

# The Catholic Journal

Twenty-sixth Year, No. 21

Baltimore, Md., Friday, Feb. 26, 1915

## A National Shrine at Washington

In these days, when the scourge of war is ravaging the countries of the Old World, and ruthlessly destroying churches that for centuries have been their pride and the outward sign of their devotion, it is particularly interesting to see in this country a revival of that medieval spirit which found its highest expression in the creation of those great Gothic monuments.

A few years ago, the late Pontiff, Pius X., placed the United States of America under the special patronage and protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Prompted by this act and actuated by their religious zeal, a number of prominent Catholic women of this country decided a year and a half ago to form a National Organization of Catholic women of the United States, for the purpose of erecting a shrine in honor of the Blessed Virgin and her Immaculate Conception. A site was chosen on the grounds of the Catholic University at Washington, D. C., since, the object being national, it was thought appropriate that the beautiful shrine planned should decorate our national capital.

In view of the magnitude of the enterprise, the ladies in charge of the organization hope to found chapters in the principal cities throughout the country.

At present three chapters are in active operation, as follows: The Washington chapter, under the patronage of His Eminence Cardinal Gibbons, Honorary President; Bishop Thomas Shahan, Director; Mrs. Thomas F. Ryan, President; Miss Fannie Whelan, Secretary and Treasurer.

The Baltimore chapter, under the patronage of His Eminence Cardinal Gibbons, Honorary President; the Rev. S. W. Fay, Director; Mrs. Allen MacSherry, President; Mrs. John Irving Griffith, Vice-President; Miss Mary Coale Dugan, Secretary and Treasurer.

The New York chapter, under the patronage of His Eminence John Cardinal Farley, Honorary President; Countess Leary, President; Vice-presidents, Mrs. Francis Burrall Hoffmann, Mrs. Henry W. Taft, Mrs. William Lummis, Mrs. Michael J. Mulqueen, Mrs. William F. Sheehan, Mrs. James B. Clews, Mrs. A. Masters MacDonnell, Mrs. Andrew Dougherty; Secretary, Mrs. John G. Agar; Treasurer, Mrs. Edward H. Hawke, Jr.

The headquarters of the New York chapter are at 15 Broadway street.

The plans for the national shrine have been drawn by Francis Burrall Hoffman, Jr. The site of the shrine is most happily chosen. The front facade faces the large campus which is surrounded by the most important buildings of the University. Many fine old trees will add greatly to the setting. The ground at the rear falls off rapidly, which gives ample light as well as height to the crypt, which is under the transept and chancel.

The style of architecture is French Gothic of the late fourteenth century, which was selected as being best suited, on account of its delicate tracery and lofty proportions, to symbolize Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception.

The main floor plan consists of a nave 38 feet 8 inches wide, 132 feet long, and 73 feet high, divided into seven bays, with lofty side aisles 16 feet in width. A great crossing tower, surmounted by a lantern, rises at the intersection of the nave and transepts. The ceiling of this tower is 122 feet above the floor of the nave, the upper part being lighted by groups of lancet windows. An open octagonal lantern surmounts the square belfry of this central tower, in which will be placed a colossal statue of the Blessed Virgin.

The south transept has, below the great rose window, a side altar with small doors on either side

which lead to the crypt and southern entrance. The north transept ends in the semi-octagonal chapel of St. Brigid.

The chancel with its octagonal end is eighty-one feet long and thirty-six feet wide, and is surmounted by a stone vault sixty-nine feet above the floor. There are lofty clear-story windows, rich with tracery and stained glass. Below these are the chancel stalls where two hundred priests can be assembled at great ceremonies. The chancel is raised by three steps above the nave floor, and the sanctuary is again elevated by three more steps above the chancel. Thus the altar, which is at the very end, can be well seen from the body of the nave.

Around the chancel is a low vaulted ambulatory, off which open several small side chapels, vestry, and sacristy, a circular stairway leading to the crypt.

The total length of the interior is 172 feet and its greatest width at the transepts is 110 feet.

## Americans Are Handed a Bouquet

"When Our Blessed Lord puts a cross on our weak shoulders, He usually adorns it with flowers. These flowers are the liberal gifts sent by our dear American Catholics to the poor-Lonely missionary."

It is in these words that Fr. Van den Bogaard, M. S. E., shows his appreciation of American generosity. We know from previous letters that this poor Philippine missionary has had many trials to endure. His living quarters at Claver, were so unhealthful for a long time, that he contracted deafness and was otherwise reduced to a bad state of health. This month he was able to move into a new presbytery where he hopes to regain his former vigor. The building is only partly finished, however, and is not yet paid for.

As regards the church, or what is dignified by that name, its roof is so leaky that Mass has to be said in one corner which still remains proof against the heavy rains.

Claver is supposed to be a self-supporting parish, but as a matter of fact the people do not contribute more than two or three dollars a month. Its two thousand Catholics are firm in the Faith, however, and have had a resident missionary for the last four years. It will take at least ten years more to put the mission in proper condition. Let us hope that Fr. Van den Bogaard may live to see the realization of his dreams in regard to this corner of the Philippines.

Cardinal Gibbons, as yet hale and active, is well on his 20th year as Cardinal. As Bishop he has lived and labored in the Pontificate of four Popes.

At Los Angeles, Cal., there will be established a convent of Japanese nuns.

Archbishop Messmer, of Milwaukee, attended the inauguration of Governor Emanuel Philipp of Wisconsin. Both are natives of Switzerland.

Father Hartmann, the celebrated Franciscan and composer, died of heart disease.

By appointments, Benedict XV has provided for all the ecclesiastics of the household of his sainted predecessor, Pius X.

The Church in Chicago possesses an extensive and well-appointed institution in St. Mary's Training School for Girls at Des Plaines.

The Christmas collection for the orphans in the Diocese of Pittsburg amounted to \$28,000.

All our dioceses show a considerable increase in social and beneficiary organizations, but not in confraternities and sodalities,

## News From Ireland K. of G. Celebrate

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The Longford Urban Council has made a presentation to Rev. Peter O'Farrell, C. C., who has recently been appointed a military chaplain.

Judge Green, at Dundalk Quarter Sessions awarded £90 to Patrick Grant, of Dingooley, against the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, in respect of the death of his son on the steamer Empress of Ireland.

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Man has an instinctive love for home. This love has a god-given gift, man's strongest emotion. Because he feels this love, man builds his home with care, beauty and idealism. It with pride, and, if needs be, defends it with determination. And the nation, you know, is the expansion of the home, the aggregation of countless homes. The measure of a man's love for home is the measure of his love for his country; and the measure of both is the quality and character of his patriotism. As a man is concerned about his home, so will he be concerned about the moral, intellectual, the social, as well as the political welfare of his country. Whatever his position, whatever his duties, the real patriot respects the laws and institutions of his country. He will strive to enable her ideas and to elevate her standards. He will labor for his country's interests; he will give his prudent and generous support to enterprises only when they affect the uplift and glory of the nation. He holds aloft the standard of political righteousness and civic virtues.

Righteousness and virtue are the foundation rocks of a government. These are the disciplines of which the great and immortal Washington spoke when he said, "Religion and morality are the indispensable supports of political prosperity." This means that the true patriot reflects the great truths of religion in his every day life; he has a creature of virtue, a servant of his Maker. And who may call himself a better patriot than the practical Catholic? His motto is: "I know the truth, I live by it, I teach it, I defend it." From his church, his religion, his faith comes the essence of virtue. He learns that charity is the law. He knows how to live honestly, frankly and generously. He is the faithful Catholic, the most loyal and dutiful of patriots, for he is ever taught to be gentle and kindly, to make his every act one of compassion and sympathy. Above all he is taught by his holy church to respect authority and reverence the institutions of his country. As he was the proudest boast of a Roman man that he was a citizen of Rome, so it should be the proudest boast of every American Catholic— and that not in words but in deeds. "I am a Catholic citizen of the United States."

And, gentlemen, the service which the real patriot renders his country is not determined by occasions. Patriotism is far better grounded in him who practices it constantly than in him who reserves it for holidays and special occasions. It is more than sentiment; more than the mere external expression of pride at the sight of the national emblem. The real patriot knows what the flag stands for. To him every white star is a unit of virtue upon a background of blue fidelity; to him every red stripe is a band of fiery love, and every white stripe a band of open-hearted frankness. The stars and stripes inspire him always to live the principles upon which the American Republic, the grandest political institution in the world, is founded. Yes, true patriotism is not only the outward display, but the constant living of virtue. The perfect embodiment of ideal patriotism is to be found not only in the actions, but in the lives of men; it is the manifestation of "malice toward no one and charity toward all." And the real patriot is the god-fearing, loyal and law-abiding citizen of character and principle, the man who loves his country and his God no less.

My Friends, if you would be a patriot such as was Washington, whose memory you cherish and commemorate today, then in all things and at all times do the right as God gives you to see the right. Be valiant in peace and in war. Let your every act be dominated by the sublime doctrine of your divinely instituted religion; act in accord with the noble principles of your worthy order; manhood; a virtue implanted in the hearts of men; a virtue that glows in love, a love that be-

comes true to God, your

death occurred suddenly while attending mass at Milford, Mass. of Thomas Leahy, a butter merchant, who carried on an extensive business throughout County Clare.