

'Do you love me?' echoes through liturgy

By Father Robert S. Bourcy
Diocesan Liturgical Commission

When Tevey asked his wife, Golde, "Do you love me?" she looked at him in puzzlement. So he asked again, "Do you love me?"

Golde replied, "What do you mean, do I love you? I have been married to you all these years, haven't I?"

"But do you love me?" Tevey continued questioning.

Exasperated, Golde answered, "I have given you four daughters. I keep the house, do your laundry and you have to ask, 'Do I love you?'"

This scenario from "Fiddler on the Roof" could be seen in another way as

God asking us, "Do you love me?" At first we may be quick to say "Of course!" But after that response God might just ask us again, "Do you love me?" And we might respond, "Need you even ask? I pray, go to church every Sunday, give to the parish, tithe ..."

Even so God may still inquire, "But do you love me?" The real question is: How in touch are we in the depths of our being with the love we profess to our God?

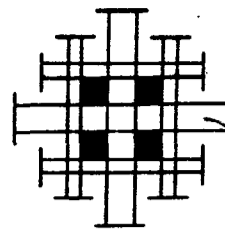
We are still celebrating the glories of Jesus' resurrection during this Easter season. Repeatedly on these Sundays of Easter, we are asked time and time again, "Do you reject Satan, do you believe in God ... the resurrection of the body and life everlasting?"

I relish this renewal of our baptismal promises. It was baptism — passing through living waters — that welcomed me into the family of Christ, the church. As wonderful as that celebration may have been for my family on my baptismal day, as an adult I must now live out that commitment and renew what I believe.

By our baptisms we become initiated into the church. That initiation continues for all of us as we experience ongoing conversion — dying to self and raising ourselves in the mysteries of the Lord Jesus. Every opportunity to ask ourselves if we believe — if we love — is a chance to discover growth, new awareness, a more profound experience of mutual love.

If we find ourselves perplexed by this weekly questioning, maybe there are other questions we should be addressing: Who am I? Why am I? Why am I here? What do I bring to this celebration? What will I

From Repentance to Rebirth



leave with? What will my response be "out there" in the world? But all of these questions simply bring us back to "Do you love me?"

Christianity is about three things — belonging, believing and becoming. Baptism is about belonging, believing and becoming. Out of love, our families baptized us, enabling us to belong to the church. From that belonging, our faith matures, leading us to believe. And by believing we participate in the ongoing process of becoming. Becoming has infinite possibilities.

Listening to God's question, "Do you love me?" let us renew our baptismal life joyfully among those infinite possibilities.

GVOC sets concert of Brahms requiem

The Genesee Valley Chorus and Orchestra, under the direction of Virginia Hogan, SSJ, will present the final concert of its 1989-90 season on Sunday, May 6.

The program will consist of "A German Requiem," which is the largest and considered the most important choral composition by Johannes Brahms.

The concert will feature soprano and baritone soloists Trudy and Allan Mosher.

The performance is scheduled for 4 p.m. at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, 4095 East Ave., Rochester. Tickets — priced at \$5.50 — may be obtained from GVOC members, at the Perinton Town Hall or at the door.

Great Lakes Center offers work discernment program

ROCHESTER — The Great Lakes Ministry Center will offer another session of "Pathways," an intensive workshop in life and work discernment and planning, beginning May 11, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, 4095 East Ave. The workshop combines the insights of career

development, psychology and spirituality. The initial session will be followed by a mini-series of discernment sessions. Cost is \$125 per person. Scholarships are available. Workshop size is limited and registration will be on first come, first serve basis.

For information, call 716/461-5490.

Cenacle to present retreat series in May

Father Simeon Gallagher, a Capuchin-Franciscan retreat leader of national renown, will lead a series of special-interest programs at the Cenacle Center for Spiritual Renewal during the first week in May.

Father Gallagher will address the "Spirituality of Singleness" May 4-6 for men and women who have always been single. On Monday, May 7, married couples are invited to an evening of enrichment from 7-10 p.m.

A day of prayer for men and women on

Wednesday, May 9, will focus on Marian themes and the lessons Mary offers about responding to God's call. The programs begins at 10 a.m. and concludes at 3 p.m.

Father Gallagher's final program is an overnight renewal for mothers trying to balance their needs with those of their families. The retreat begins Friday, May 11, at 7 p.m. and concludes Saturday, May 12, at 3:30 p.m.

For more information about program costs and registration, contact the Cenacle at 693 East Ave., Rochester, N.Y., or call 716/271-8755.

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