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Sister Marianne Postiglione Special Project, October 1, 1972

Salve Regina College

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She loves playing the saxophone. She has taught herself to play the guitar and prefers composing on it, to using the piano or the organ (her in instruments of major study). She is Phi Beta Kappa and a magna cum laude graduate of Catholic University of America, with an M.A. in music, also from C.U.

She's young, vibrant and a teacher of music at Salve Regina College, Newport.

She is Sister Marianne Postiglione, B.S.W., a member of the faculty of the Creative Arts Center at the Newport college for women. And like everyone in the Creative Arts unit, she has been working overtime for the special October 13 to 15 weekend on the ocean-front campus.

Her special project has been the composition of a "Mass for Life", which will take place in the foyer of O'Nara Academic Center, Saturday the 14th at 5 p.m. and Sunday, the 15th, at 11:15 a.m.

Rev. Everand Christopher Johnson, O.F., chaplain to the students at Salve Regina, will celebrate the Mass. His homily will emphasize the creative arts and the Holy Spirit, who endows His creatures with the ability to give of themselves in ways uniquely their own

Sister says of the "Mass for Life", her most recent work:

"Stylistically, it is a simple composition. I began composing it during the early summer of 1972. Some of it came fairly easily, and then I was stumped." She paused.

"It isn't the kind of thing you usually tell someone from a newspaper," she continued, but so that you'll understand ... I was able to complete the Mass, in a fluid musical way, only after my father's first major illness."

Sister Marianne's mother and father are Rocco and Elsie Postiglione of 356 Warren Street, in Fall River, Mass.

"The inspiration came, you know, from a kind of inner suffering and the resolution of some of the major human worries and conflicts. The Mass is a celebration of life, through the death and resurrection of Christ, and this particular musical setting, to me, merges with the meaning of life and the meaning of our celebrations."

"The composition may be simple to Sister Marianne, but it actually incorporates traditional "church" music with the Negro Spiritual and ancient (more)"
Hebraic melodies.

"Lord Have Mercy" and "Holy, Holy, Holy" are in the highly syncopated style of Black spirituals; "Blessed Is He" is in a quasi-plain tone, accompanied by supporting chords; and "Lamb Of God" is a plaintive, simple melody, Hebraic in sound, non-syncopated, and, as such, a varied inversion or contrast to the first segments of the Mass.

"The technical shape and form of the Mass, more or less followed the spontaneous movement of creativity," said Sister Marianne, as she continued. "Actually, the composing of this Mass was a fusing of feeling, a conviction and belief in the fullness of life, incorporated with the basic principles of composition."

How does Sister feel about the performance of her Mass this coming weekend?

"The response from our congregation at Salve has been very positive," she recalls. "Most of the people learned the parts fairly well in one rehearsal."

In addition, the young religious composer feels that the Mass, because it is more simply constructed, has great possibilities for improvisation.

"In fact, our college community knows the Mass well enough by now, to allow our leading singers and players to freely improvise."

The "Mass for Life" will be presented in such a way that it incorporates the use of film and an interpretive dance, at the O'Herle.

In addition to Sister Marianne's latest liturgical music, the Creative Arts Weekend offers a play, both in final performance and open rehearsal; two art exhibits; a pre-college days Open House, for highschool juniors and seniors; yoga demonstrations, and a concert, by the New Music Ensemble (the latter in cooperation with the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts).

"Herbst," Salve Regina's newest acquisition, the former Van Alen estate, will be the site of an American Art Show, Friday, from 5 to 9 p.m.; Saturday, from noon to 5 p.m. and Sunday, from 3 to 5 p.m. A Faculty Art Exhibit will run simultaneously, in the Creative Arts Center (Mercy Hall), on Lawrence Avenue.

Pre-college Days and an Open House at O'Herle Academic Center, for high school young men and women, is another aspect of the week-end program, scheduled for one to four p.m. on Sunday. Open classes will be held, October 16 to 18, daily for interested students. A feature of the pre-college days will be an explanation of Salve Regina's new liberal arts program for men, offered by the Division of Community Education at the College.
Eugene Ionesco's "Bald Soprano" is the play, directed by Miss Joan David, in charge of Theatre Arts at the College. Students working with Miss David are: Diane Polco, Maria Donna McCarty, Nancy Devine, Debbie Hoffman, Janet Dawson and Ann Moren. The set for the production was designed and built by Eugene Van Wye, another Creative Arts faculty member.

Mr. James Neash, instructor of philosophy, will conduct the yoga demonstration, at 1 p.m., room 107 of the O'Hare Academic Center. Events are planned so that one may attend any one of two or more at any given time throughout the three day period.