

WHAT is GIVEN to US!

One of the great films that I saw in the mid 1980's was *Amadeus*. It was about the turbulent life and the untimely death of the musical genius Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791) he spent most of his life in Austria. The mystery of the film was if Mozart was poisoned to death by his jealous musical rival Antonio Salieri (1750-1826).

Salieri was both deeply in awe and jealous of the extraordinary ability of Mozart who consistently lived such a superficial and vulgar life. At the same time, he was able to write and then play so many magnificent musical melodies.

The message that I detected from this film was that so much is given to us all as a result of God's gracious benevolence. For example how can anyone explain how a poet could be given such a power with words or a sculptor be able to shape so many forms of expression? And now in our modern age how is it that a computer programmer is able to be so creative in the way that they use electronic language? Mind you, personal effort and practice is also a definite factor here (yet people like Mozart seemed to be an exception to this reality!)

Jesus of Nazareth knew this reality and that is why he said to his followers; "*when you have done everything you have been told to do, you have only done your duty.*" (Luke Chapter 17 verse 10). *Fr Martin R Maunsell*