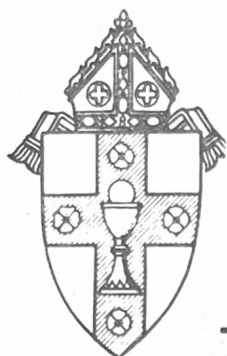
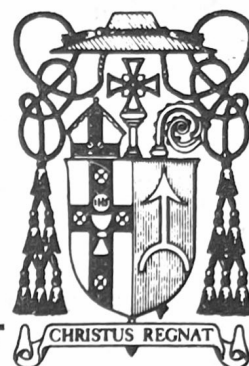


the eucharistic catholic



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348 West 14th Street, New York, New York 10014



SOMETHING NICE FOR CHRISTMAS

When Fr. John was in San Diego last summer he visited the old Spanish Mission and was enamoured with the silk canopy suspended over the pulpit. Such a canopy is traditionally placed over a pulpit as a sign that a bishop is in residence or will make a visitation.

No sooner said than done. A picture of the Spanish canopy was given to Fr. Leo and on Christmas Eve Beloved Disciple had a beautiful canopy of its own.

The canopy consists of alternating green and purple panels made of the finest silk and is framed in gold. Green is the traditional color of bishops and purple is, of course, the color of our church signifying our apostolate to the gay community.



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Beloved Disciple's unique Mummers Play once again inaugurates a New Year. Performed after the 2:00 p.m. Mass on the three Sundays following Christmas this ancient folk ritual celebrates the passing of the winter solstice (death) and the coming of new life and the fertility of spring.

SOUND OFF

by the Editor

The tragic murders of Mayor Moscone and San Francisco Supervisor, Harvey Milk, have rightly raised the consciousness and affected the emotions of the gay community. Mayor Moscone was a good friend to all minority groups and Harvey Milk was, of course, one of our own. That his career in public life was cut short so soon is doubly tragic for the gay and lesbian community.

A special Mass Intention was made for both Mayor Moscone and Harvey Milk on Sunday, December 3.

Remembering these friends at a special Mass is the normal, natural way we do things at Beloved Disciple. We remember and we pray and as we grieve we are also comforted because we know our God is with us and, in a very real sense, so are our departed brothers. God takes His own unto Himself and in the Communion of Saints there is no death.

Later on the same day a Memorial Service was held for the gay community at the Metropolitan Duane Methodist Church. There were no prayers—no readings from Scripture.

CHURCH OF THE BELOVED DISCIPLE

348 West 14th Street
New York, N.Y. 10014

SUNDAY MASSES

2:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

A coffee hour follows each Mass

DAILY MASSES

Tues., Weds., Thurs.

6:30 p.m.

Phone: (212) 242-6616

COUNSELLING SERVICE

Our new priests are all available for personal counselling and we are pleased that ads placed in the Village Voice have drawn a number of inquiries. All counselling is strictly confidential. Have a problem? Maybe we can help.

CONSEJERIA EN ESPANOL

Si Ud. es de habla espanola y tiene un problema personal o espiritual favor de llamar al Padre Gabriel al no. 242-6616.

VOCATIONS

Your church is a growing one by its very nature, and, quite literally, a seemingly inexhaustible supply of future priests is needed to accomplish the tasks ahead. St. John's Theological Seminary was founded four years ago to train men and women for the priesthood.

Those who have come to it have felt what we call a "vocation" to serve God. Perhaps you have thought that it would be nice if you had such a vocation but were not sure whether you could recognize its reality or what is expected of you to bring it to fruition. And perhaps you might have wondered whether a vocation could lead to a particular ministry other than the priesthood.

If you have any questions about this part of church life or would like to find out what our seminary life is really like, please contact Fr. Mark Bradley, Prefect, St. John's Seminary, 348 West 14th Street, New York, N.Y. 10014.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Letters to the Editor are welcome provided they are signed and bear a return address. Names will be withheld from material selected for publication upon request. Questions, opinions, poetry and articles on religion and other topics are also welcome. Write to: The Editor, VIA, Church of the Beloved Disciple, 348 West 14th Street, New York, N.Y. 10014.

SAINT NICHOLAS FAIR

We seem to have started something when we held our first St. Nicholas Fair last year. This year's Fair was a real winner and the church made many friends. The church also made \$1300.00.

The donations were of a uniformly high quality and many a lucky purchaser got a good deal in Christmas gift selections. Some of the merchants who donated things dropped by to join in the fun and the parishioners who had gone out into the community to solicit the donations reported good vibes from those whom they approached.

It was especially nice to see a number of children at the Fair as well as numerous neighbors and friends from around the area. Saint Nicholas himself greeted visitors in the narthex of the church and many people came in off the street to light a candle and say a prayer.

Later on during the festivities a modern incarnation of the original Saint Nick, Santa Claus, appeared much to the delight of the kids (and some parishioners) who rushed to sit on his lap.

BOILER ROOM BLUES

Last month our antique boiler was carefully restored and for a few weeks at least we enjoyed an even flow of heat which was more equitably distributed throughout the church. Alas! The "warm as toast" atmosphere was not to remain. Our equally antique oil tanks gave up the ghost and along with it a sea of oil that quickly filled up the boiler room. After two weeks of wintry penance new oil tanks were installed on December 13th. Total cost: \$1050.00.

Thank God for the St. Nicholas Fair! Although it would have been nice to use the proceeds for more appealing projects, we are both sobered and grateful that when an emergency came up God saw to it that it could be taken care of. Oh well, maybe Santa will drop another \$1050.00 down the chimney and the projects planned with the Saint Nicholas money will be done after all.

CRIME PREVENTION WEST OF HUDSON STREET

The Abington Square Community Group met twice in December to discuss crime in the area west of Hudson Street and to plan a program of crime prevention with the cooperation of police and various gay establishments.

There appears to be a rising number of muggings, beatings and robberies in the area in the pre-dawn hours. Often it involves teen-age punks attacking lone pedestrians they believe to be gay.

Where are the police?

Captain Ryan of the Sixth Precinct explained that police patrols are determined by the number of crimes reported in any given area. Colored pins on police maps denote types of crimes and the times they occur. The area between 11th and 14th Streets from Hudson Street to the river is virtually "pinless."

We suspect that gay people do not report crimes committed against them. The Community Group reasoned that if this area is to be made safe, we must encourage the reporting of all crimes in the area.

MCC and Beloved Disciple were given the task of placing posters and fliers throughout the area, especially in the bars and clubs themselves. The fliers will encourage the reporting of crimes.

Anyone afraid to make a report to the police can call the Church of the Beloved Disciple (242-6616). Someone from the church or MCC will accompany you to the Sixth Precinct. In this type of situation, the police are our friends.

The area will be better patrolled as soon as the police maps reflect the actual number of crimes committed. If the project is successful, it will be expanded to encourage the reporting of crimes in the whole Abington Square Community.

ON BEING GAY AND CHRISTIAN

Beginning with this issue Fr. Mark Bradley presents a series of articles dealing with the special needs, problems and interests of the Christian gay man and woman.

"The Problem with Sexuality Today"

"What is required of us is neither an obsession about sex nor a negation of sex but a forthright positive attitude towards it."

—Dr. Norman Pittinger

It is apparent that we are sexual human beings. We all have sexual drives that lead to a desire to be united with someone else. Our sexuality is central to our existence and a vital part of our personality. What does this mean from a Christian stance? The Church has long made statements about our sexuality but in reality it has never developed a specifically Christian interpretation of human sexuality.

The Church has often supplied a paradoxical attitude towards sex. On one hand she almost regrets the fact that we have a sex drive and on the other hand she has taught that all good Catholics should marry and raise large families. Sex within marriage is good or at least permissible. For those outside the married state she exalts celibacy or virginity as a higher state and has given the impression that the acceptance of sex is little more than a grudging consent to an inescapable fact rather than a glad recognition of one of the truly good things in God's creation.

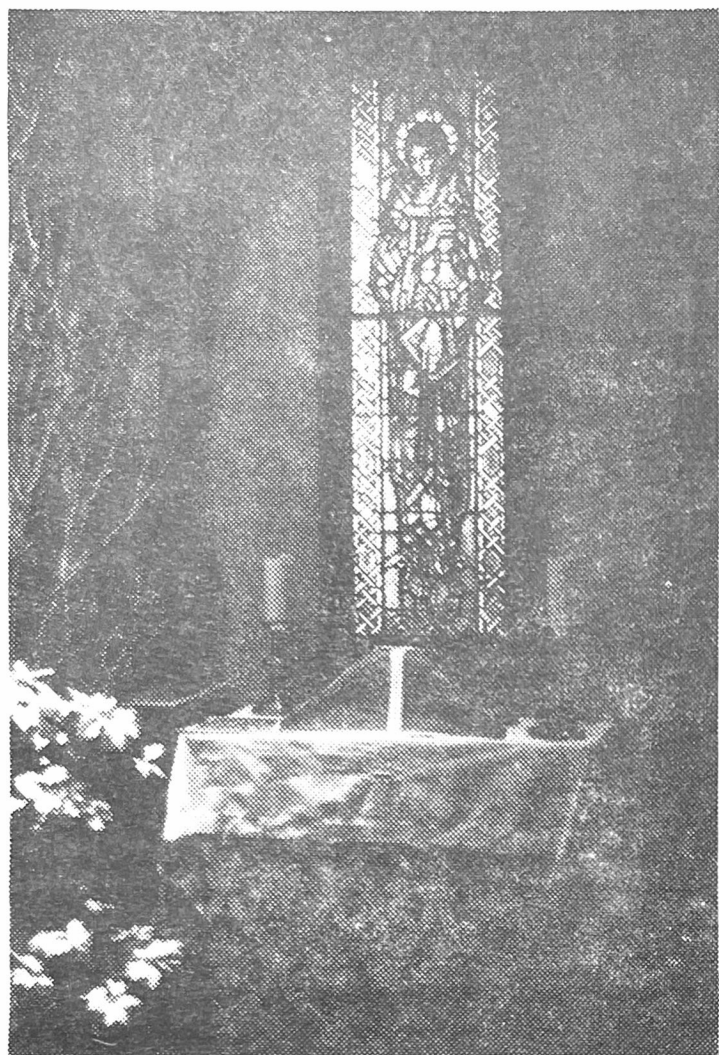
Certainly, confusion towards sexuality is furthered by the attitude of society towards sex. Again, we are taught that sex is only for those who are married. Society's "official teaching," however, is systematically undermined by Madison Avenue ads that are overtly or at least suggestively sexual. "Have you had any lately?" "Fly me." Our literature, our songs and even our diets are defined and interpreted with a sexual meaning. Where does that lead us? To confusion.

How does Christian faith relate to sexuality? Faith is the commitment of one's self to the reality of Love—God. To the Christian all of God's creation is an expression of God's love. The world, as God's creation, is a good world and in it we find many opportunities for abundant life. Sexuality is central to that life. Hence it is good and to be used as an aid to happiness and an abundance of living.

The affirmation of Christian faith is that in and through, beyond and behind, below and above this human life is the Eternal Love; while man is a "lover-in-the-making," moving towards that Eternal Love. We must come to realize that human sexuality is part of that pattern of love.

—Fr. Mark Bradley

Next month: "Our sexual nature is central to our nature; it is an essential aspect of our personality."



CHRISTMAS 1978



THE PEOPLE'S PRIESTHOOD

Outreach Program

*"By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."
—John 13:35*

Christians who are turned on to the message of God's love are eager to express the joy and blessings of this message to all people. We are assured in our Catholic Faith and want to give this message to all people.

The Outreach Program of our church is an exciting and effective way of inviting people to share our common bond of love. It is the foundation program for the future of the church and becomes operative the instant a newcomer enters the church.

Every visitor is welcomed by a Lay Priest of Outreach into our church family. The visitor is given a guest envelope which contains a welcoming letter from Bishop Robert and an explanation of some of the unique features of our Gallican Liturgy. The envelope also contains pamphlets explaining our church and its theology.

Newcomers are also given a "Let's Get Acquainted" card which they are invited to fill out and leave with us or mail to us. This way we are able to learn what people need and want from a church and we can plan to meet these needs and wants accordingly.

Within days of a newcomer's first visit he or she receives a letter expressing our prayer that their worship experience was a source of real joy and blessing. All visitors are invited to become parishioners and the six week Membership Class is offered to them.

Our Lay Priests receive extensive training and the secret of their success is sincerity, genuine warmth and real pleasure in meeting and talking to newcomers. Outreach is essential to the Christian family and Christ, Himself, commanded us to go forth and "teach all nations." In order to do this we must first be assured in our own faith and be active members of a living church. Caring for people is what it's all about.

A new training class for Lay Priests of Outreach will begin in February. Why not check it out? It may just be the way of serving God that you've been looking for.

Fr. Victor Timothy

THE EUCHARIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

The question often rises when people hear of the Eucharistic Catholic Church as to just exactly what is meant by the word "catholic." In general, all Christians who remain faithful to the sacramental tradition and within the Apostolic Succession of all pre-Reformation Christianity are Catholics. The word itself simply means universal, which is to say that the Church is for *all* humankind irrespective of nationality, language, class, race or sexual preference. In the Creed we affirm that Christ established a One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. We read in the Acts of the Apostles how Christ gave authority to his Apostles to "loose and bind" and His promise that the Holy Spirit will guide and protect the Church under Apostolic authority from error. The Apostles were, of course, the first bishops and bishops are the supreme authority in whatever part of the Church placed under their care. The original Apostles consecrated other bishops to continue their work after their deaths. Our Bishop Robert was consecrated within the direct line of succession going back to the original Apostles.

In forthcoming issues of VIA we shall attempt to explain the fundamentals of the Catholic Faith and how God's love comes to us in the Sacraments.



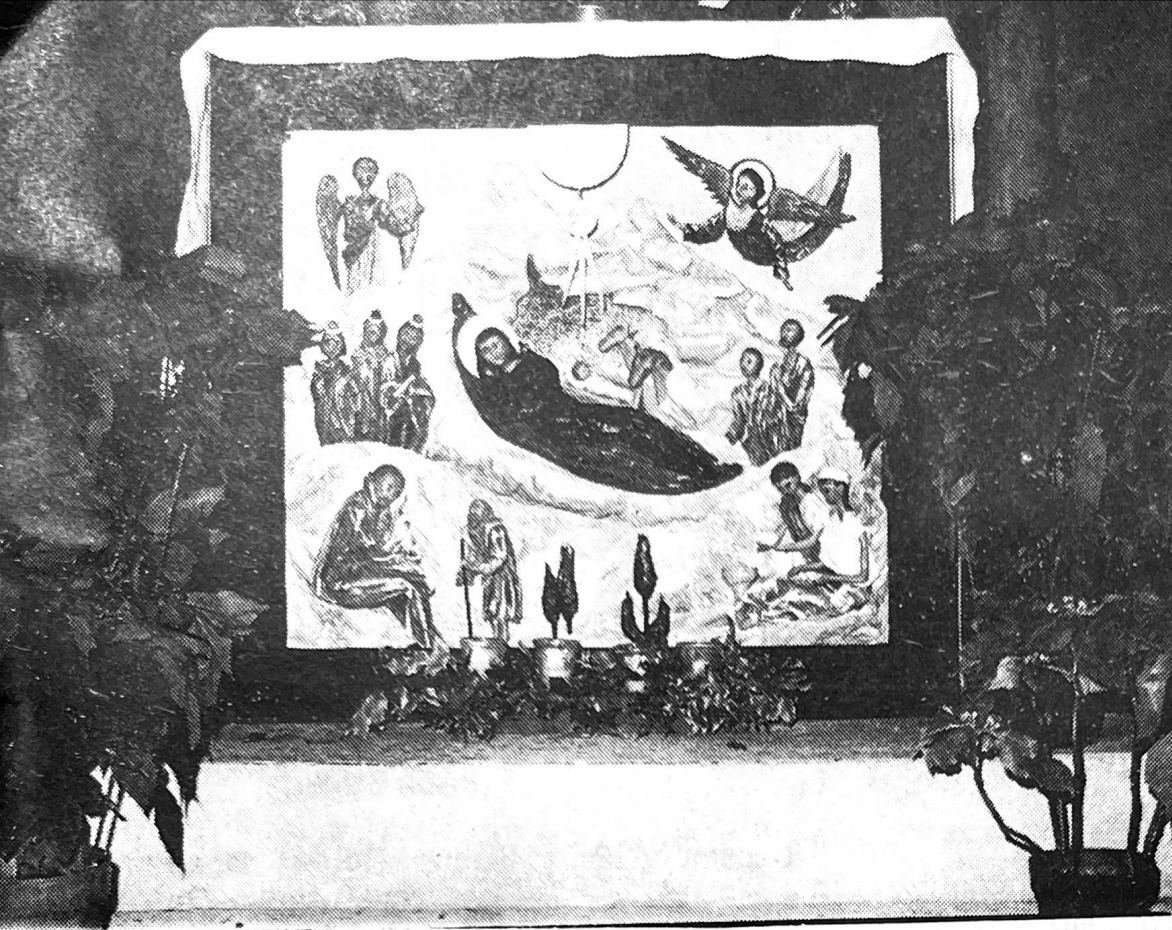
DAY BY DAY...

... a chronicle of what's been happening in the church, where we've been and what we've done in the community.

December 2:	Annual St. Nicholas Fair	December 13:	New oil tanks installed
December 3:	Special Mass Intention for Mayor Moscone and Harvey Milk	December 17:	"Snowball" — Christmas buffet and dance in the Parish Hall.
December 3:	Memorial Service for Harvey Milk at Metropolitan Duane Methodist Church	December 18:	Abington Square Community Group met at Metropolitan Duane to further a crime prevention campaign west of Hudson Street.
December 4:	Abington Square Community Group met at Beloved Disciple to discuss crime west of Hudson Street	December 19:	Bishop Robert taped a one-hour talk show for Radio Station WBAI
December 5:	Officers of A.A. New Group met at Beloved Disciple in a preliminary meeting	December 20:	New Allen organ installed
December 6:	CSLDC met to elect officers. Fr. Gabriel was the voting member for the church.	December 21:	Bishop Robert addressed the West Side Discussion Group on Jesus and a Gay Christmas
December 11:	Benefit for the Gay Switchboard at Badlands. Frs. Mark and Gabriel represented the church.	December 22:	Bishop Robert and Fr. John taped a show for WNBC, Metropolitan Reports, aired on Christmas Eve.
		December 25:	Solemn Pontifical Midnight Mass marking the 32nd anniversary of the first religious service held for gay men and lesbians.

WANTED

Clippings of newspaper or magazine articles mentioning the Church of the Beloved Disciple.



THE CHRISTMAS CRECHE

After the Consecration Beloved Disciple's unique third dimensional Icon creche was again unveiled at Christmas Midnight Mass. The creche is set into the front of the altar and is hidden by an antependium until the unveiling.



the EUCCHARISTIC CATHOLIC

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