

Prince Of The House Of God.

BY E. M. MC CARTHY

[Continued from last week]

It certainly was an enthusiastic assembly which greeted the Countess the evening of her talk. Not only the Society of the Perpetual Help were present but in each member had invited one or more. The Countess smiled as she looked over the large gathering and with a little shake of her head said:

"You know, my friends, this is just a little talk. I can only tell you a little of our dear St. Joseph's wonderful favors to his clients. It seems to me he loves in a special manner to protect the orphans, the homeless and the wanderer and those who are heavy laden and bowed down with sorrow; indeed, all can go to him and obtain favors. I promised one of our friends (smiling as she looked at Marie) I would speak of the espousal of our blessed Mother and St. Joseph.

Now, the Scriptures say Joseph was a just man. Well, our Heavenly Father had chosen this just one. He made him pure and just, to be the guardian of the purest and holiest virgin He ever created. He could well say by the mouth of his prophet, "As the lily among thorns, so is my beloved among the daughters of Adam." The one that God chose to protect the Virgin Mother must be after His own heart. St. Joseph was the one chosen. He was of the royal house of David, with royal blood in his veins. He was called the Prince of the House of God. He was tall with a dignified and kingly bearing, with large dark blue eyes, so dark they looked like pansies, and beautiful black curly hair which was lightly streaked with gray. His lips curved with the kindest smile. The whole face was as if chiseled by a great sculptor, and so it was, by the hand of his Creator. St. Joseph in his appearance was well fitted to grace the house of his royal ancestors, had God so willed it, but his ancestral home was now in obscurity, and Joseph, the dignified man of God, did not hesitate to bend his head to the work which God had ordained he should do. He was a skillful carpenter, and earned his living by the labor of his hands.

While at work one day an angel in the form of a young man, whose face was bright and beautiful, appeared to him. St. Joseph, as he looked up, was dazzled for a moment. Then the angel said, "Come, follow me, Joseph." He dropped his work and immediately followed the young man, knowing the command was from on High. They arrived at the Temple in a short time, where the angel left him. St. Joseph knew in an instant what God required of him. He humbly bowed before the Great Jehovah saying, "Thy will be done, my Father, in Heaven."

As he gazed, he saw the figure of a young girl radiantly beautiful, although her veil partially covered her, but he saw her eyes, and immediately bowed his head. "Oh, my father in Heaven, do You wish me to guard this royal lily? My heart beats to Your Will, guide me; I am Your servant."

The Jewish law required when a virgin had attained a certain age to be given in marriage, but she be the one who sought the hand of the High Priest and the parents of the virgin must be known to the next of kin. A few years after they had placed their little daughter in the Temple, St. Ann and Joachim, the parents of Blessed Virgin, were called to their blessed home, so the High Priest Zachary, and her cousin St. Elizabeth had the choosing of her husband. But Mary, the peerless one, had consecrated her soul in virginity to God. She had spent three days in prayer before the time appointed for her giving in marriage, that she would know by a sign he whom God had sent. She was entirely in her Heavenly Father's hands. She had no fears whatever. When the rich young men came and offered her jewels, rare and beautiful gifts fit for a queen (because they all knew that Mary was of royal

blood and of the House of David), no gold or jewels rare, could induce her to accept any of them, and when Joseph appeared, the priests and the Council Chamber were loath to let him approach. He, with great dignity, stood up and asked for the hand of the Virgin Mary.

When Mary raised her eyes at him, she saw a pure white lily in his hand. Ever since, the lily each member had flourished in Nazareth. She said to the High priest, her cousin:

"I accept this holy man, for the Lord so wills it."

The Priests did not like the choice, but the High Priest knew and felt in his soul that the Blessed Virgin had made the wisest choice, and he knew from his wife that Mary had consecrated herself to God and would remain so forever. Something about St. Joseph commanded the honor and respect of them all. He stood there handsome and erect and yet humble when he gazed at our Lady. It was with awe, as if she were an angel. He answered the questions put to him in a plain but differential way.

Finally, the High Priest took counsel again. Then receiving the same steadfast answer from Mary, Joseph and Mary were espoused in the Temple of God according to the Law of Moses. The young girls of the Temple had brought Mary beautiful presents, expecting her to marry wealth and station to which her rare beauty and family entitled her. In giving them to her, they could not keep the tears back, "Oh, my dear friends," she said, "wealth and riches consist of serving God and doing His holy will."

Joseph and Mary descended the hill of the Temple, winding down to his little home, and at the door, he raised her hand as if she were an angel and said:

"Enter, Mary, this humble home I have to offer you. Had I more, I would gladly give it to you, but may the blessing of the Lord be with us and dwell with us forever."

Mary replied, "I wish to serve my God as faithfully here in this humble home as I did in His Temple."

Then St. Joseph showed her her apartment. "I will watch you and protect you always; I will guard you and be a friend and brother to you, because this is the way of the Lord." Then he told her of the angel who commanded him to follow him to the Temple and that he knew that it was a command from God.

"Yes, Joseph," Mary said, "and I had a sign from Heaven, not only in my heart did I know God sent you to me as my protector, but you had a pure white lily in your hand. My soul rejoiced with wondrous joy for great is the Lord. He will never fail those who put their trust in Him. We will do His work and sing His praises and He will guide us in all our ways."

This, and more, the Blessed Virgin said. Joseph bowed his head in humble silence. He knew this wondrous being was entirely of God, and his duty was to protect her and to be her husband only in the eyes of the world.

[To be continued.]

THIRD LIBERTY LOAN BUTTON.

The button which will be given to every subscriber to a Liberty Loan Bond of the third issue, of whether of a \$50 bond or a \$10.00 one, will have a border of brilliant red, and a blue field with a liberty bell, and the words "Third Liberty Loan" in white. Sixteen million of these buttons are now ready for delivery and will be given out when the subscriptions are made.

WEEKLY CHURCH CALENDAR.

April, Easter Month
2nd Sunday after Easter

14 S St. Justin M.
15 M St. Crescentia Ab.
16 T St. Benedict Labre C.
17 W Solemnity of St. Joseph
18 T St. Eleutherius Bp. M.
19 F St. Leo IX. P. C.
20 S St. Sulpitius M.

Late News of Ireland

Dr. Andrew Ledlie, one of the best known medical men in Belfast, has died at his residence on Crumlin road, after a short illness. Dr. Ledlie, who was aged 74, was a native of the Rathfriland district, and began life in the teaching profession, having an academy in York street. Qualifying for medicine, he practised in London, but returned to Ulster.

Died—February 25, in Dublin, Joanna, second daughter of the late Michael Lynch, Fenagh, Bagnalstown. Interment at Newtown.

The unexpected demise of J. Devlin is deeply regretted in Killeshandra. He had just finished tea and retired to bed when the fatal attack occurred. There was a large attendance at the funeral.

Fishermen residing at Downing's Bay had exceptional returns for herring catches. On no day was the price below £8 per cran and ran to nearly £8. Some of the local motor boats have grossed £1,000 for the week's work.

Damage to the extent of £5,000 was caused by the burning of W. McMullan's flax scutching mill at Ballyherley, Portaferry.

A system of free meals for necessitous school children, inaugurated by the Most Rev. Dr. Mulhern, Bishop of Dromore, and worked by the local St. Vincent de Paul Society, has been in operation in Newry since January 7, and is proving of immense benefit. An average of 135 boys receive a warm meal daily.

The Rev. T. M. Grennan, O. C. C., was presented with a set of beautiful vestments in celebration of his golden jubilee by the Grand Carmelite Confraternity and other sections of the Sodality attached to the Carmelite Church, Whitefriar Street, and in returning thanks remarked that their predecessors had by their collections built that church. The magnificent tribute of affection they had presented to him was a further proof that the old spirit was still alive.

Recently the Most Rev. Dr. Donnelly administered confirmation to about 1,000 children in the church, James street.

The death is announced of Rev. R. O'Connor, aged 63. He formerly served as curate in Instigooge, Carlow, and Burrischoole, and was author of a work on "The Ethics of Modern Criticism."

Most Rev. Dr. Cohalan, Bishop of Cork in his Lenten pastoral refers to the success of the new College of St. Columban, at Shrule, Galway, in connection with the Maynooth Mission to China, and says it is a glorious revival in the midst of a world-war of the Irish missionary spirit.

The death occurred in Limerick of Rev. T. J. Rea, who retired about two years ago in ill health from the American Mission, on which he had been engaged since his ordination in 1872. Father Rea was 72 years of age and was a brother of the late Oliver G. Rea, Limerick, and uncle of Rev. T. Rea, Pittsburgh, U. S. A.

The Rev. Philip Fitzgerald, C. C., late of Gortnahoe, Thurles, died at the residence of his brother, James Fitzgerald, Kevinsfort, Horse and Jockey, Thurles, of heart failure. Father Fitzgerald had been curate in Gortnahoe for many years.

Strabane and Clonleigh Division, A. O. H., have passed a resolution congratulating Very Rev. John Doherty, P. P., Strabane, on his appointment as vicar-general of the diocese.

The death has taken place of Thomas Balfe, Riverchapel Gorey, at the age of 103 years. He was an all-around sportsman of his day and in his 85th year rode a winner at the old Ardmine strand races.

Foreign Mission News

The Propagation of the Faith Society
318 Lexington Ave., New York City

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING THE KUMBAKONAM LEPER ASYLUM.

Bishop A. Chapuis, P. F. M., sends an important announcement concerning the leper asylum at Kumbakonam and Rev. J. B. Michotte, who has had charge of it, and who has written many touching stories of its inmates. Here is the Bishop's communication:

"Notwithstanding the strenuous efforts of Father Michotte, for the full development of our leper asylum and its maintenance, it has been found that the enterprise is a very difficult one, and the period after the war will render it still more difficult. Besides, Father Michotte, on account of overwork, is rather in a poor state of health, and cannot work as he has done heretofore.

"For all these reasons he and myself have decided to hand over the leper asylum to the Catechist Missionaries of Mary Immaculate. The good nuns who had already given two sisters to take care of the inmates have generously accepted it and will assume all responsibility. Under the able management of the sisters, and with their great zeal, we have every reason to believe that the asylum will become a large and effective one.

"I request our friends henceforth to be kind enough to send to Mother Jeanne, the Superior of our Sisters, all remittances intended for the lepers and the leper asylum."

REPORT FROM MARITIME TONKIN.

The annual report sent by Bishop Alexander Marcou, Phat Diem, Maritime Tonkin, is marked by many sad features. He writes: "During the past year I visited more than half of the parishes of my Vicariate. I learned with joy of the zeal and devotion of the 100,000 Christians, who, by their numerous communions, show that they are practical Catholics.

"But what misery prevailed everywhere! First the flood, then ruined harvests, famine and epidemic. The birth rate never was so low. The baptisms were fewer by a thousand than last year, and another sad fact, showing the despair the people were driven to, more than a hundred children of Christian parents were sold. Great misery must prevail when Christians are driven to this horror.

"I know of one widow who sold three children, the eldest of whom was only nine years old. She believed her last hour had come, and sold the little ones to a pagan to save them from like-wise dying of starvation. What approach can one make before such misfortune!

"As consolation, Providence permitted that the Faith be introduced into a dozen new villages."

Bad news comes from Bishop Raysas, of the Swatow mission, who writes that on February 13, a bad earthquake shook the district. Over five hundred people were killed and many houses destroyed. Only one Christian belonging to the mission was killed, but the church and adjacent buildings were badly injured, and it will take hundreds of dollars to put them in proper condition again. Swatow is full of soldiers, as trouble is on again between the people of the North and those of the South. Many soldiers were killed in the earthquake.

The spread of the faith should have been more rapid in the past, and should go on more swiftly than it does. To-day the sentiment of heathendom has altered greatly and the prestige of America has changed the bitter feeling against Christianity into one quite sympathetic. Hence it is the Church's pressing duty to evangelize all peoples, and to do it quickly.

MOTHER IRENE COMMEMORATES SILVER ANNIVERSARY

With Solemn Services at St. Mary's Church in South Street.

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the assumption of the first vows as a Sister of Mercy, by Mother Irene, head of the sisterhood in Rochester, was commemorated in a solemn manner last Saturday when Rt. Rev. Thomas F. Hickey, bishop of the diocese of Rochester, officiated at pontifical high mass at St. Mary's church in South street.

Many of the friends of Mother Irene, including delegations from other sisterhoods in the city were present at the services. At the conclusion of the mass Bishop Hickey delivered an address congratulating Mother Irene on what she has accomplished in the past quarter of a century.

The officers of the mass included: Assistant priest, the Rt. Rev. Dennis J. Curran, V. G.; deacons of honor, Rev. Simon Fitzsimons, pastor of St. Mary's church, and Rev. William Payne, pastor of St. Mary's church, Auburn; deacon of the mass, Rev. John F. Nelligan, pastor of Holy Apostles church; sub-deacon, Rev. Father Rengel, of Olean; master of ceremonies, Rt. Rev. Andrew B. Meenan, D. D., of St. Bernard's seminary; assistant master of ceremonies, Rev. William Byrne, of Ontario; acolytes, Rev. J. Francis O'Hern, of the Cathedral, and the Rev. Joseph Guilfoil, of St. Mary's; candle bearer, Rev. Albert Florack; book bearer, Rev. Walter Foery; crozier bearer, Rev. John Muckle, of Geneva; mitre bearer, Rev. A. A. Hughes, of Holy Rosary church.

Among the priests present at the services were: The Rev. John P. Brophy, St. Monica's church; Rev. John B. Sullivan, St. John's church; Rev. Andrew McCabe, Holy Cross church, Charlotte; the Rev. Joseph Cameron, St. Mary's church, Bath; Rev. Joseph Esser, of St. Mary's, of this city; Rev. John Gleeson, of Clyde; Rev. Jeremiah Maley, of Elmira; Rev. J. F. Goggin and Rev. John B. Potter, of St. Bernard's; Rev. Michael J. Krieg, of Brockport; Rev. Frederick Straub, Rev. Charles Riefer and the Rev. George W. Eckl, all of Rochester.

Reception Tendered To Priest Soldier.

The Knights of Columbus rooms in the Triangle Building were filled on Wednesday evening with between 300 and 400 members and friends who attended the farewell reception to Rev. John J. Ganey, who left Thursday to report at Camp Sevier, Greenville, N. C. Father Ganey has been appointed a chaplain in the United States Army. He appeared at the reception in his uniform, which he wore Wednesday for the first time.

The Immaculate Conception Cadets Band and Drum Corps, in which Father Ganey has a strong personal interest was present and played a number of selections. Father Ganey was presented, in behalf of Rochester Council, a check for a substantial amount, as an expression of the council's strong feeling of appreciation and solicitude for him.

The presentation was made, in behalf of the council, by Rev. Dr. Augustine M. O'Neill, who was introduced by Grand Knight George T. Roche. Father O'Neill prefaced the presentation with an eloquent address expressive of the warm regard of Rochester Council for Father Ganey. The chaplain's response was also eloquent and full of feeling.

Father Ganey served as chaplain at the State Industrial School at Industry nearly three years. He is an active member of Rochester Council, Knights of Columbus, and of the Fourth Degree Assembly.

The Cathedral parish of Davenport, Ia., reports last year's receipts as \$16,865.06; as also 20 funerals, 20 marriages, 39 baptisms, 10,000 confessions and 12,000 Communions.

Catholic Notes of Interest.

It is not generally known that the Holy Father Benedict XV is a speaker of pronounced eloquence, and that, forty years ago, he won in the Gregorian University, the gold medal in sacred eloquence.

At Camp Grant, Ill., 32.4 per cent of the men are Catholic.

To the Mission of the Immaculate Conception, the late William H. White, of Cold Springs Harbor, L. I., left \$50,000.

In the Cathedral of Salt Lake City a memorial tablet to its first Bishop, Louis Scanlon, has been erected.

The Denver Federation is campaigning for \$85,000 for charity and philanthropy.

The Catholic Central Verein will institute a campaign for \$100,000 for welfare work in the various training camps.

Justice John Bernard Madigan, Associate Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court of Maine, a man of great prominence and historic ancestry, died recently at Houlton, Me. His funeral discourse was delivered by Bishop Walsh, of Portland.

At Camp Logan, Houston, Texas, are 32,079 soldiers, of which number 10,786 Catholics, 5,624 Methodists and 3,487 are Baptists.

John Black, born in County Tyrone, Ireland, and a successful farmer as Swedesboro, N. J., died in his 105th year.

St. Thomas' College at St. Paul, Minn., is installing the West Point system in its military department.

In Baltimore there is a "Catholic Women's War Relief Association."

By direction of His Holiness, Pope Benedict XV, a large tapestry, commemorative of the promulgation of the Code of Canon Law, will be made. Its figures will be the Sovereign Pontiff, Cardinals, and others connected with the codification.

In Paris, the stained glass windows of the Sainte Chapelle—the splendid chapel built by St. Louis IX, King of France, to contain the relics of the Holy Crown of Thorns—have been removed to vaults to protect them from air raids. Other works of art have been screened with sand bags.

Two Waterford steamers which left England with seventy passengers have never been heard from and are believed to have been torpedoed in the Irish Channel. The Bishop of Waterford celebrated a Solemn Requiem Mass for their dead.

Papal Tiaras.

The Papal tiaras include one given by Napoleon 1 to Pius VI in 1805. Another, that of Gregory XVI, contains some pearls, eleven diamonds and about one hundred and forty-six precious stones. Isabella II presented Pius IX in 1854 a magnificent tiara, which the Pope sold, devoting the proceeds to founding the Seminario Pio.

AN AMERICAN PEACE.

There can be no peace with honor or safety to ourselves or to posterity, except a just peace, and there can and will be no other peace. Work for peace accomplishes nothing but the hampering of our effort, the delay of the real peace, and a greater toll of death of America's fighting men. Our duty is to war for a just and righteous peace; to work or speak for any other peace is to aid and comfort to Germany—injury and disloyalty to our boys in France.