

Catholics bid their leader farewell and thanks

Story: KATHY PARRISH
Photos: DAVID FRANK

After five years assisting with mass in her Catholic parish, Phillaire Dudley is an old hand at church processions. But the Southfield teen was just a little nervous carrying her white candle down the aisle Sunday.

For there were 12,000 in the congregation, the chapel was Joe Louis Arena and following her were eight bishops, 300 priests and guest of honor John Cardinal Dearden.

"It was very exciting, but my mouth was a little dry and there were butterflies in my stomach," admitted the sophomore at Our Lady of Mercy High School, Farmington Hills.

"It was a one-time experience that doesn't happen every day."

Gathered together for the largest

communion service ever held in the 1.2-million member archdiocese were representatives of all 345 parishes and missions in six counties. The occasion was a Mass of Thanksgiving honoring Dearden, who suffered a heart attack in 1977 and resigned for health reasons this summer.

Providing music was a 2,000-voice choir drawn from 75 parishes and high schools.

Dressed in a friar-type robe she wears at St. Eugene Catholic Church in Detroit, Miss Dudley was one of many chosen to represent the diversity of the archdiocese.

THE REV. DALE MELCZEK, the cardinal's secretary, said the guest of honor put in no special requests.

"We just tried to truly reflect the multi-ethnic, multi-dimensional aspect of the archdiocese," said Melczek, who enlisted the aid of 27 other priests to pull the event together.

Arriving in downtown Detroit on buses and via car pools from as far away as Monroe and St. Clair counties, the worshippers started entering the orange and red-decorated arena 90 minutes before the 3:30 p.m. service.

Snowmobile-suited parking lot attendants, used to hockey fans, urged each other to "Watch your language today."

"No lustin' today, no lustin'," advised one burly attendant, poking fun at a recent Vatican announcement regarding sexual relations.

As parishioners found their seats, priests carrying communion vessels were ushered into a small room where white vestments lay waiting for them to don. Carrying eulogium from their own churches because of the large number of people taking the eucharist, they were urged to hold onto the vessel tops so they wouldn't lose them.



Southfield resident Phillaire Dudley lights candles for the procession opening the Mass of Thanksgiving. The 15-year-old is a sophomore at Our Lady of Mercy High School, Farmington Hills.

Calmly greeting the crowd, which cheered loudly when he entered the arena, Dearden said the service was planned — and then he was told about it.

"BUT I'M HAPPY it was planned," he said, adding that the Mass of Thanksgiving offered him a chance to thank the parishioners he's served.

In a prepared speech, Dearden acknowledged that the church and community have undergone great changes since he was named Archbishop of Detroit in 1958. And he said a "period of change is one that is marked by tension and strain."

"It is not my thought today to dwell on these evidences of growth. But surely the new energy that is found in the life of the Church since the council (Second Vatican Council) must be a source of deep joy to us all."

"There has taken place a deepening of the faith, an increased understanding of its demands, a greater social awareness of the implications of our faith and a deeper joy in its celebration," he added.

The 73-year-old cardinal recalled as a child being "told to move to the altar in a solemn fashion with joined hands, bowed head and downcast eyes."

"Contrast that with the bright smile and the joy that is reflected on the faces of the persons who approach the Holy Table in our time. It is in a way a symbol of the change that we have undergone."

OFFICIALLY THANKING Dearden was Christine McLaughlin, moderator of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, which advises the cardinal.

"It is difficult to put into words all that we are thankful for in you," said the member of St. Clement Church, Dearborn.

"You have been our faithful and prayerful leader, you have touched the hearts of rich and poor alike, you have spoken out and drawn us to be more faith-filled people."

While not near enough to personally thank Dearden, members of the congregation said it was enough that they were able to be there to show support.

"He was a good cardinal, and I want to rejoice with him," said Cecilia Cheng, The Troy resident and her husband took four of their five children to the service.

"It helps them know more about their faith and makes them stronger in it."

Mary Donohue, secretary of St. Andrew Church in Rochester, traveled downtown on a bus with 36 parishioners.

"I think Cardinal Dearden is a kind, gentle man who listens to the people," she said. "We've been fortunate to have him all these years."

Ruth Johnson of Bloomfield Hills saw the ceremony as a "wonderful extension of the peoples' love for the cardinal and his love for us."

"We knew he would take care of us, and he listened to the people."

For Detroit's Jerome Bauer, 17, it was a real thrill to carry a candle in the procession. And he credits Dearden with making that possible.

"Since Vatican II, not just priests and deacons but now laity can be servers. I thank God for letting me be a minister in the Mass."



Surrounded by bishops, Dearden blesses the host at an altar set up under the scoreboard in Joe Louis Arena.

Danguole Jurgutis

'Image' series depicts personal feelings

By LORRAINE MCCLISH

Danguole Jurgutis, the woman chosen "artist of the month" for October, and whose work has been seen in Farmington Artists Club's shows for the past seven years, will be represented in the club's show this fall.

"I'm so glad," she said of the one-woman show she'll hang in Chicago. "I was asked to exhibit there and it will be on the same weekend as the club's show here in November."

"An artist is expected to have between 30-40 paintings for a one-person show, and oil paintings just don't happen that fast."

At least four of those paintings will be from her series called "Images," several of which are shown in Farmington Hills Library through October. She describes them as "not of one plane, but universal visions, or really my own inner landscapes."

She adds, "I don't know how the public is going to accept them because they are so personal."

MRS. JURGUTIS, a native of Lithuania, has involved herself with something creative for as long as she can remember.

"I was a dancer," she said. "I wrote poetry. I did flower arranging, painted, but my paintings were always different. When a group of us went out to paint a grove of trees, mine turned out red and mauve and purple."

The personal feelings she expressed in her red and purple trees have come out strongest in her "Images" series.

"Feelings are strongest at night, in darkness," she says. "We hear the sounds of nature best then, really sense the universe around us. It's a time to stop to ponder."

She finds she enjoys putting these personal feelings on canvas because she enjoys all things created by the individual.

"A beautifully laid out back yard, well-proportioned flower bed, a beautifully laid out dining table, these are all expressions of personal feelings," she said.

Even so, coming up with new images can be a strain. "So once in a while you have to go back to doing still life or a flower; something you can copy, but is really not your own."

THE ARTIST came to the Detroit area as a refugee, sponsored by an uncle, with the hope of becoming a doctor. But lack of money turned her to a course in pharmacy at Wayne State University.

She subsequently became the first woman pharmacist ever hired by Ford Hospital. "But I never could resist the pull of creating," she said. "I always went back to it one way or the other."

"Art brings so much joy, whether it's my own, the creation of other artists, or the art in nature."

She says she persuaded her husband to buy their Farmington Hills home, "because of the way the sun set on the creek in the back yard."

The award-winning artist's most recent award was the first prize given in the Ford Centennial Show for her impressionistic piece called "Renaissance."



Two of the paintings from "Images" are shown at left and above. The artist describes them as her own inner landscapes.

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