

Ballarat Composer Wins National Jubilee Hymn Competition

Rosalie Bonighton from Ballarat has been awarded \$2,000 for her winning entry in the competition for a hymn for the year of the Great Jubilee 2000. The prize money was given by Catholic Church Insurances and the competition was sponsored by the Australian Catholic Bishops' Committee for Liturgy.

The musical setting of Song of Jubilee is set to a text by the Australian poet, Kevin Hart, which was especially commissioned for this competition. The text calls upon Father, Son and Spirit to take hold of our hearts and prepare them for the graces and demands of the year of Jubilee. Words of praise and works of justice are linked as expressions of ourselves as God's creatures. We have been called into being both to tell out God's favour to us and to show forth in our lives the Spirit's power that overcomes injustice and fear in the world.

Composers were required to set the text for congregational participation. The setting could be arranged for the assembled people to sing the refrain while a soloist sings the verses or the people could sing both the verses and the refrain. In either case, it was required the composer cater for the musical capacities of the singers and instrumentalists that one might expect to find in a local parish.

There were one hundred and forty eight entries: 50 from NSW, 28 from Victoria, 19 from Queensland, 5 from South Australia, 27 from Western Australia, 9 from Tasmania, 8 from the Northern Territory, 1 from Canada and 1 from the USA.

Copies of the winning composition have been inserted in the current edition of the journals, The Summit and Liturgy News. Further copies of the music can be obtained free of charge from The Office for Worship, 383 Albert Street, East Melbourne, 3002, Phone: (03) 9926 5791; Fax: (03) 9926 5767). Please send \$3.00 for postage. A copy of the melody line for parish bulletin inserts is available from the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne website.

A CD of the winning entry will be released by Catholic Church Insurances in September this year.