

**Office of Liturgy
1984-85**

As resource assistant on the Liturgy Office staff, Pam Schaeffer coordinates the office publications, especially editing "Living Liturgy," and the "Insights in Liturgy" column (that appears weekly in the Courier-Journal). She also contributes as a writer for these publications. Among her other duties are the coordination of all office programs, consultation and correspondence in response to telephone and mail inquiries, cataloging and updating the office resource library and providing assistance to the other members of the office staff as needed.



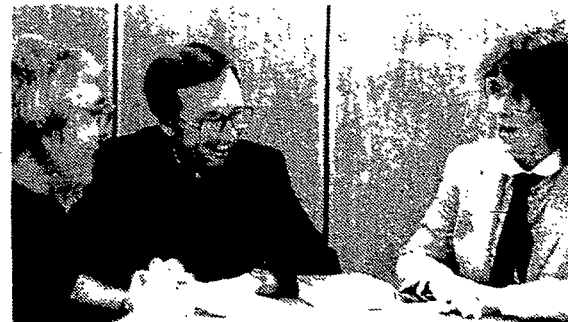
Working with musicians from diocesan parishes is a joy and challenge for John Kubiniec, consultant for liturgical music. In this capacity, John meets with parish musicians in conjunction with the Diocesan Music Committee, advises parishes in the purchase and installation and maintenance of organs and pianos, and provides a referral service for parishes seeking musicians and musicians seeking employment in area churches. John is available to parishes for consultation in all areas of liturgical life (copyrights, worship aids, etc.) He also coordinates music for diocesan celebrations.

**ANNUAL
CATHOLIC
Thanks
Giving
APPEAL**

The Office of Liturgy advocates the "...full, active and conscious participation..." of all the faithful (CSL, #14) in liturgical celebrations through education in liturgical rites, development of all liturgical ministries, resourcing clergy, parishes and other worshipping communities, and planning diocesan liturgical celebrations. Our primary service is offered to parishes throughout the diocese, meeting them individually, in parish clusters or regions, and in diocesan-wide programs. We also serve religious education personnel, school principals and teachers, priests, pastoral assistants, campus ministers, religious congregations and other groups. The office regularly assists other diocesan departments and agencies of common concern.

The Annual Thanks Giving Appeal supports the major portion of the Liturgy Office's activities, as well as staff salaries. These include periodicals, books, and musical resources in the office libraries; printing costs for the monthly "Living Liturgy," normal office expenses; necessary aids for diocesan liturgies; and essentials for office workshops. The office budget must be supplemented by nominal fees for workshops and conferences. These fees help to offset added expenses and allow the office to offer a larger number and wider variety of training possibilities.

The activities you see on this page are some of the principal activities and involvements of the Liturgy Office staff.



As director of the Office of Liturgy, Father Thomas Mull oversees the activities of the office staff. He is directly responsible to Bishop Clark for the continued development of the liturgical life of the diocese. This means interpreting the liturgical guidelines for parishes and groups, acting as liaison between the bishop and various groups, working with other diocesan personnel (pictured are Maribeth Mancini of the Religious Education Office and Vice-Chancellor Father Kevin McKenna) in the area of liturgical development and celebration. Father Mull is responsible for the coordination of all diocesan liturgies as well as participating in the on-going programs of the office (as resource and/or speaker).



Future eucharistic ministers are instructed in eucharistic theology, the historical development of the Mass, the origin and spirituality of ministry and the practicalities of distributing communion by Sister Nancy Burkin SSJ. Sister Nancy is also responsible for introductory formation programs for lectors and ushers as well as enrichment programs for eucharistic ministers and lectors and training programs for parish liturgy committees. She also coordinates the parish liturgy evaluation program and the 10-week liturgy committee formation program.

Father Bruce Ritter



NO ROOM AT THE INN

The Innkeeper said, No. I can't help you, he said. Go away, he said.

It was late at night. The inn was very crowded. The young couple was poor. The husband, frantic with anxiety, insisted and pleaded and argued desperately. Look, my wife is going to have a baby any minute. Please, you've got to let us in. Clearly, there were no large tips forthcoming to inspire the Innkeeper's compassion and understanding. You can't take responsibility for every pilgrim and traveller and wanderer who knocks on your door, even if the girl is young and tired and about to have a baby!

After he turned them away, I wonder if the Innkeeper ever gave the young mother and her husband a second thought? Listen, I know exactly how that innkeeper felt. Maybe he'd had a bad day. He wasn't such a bad guy. You just can't assume he was an unfeeling heartless wretch and sweep him out of your mind like so much dirt. He must have had his reasons. And besides, it turned out okay. The young couple found a cave on a hillside where some shepherds stabled their animals. The 14-year-old girl had her baby there. It turned out all right.

Many years ago, two kids knocked on my door one night! It was late and I had had a bad day. I didn't want to wake up. I didn't want to answer the door. I was tired and had gone to bed angry. There were a bunch of kids bedded down on the living room floor and the six bunk beds were filled. I had been mugged earlier that day and one of my kids stole the grocery money—and I didn't like any of my kids very much. They just didn't appreciate me and weren't very grateful... Playing the role of noble martyr to the hilt, I opened the door.

Two kids stood there, uncertainly, obviously reading the look on my face. One of the kids said: Are you Bruce, and I said, Yes. And he said, do you take kids in? And I said, Yes. Can we stay with you? he said. And I said, No, because we have no room. The kid began to cry. Where can I go? What

can I do? he said. And I said, you can go back out into the street, and you can look sad.

The kid stopped crying, and he looked at me. I can do that, he said. So he did, or they did, they both went back out into the street. One boy was 15, the other was 14. I never saw them again.

"Jesus was, like my kids, a wanderer and nomad, with no place to lay His head."

I can still see their faces, just about as clearly today as I could that night so many years ago. I can still see the tears on the boy's face. I can see how the other kid stood, and the way he looked at me.

I wonder if the Innkeeper kept remembering, too.

Jesus has to love my kids, I'm sure of that, in all their pain and sadness—for Jesus was, like them, a wanderer and nomad, with no place to lay His head. Like most of my kids He was born in poverty and welcomed by outcasts. He was no stranger to the hunger and fatigue and misunderstanding and rejection of their lives either. Perhaps more than any one else, they have the right to be called the least of His brethren, and the right too, to His special love and mercy for the wandering lost sheep that He cares about so much.

Look, Christmas is not the time for sad letters about my kids—letters that could perhaps diminish your own happiness. Christmas is a time for joyful thoughts about the Son of God who loved us with such an immeasurable, longing love. We celebrate His birth and childhood and innocence with the giving of gifts and speaking of our own love. We try to make our own love visible.

Let our celebration be simple and unsophisticated. He was just a child in a stable. Let our joy be unhurried and unharried. The angel wished us peace and good will. Let us give gifts, also, to Him as the wise men did, and in giving gifts to others let us give in His name and in love, for we are all nomads and pilgrims together.

Thank you for giving that gift of love to my kids. Your kids now. Because of you, thousands of children and young people are helped every day. Because of your love, thousands are saved from lives of degradation and

humiliation. Because you haven't stopped caring and helping, we at Covenant House are able to touch these kids with your hands, to love them with your love, to share the blessings God has given you to share with them.

Maybe my kids won't know that for a while. Maybe only when Jesus draws us all to be with Him and the Father will we all know each other and experience that special shock of recognition that must be one of the great joys of heaven. You're going to meet a lot of beautiful kids who will know your name and know your face and reach out to you with joy. And, I hope, you'll meet a couple of innkeepers, who made a tragic mistake and said No when they should have said Yes.

I wish you all His peace and His joy, and the certain knowledge of His love. Thanks, again, for loving my own homeless nomads who, because of you, do have a place to lay their heads. Always pray for us, please, as we never stop praying for you and thanking God for you.

I want to help make room for a few more homeless kids. Enclosed is my gift of: \$ _____
please print:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____

ZIP: _____ AP (EX) _____

Please send this coupon with your donation to

COVENANT HOUSE
Father Bruce Ritter
P.O. Box 2121
Times Square Station
New York, NY 10108



LIFE ON THE STREET IS A DEAD END

Father Bruce Ritter, OFM Conv., is the founder and President of Covenant House, which operates crisis centers for homeless and runaway boys and girls all over the country.

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