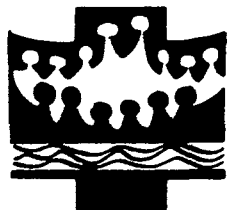


Insights
In Liturgy



By Sister Estelle Martin, RSM

Eucharistic Prayer II

By Pam Schaeffer

Soon after the promulgation of the Constitution of the Sacred Liturgy in 1964, a liturgical commission was established at Rome to implement the Council's decisions. One of the first acts of this commission was to appoint a special committee to study the Eucharistic prayer. Needless to say, this committee's task was most difficult -- that of probing an extremely sensitive area with liturgical reform in mind.

Many Church leaders and some scholars of that time were convinced that the Canon, having passed through 1,500 years unchanged, was a veritable monument of the liturgy and beyond reform. The majority of the bishops, however, saw the need for new Eucharistic prayers that would be included into the reformed liturgy and, furthermore they insisted that these new prayers be held in equal standing with the Roman Canon. Those commissioned to compose the new prayers were given stringent guidelines for the task that insisted upon their keeping to the "genius of the Roman liturgy" and consistency with "the traditional liturgy of the Mass."

By April 1967 the results of the committee's labor was presented to the full commission. After lengthy discussion, and strong opposition from some quarters, on the Feast of the Ascension 1968, the Roman Canon (now known as Eucharistic Prayer I) and three new Eucharistic prayers, along with eight prefaces (more would follow) were published.

The three new Eucharistic prayers, each with a distinct style, share an identical content sequence: dialogue, preface, a more or less (depending on which prayer) lengthy praise passage leading to the consecratory epiclesis (calling upon the Holy Spirit); sacrificial prayers (institution narrative, people's acclamation, prayer of offering); communion epiclesis leading into the intercessions; and the traditional closing doxology, followed by the "Amen" of the community.

Eucharistic Prayer II, the shortest of the prayers, is based on the model given in the "Apostolic Tradition" (3rd century), and attributed to St. Hippolytus. Although there was much reorganization and adaptation of the original text, if one were to place the anaphora ("Offering") of Hippolytus and Eucharistic Prayer II side by side, their likeness could be spotted easily. A proper preface was com-

posed with Eucharistic Prayer II (although optional prefaces for feasts and occasions are also used). It is based on the first part of Hippolytus' anaphora. It is best described as a mini profession of faith as it recounts the entire history of salvation from creation forward through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In that it does not give priority to the single mystery it is somewhat un-Roman. The Sanctus was added to Hippolytus' text and leads into a very brief (some say too brief) passage of praise: "Lord, you are holy indeed, the fountain of all holiness." Yet, even in its brevity it manages to summarize the preface composed to accompany Prayer II in the opening words: "Holy indeed..." the saving deeds of God which are named in the preface. "Fountain of all holiness" is rare phrasing for a liturgical text, yet these few words paint a powerful image and speak of God's life-giving creativity and continually refreshing presence with simple eloquence.

These words of praise lead immediately into the pre-consecratory epiclesis, "Let your Spirit come upon these gifts to make them holy..." These words urge us to look forward to the consecration and alert us to listen carefully to the words of institution which follow. In fact, the text of Hippolytus was adapted for Eucharistic Prayer II to reflect the Roman Canon, reason being to emphasize the words of institution. After the narrative the people acclaim the mystery of faith, there is a prayer of offering, and then, as in the Roman Canon, the communion epiclesis which petitions for a share in the body and blood of Christ. The intercessions (for the Church and hierarchy; for recipients of a baptism, confirmation, or marriage that takes place with the Mass; for the dead and for all present) are appropriately placed together after this second epiclesis. It is interesting to note (perhaps reflecting the 3rd century Church) that only the Mother of God and the apostles are named as intercessors. The prayer ends with the traditional doxology and the "Amen" of those assembled.

It can be said that Eucharistic Prayer II makes good use of the early Church model. It can also be said that much reorganization of the original text and heavy-handed editing liberties were taken by the drafters of this prayer. Yet, throughout Eucharistic Prayer II the noble simplicity of the prayer of early Church Christians shines through and joins the prayer of today's Church community.

AT YOUR PARISH

St. Anne

Palmyra — A Mass will be celebrated by Father James Connolly SJ, director of the diocesan Charismatic Renewal, for the YOW Region prayer groups 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 26 at St. Anne's Church. Further information on the event is available by calling Russ and Rita Goebert, (315) 597-5365.

The Youth Group of St. Anne's Church will hold a rummage sale, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Nov. 16; 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Nov. 17. Ted Craig is chairperson; Rosemarie Vosburg, cochairperson. Further information is available by calling 597-9357.

Holy Apostles

Parishioners and friends of Holy Apostles Church have been invited to a renewal service, 7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 25. Father Foster Rogers will preach. Baby sitting services will be available and a social hour will follow the Mass. Rides will be arranged for those wishing to attend but unable to drive.

Resurrection

Fairport — The Church of the Resurrection will present the most recent videotape by Leo Buscaglia, "Loving Relationships," 7:30 p.m., Monday, Oct. 22. Following the presentation, a group discussion will be held. Buscaglia, a California-based educator, is highly esteemed in certain circles for his thoughts on love. Further information is available by calling Denise Donato, 425-2666; or Carol Stark, 223-4905.

Perpetual Help

A euchre party will be held 8 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 20 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church parish center. Refreshments will be served. Tickets will be available at the door.

Lady of Lourdes

Elmira — The Rosary Altar Society of Our Lady of Lourdes Church will hold a dessert buffet, 7:30 p.m., today, Oct. 17 in the church hall. Tickets are \$1.25.

St. Francis Assisi

A card party is slated 7:30 p.m., Friday, Nov. 9 at St. Francis of Assisi Church hall. Refreshments will be served. A donation of \$2.50 per person will be asked. Reservations are made by calling the rectory during business hours, 436-6693; or Jo Rizzo, 328-2762.

St. Andrew

The Rosary Society of St. Andrew's Church will meet 7:15 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 23 in the Church for a "living rosary," including candle-light processions, flower presentations and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Father Ronald Stacey, moderator of the society, and Mrs. Katherine Tedone, president, will lead the rites. Mrs. Hazel Schneider and Mrs. Dennis Meritt are coordinators.

St. Joseph

Penfield — A Mass will be celebrated for the Charismatic Renewal community, 8 p.m., Oct. 22 at St. Joseph's Church.

St. Francis DeSales

Geneva — Parishioners of St. Francis DeSales Church have issued an invitation to a special Mass for the sick and elderly, 12:45 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 21. At the Mass, the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated. Transportation will be arranged for those persons needing such by calling the rectory, 789-0930.

St. Pius Tenth

The religious education committee of St. Pius Tenth Church has slated several programs for adults this year. Sister Marie Brown SSJ, will present an overview of the sacraments and then concentrate on the sacraments of initiation and healing, Nov. 5, 12 and 19. Father George Heyman will lead a discussion on the Passion Narratives Jan. 29, Feb. 5 and 12, 1985. During Lent, the committee will work with other parish council committees on presentations on the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter, "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response." And James and Donna Fitch will present a program on marriage enrichment, April 29, May 6 and 13. In addition, the committee is training facilitators for the Little Rock Bible Study program, which it hopes to launch in January.

St. Jude

A solemn novena to St. Jude the Apostle will be held 7:30 p.m. each day Oct. 20-28. The rites will be led by Father John M. Egan OP, and will include Mass, sermon and novena prayers. The church is accessible to the handicapped.

St. Rita

West Webster — Parishioners at St. Rita's Church will have a new library dedication during the 8:30 a.m. Mass, Saturday, Nov. 3. Parishioners have been asked to buy a book, read it and donate it to the library. Named the St. Martin de Porres library, the facility will be dedicated in honor of Sister Marie Martin Quinn RSM, pastoral assistant, who has been instrumental in introducing many parishioners to spiritual reading. The public is invited to attend the event. Following the rites, refreshments will be served in the barn.

Holy Apostles

The Church of the Holy Apostles will culminate its celebration of its centenary with a Mass, celebrated by Bishop Matthew H. Clark, 10:30 a.m., Sunday, Oct. 28. Following the Mass a banquet will be served at the Mapledale Party House. Tickets are \$13 per person, are available at the rectory, and must be reserved before Oct. 19.

St. Dominic

Shortsville — Father John Burke, executive director of the Word of God Institute, will direct a week-long Parish Renewal at St. Dominic's Church, Oct. 21-28. The program includes services 7:30-9:30 p.m. each evening. A Bible Sharing Day will be held 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 27 at the parish center; and discussions will be held in various homes in the parish.



St. John, Greece

Pupils at St. John the Evangelist School in Greece "have a ball" with their principal, Sister Marilyn Reeves SSJ, during the annual Mini-Marathon for Catholic Education Oct. 14. Pupils in kindergarten through grade four participated in the two-mile event, a counterpart to the Oct. 6 diocesan marathon for older children, and collected pledges which will be used for a portable stage, gym and science equipment.

The Women's Guild of St. John the Evangelist in Greece will hold a "cookbook tasting" following all Masses, starting at 7:30 a.m., Sunday, Oct. 21. A year in the

making, the cookbook contains 625 recipes and is available for \$7. Those unable to attend the tasting but wishing to purchase a book are asked to call Rose DiBella, 225-0328.

Immaculate

Ithaca — Organizers of Immaculate Conception School's June 21-23 Alumni Weekend celebration are seeking snapshots, photographs, old textbooks (before 1950) and the like. Persons wishing to donate or loan such materials are asked to call the school, 273-2707.

Holy Name

The Ladies Guild of Holy Name of Jesus Parish will sponsor a craft sale 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 3, in the parish recreation hall. Christmas gifts will be offered for sale. Coffee, doughnuts and sandwiches will be available.

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