eucharist and each sacrament remain in effect. Subsequently, the 1983 Code simply endorses these as the stable, ordered process within which liturgies are to be celebrated.

Within the Code, there are directions for the local episcopal conferences (for the United States, the

NCCB) to deal with issues affecting the nation's Church. In many situations, there is further subsidiarity manifested as local bishops shoulder much more responsibility in decision-making. This seems a clear development from Vatican II in which collegiality becomes effective. The Holy See entrusts some of her authority in the National Bishops' Conference which, in turn, entrusts more authority in the local ordinary. Bishops, their liturgical commissions and worship offices are given the responsibility for many local decisions in liturgy.

Within this framework, the Church is invited to celebrate authentically. There are still universal laws to be adhered to; there are still liturgical parameters within which we celebrate; there is still a need to be a "universal" church and not isolated parochial communities; but, there is also a need for the local community to liturgically celebrate itself within its culture and with adaptations. The New Code of Canon Laws invites all of these opportunities.

(Next Week, some of the particulars of the 1983 Code in relation to liturgy will be explored.)

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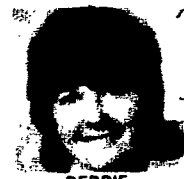
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