



YOUR MASS COMMENTATOR

With the liturgical reforms introduced by Vatican II came the Mass Commentator or Leader who directs the participation of the people during the religious functions. He is most welcome, indeed, because the officiating priest cannot conveniently perform the task of MC and because the presence of a layman near the altar eloquently manifests the participation of the laity at the sacred rites.

However, there are occasions when instead of promoting the participation of the people and adding to the beauty of the liturgy, the Mass Commentator or Leader hinders and spoils the same. This happens under the following circumstances:

1. When the Commentator is not properly dressed for the occasion.
2. When the Commentator is not gifted with a voice appropriate for this task.
3. When he stammers and mispronounces or is not understood.
4. When he becomes the substitute of the people in the responses and hymns.
5. When he does not sing properly.

To be a Mass Commentator is to serve the people of God. To serve, good will and intention are not enough. One must have certain natural qualities. Hence, not every volunteer should be given this honor. It should rather be given by invitation. We must bear in mind that the MC is supposed to help inspire the

worshippers and never to discourage them from going to Church, by his shabbiness, unpleasant voice, defective reading, and out of tune crooning.

YOUR ORGANIST

Congregational singing is, indeed, very important in Liturgical celebrations. A Mass without music may be likened to the silent movies of yesteryears. Hence, it is very discouraging to note that in many churches the singing is very poor. One of the causes is the lack of a good Organist, and the lack of a good Organ or Harmonium in the first place.

In this matter the Protestant Churches are far ahead of us. It seems to be a policy for them to have a good Organist in every Church they open. In fact Protestant Churches give scholarships in music for that purpose.

Is it really too much to ask our parishes and dioceses to provide for this urgent need of our Church?

His Eminence

JULIO R. CARDINAL ROSALES Archbishop of Cebu

Born September 18, 1906, in Calbayog City; ordained priest on June 2, 1929; consecrated Bishop of Tagbilaran on September 21, 1946; transferred to the Archdiocese of Cebu on February 19, 1950; elevated to the Sacred College of Cardinals by His Holiness Pope Paul VI on March 28, 1969; he celebrated his Silver Jubilee as Bishop on September 21, 1971, in the Archdiocese of Cebu.

To His Eminence we extend our warmest congratulations and best wishes.

● *Boletín Eclesiástico de Filipinas*