

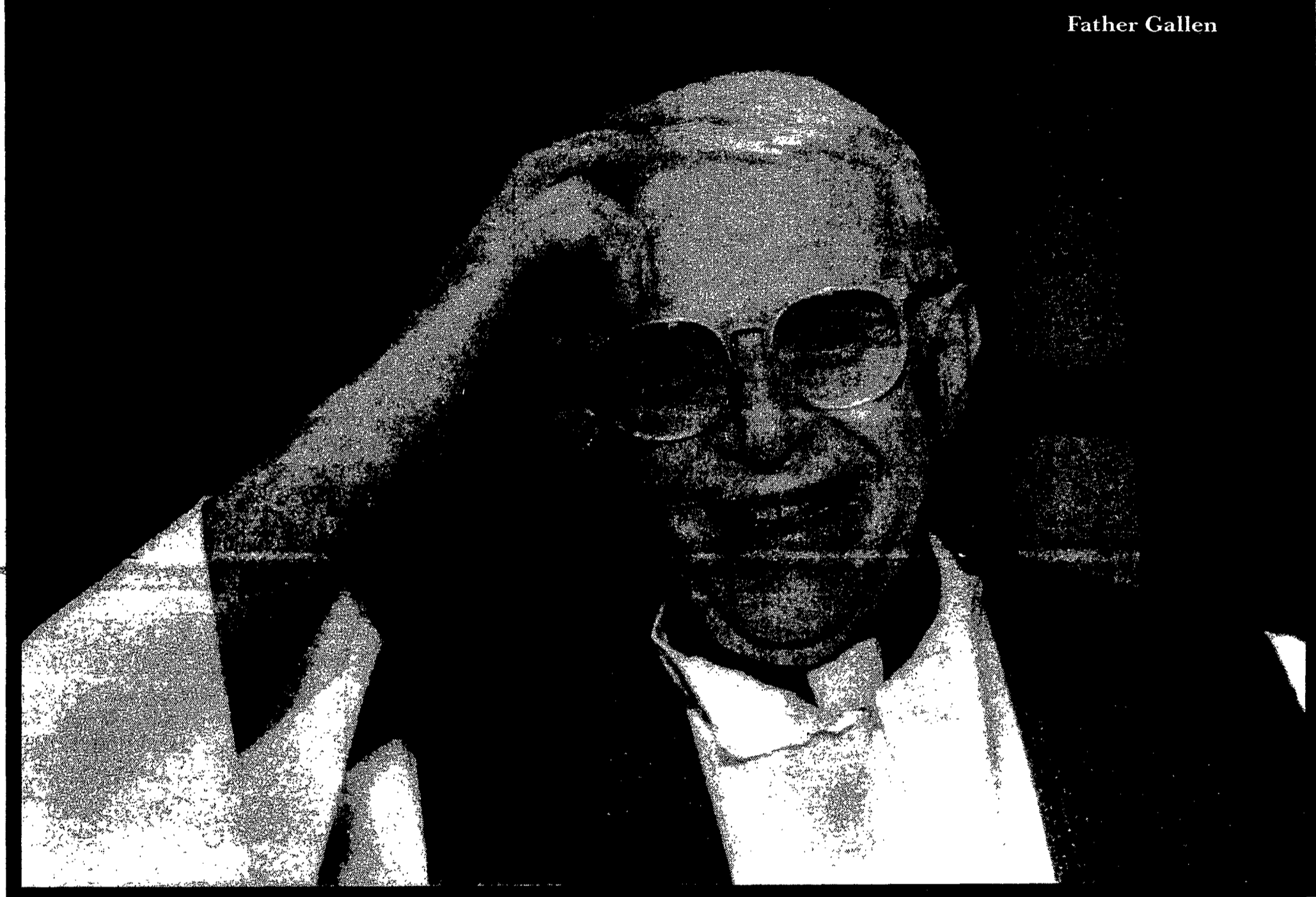


Catholic Courier

DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK ■ VOL. 106 NO. 9 ■ THURSDAY, December 1, 1994 ■ 75¢ ■ 16 PAGES

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Father Gallen



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Father John Gallen, SJ, founder of the National Academy of Liturgy, led a parish mission at St. Leo's Church in Hilton from Nov. 13-15.

Liturgists seek to promote inculturation of Mass

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

Founder of the National Academy of Liturgy, Father John Gallen, SJ, wants to let U.S. Catholics know that the changes Vatican II wrought in the Mass are far from over.

"A lot of priests think – and maybe a lot of bishops think – that the renewal is over," Father Gallen said in a phone interview from his office in Santa Clara, Calif. "(But) we've only gotten halfway in the reform."

In addition to his other achievements, Father Gallen is past editor of "Modern Liturgy" magazine, founder of the Corpus Christi Center in Phoenix, Ariz., and former director of the Center for Pastoral Liturgy at the University of Notre Dame.

The priest, who directed a mission at St. Leo's in Hilton in early November, noted that this Sunday, Dec. 4, marks the 31st anniversary of the publishing of Vatican II's "Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy."

He added that the council's document called for renewing the eucharistic liturgy in two stages, and that the first stage is nearly completed.

Stage one called for the church to recover the liturgy's authentic tradition, a process manifested in such activities as the revision of liturgical service books, he

said.

In fact, the Constitution on Sacred Liturgy dealt with such renewal when it explained that Jesus instituted the Eucharist at the Last Supper "in order to perpetuate the sacrifice of the Cross throughout the ages until he should come again, and so to entrust to his beloved Spouse, the Church ... a sacrament of love, a sign of unity, a bond of charity."

Furthermore, the Constitution stated: "The Church, therefore, earnestly desires that Christ's faithful, when present at this mystery of faith, should not be there as strangers and silent partners."

Most liturgical experts agree that few, if any, Catholic parishes still treat the faithful as "strangers and silent partners." Extensive lay participation in eucharistic celebrations is taken for granted now, but, Father Gallen stressed, the council also called Catholics to create liturgies that reflected their cultural background.

The priest elaborated on this call in an essay he provided by facsimile to the *Catholic Courier*.

"In American terms, this means that we need to create American eucharist, American initiation, an American song of praise to sing in the Presence of the Holy One," he wrote in his essay.

Known as "inculturation," the second stage of Vatican II's liturgical renewal was the subject of a docu-

ment published in March of this year by the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments.

"The diversity of certain elements of liturgical celebrations can be a source of enrichment, while respecting the substantial unity of the Roman rite, the unity of the whole church and the integrity of the faith," stated the document titled, "Instruction: Inculturation and the Roman Liturgy."

The document included principles and practical norms on liturgical inculturation by dealing with such practices as language, music, gesture, posture, hand-clapping, rhythmic swaying, dance, art, popular devotion and the altar.

Inculturation is already taking place in some Catholic parishes, Father Gallen said, most notably those consisting of Hispanics or African-Americans.

Father Gallen's contention was backed up locally by Father Robert J. Kennedy, chairman of the diocesan Liturgical Commission. Diocesan parishes made up primarily of Hispanics or blacks have incorporated their own cultural characteristics in the Mass' music and rituals, he said.

Other Catholics, such as those who hail from the

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