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50 Per Cent

National Shrine Foundation Stone

Cardinal Gibbons Officiates at Ceremony

Full Size Mosaic of Murillo's "Immaculate Conception" Gift of Pope Benedict—Edifice to Cost Fully \$5,000,000

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)

Washington, D. C., Sept. 23.—The foundation stone of the great Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, which is to be at once a monument of devotion and gratitude to the Mother of God and a memorial to the American soldiers and sailors who died in the World War, was laid by His Eminence Cardinal Gibbons at 3 o'clock Thursday afternoon, September 23.

In the great concourse which witnessed the ceremony was His Eminence Cardinal O'Connell, most of the archbishops and bishops of the United States, hundreds of priests, representatives of famous American and European shrines of the Blessed Virgin, superiors of the many religious orders of men and women, and prominent laymen.

Cardinal's Guard of Honor
The Knights of Columbus of Washington and Baltimore constituted a guard of honor for Cardinal Gibbons before and after the ceremony.

A large platform was erected near the angle of the foundations where the stone, with appropriate inscription was set in position by Cardinal Gibbons. Four hundred seats were placed on this platform for the accommodation of special guests.



Right Rev. Thomas J. Shahan, D. D., Rector Catholic University

Right Rev. Thomas J. Shahan, D. D., rector of the Catholic University, delivered an address to the gathering before the laying of the stone took place. The sermon was preached by the Right Rev. John T. McNicholas, O. P., bishop of Duluth.

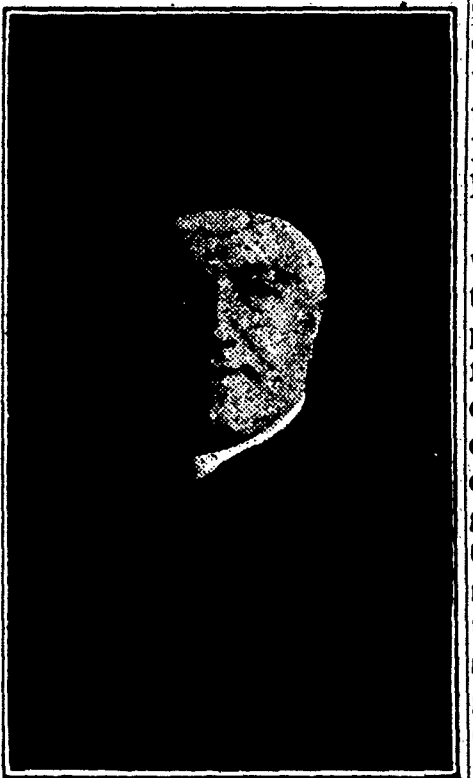
Dimensions of the Shrine

This shrine is to be the largest edifice of the Catholic Church in North America and one of the greatest basilicas in the world. Lifting its noble dome to a height of 254 feet, and its magnificent campanile (bell tower) 131 feet higher still, the shrine will stand with its majestic facade looking to the south—toward the Potomac and the blue hills of Virginia—and be a worthy companion to the monumental buildings of the nation's capital city.

The style will be Romanesque, which for a thousand years has been represented in the most beautiful and famous churches of

Europe. The extreme length will be 420 feet. The main transept will be nearly 200 feet wide and the principal nave 54 feet in width. The width of the facade, or front elevation, will be 124 ft.

It is intended that in all respects the Basilica will be a fitting token of the love which American Catholics have for God's greatest creature—His own Mother. From Europe's wealth of art will come the interior ornamentation of the shrine. The more than forty altars will give opportunities for the richness, artistry and beauty which will be lavished on this most impressive of American churches.



Rev. Bernard A. McKenna, S. T. D., Secretary

The high altar in the main church will be the offering of the priests of the United States. On this altar will be expended the embellishment that is needed to make it a masterpiece of art in a setting of grandeur. Surrounding this altar will be fifteen small but ornate chapels in honor of the Mysteries of the Rosary. In the sanctuary is to be placed a full-size mosaic copy of Murillo's "Immaculate Conception." This is to be the gift of His Holiness Pope Benedict XV and will be executed in the famous mosaic workshop of the Vatican. It is the first Papal gift of the kind to come to America. The largest chapel in the main church is to be dedicated to the memory of American soldiers and sailors who fell in the Great War.

In the crypt beneath the main church, the high altar and fifteen lesser altars will represent incidents in the life of the Blessed Virgin. The high altar will be dedicated to her under the title, "Our Lady of the Catacombs." In that title is the keynote of the decorative treatment of the crypt. Accordingly, there will be reproduced striking features of the religious art of the Catacombs—frescoes and mosaics picturing variously the Madonna and the Divine Child.

No Pews in Main Church

The absence of pews in the main church will enhance the interior view and emphasize the vastness of the principal nave—more than 300 feet long, 54 feet wide and 85 feet high. It has been suggested that the Litany of the Blessed Virgin be reproduced in mosaic on the floor of the main church. It is estimated that the church will accommodate about 3,000 people, and that room for the entire hierarchy of the country and several hundreds of ecclesiastics will be provided in the sanctuary. This will allow for the most elaborate ceremonies.

Each of the lesser altars in the crypt will represent as many famous national shrines in the Old and the New World. Poland, Switzerland, and the New World.

All Catholic Women Are Urged To Vote At Coming Election

Cardinal Gibbons Points Out Danger to Catholicism in Attitude of Radical Suffragists

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)

Washington, D. C., Sept. 20.—Catholic women of the United States will be urged by the highest authorities of the Church to exercise the right of suffrage which has been conferred upon them by the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Federal Constitution.

Cardinal Gibbons, who last week gave a short statement to the secular press in which he explained that now woman's suffrage is a fact he favored women's exercising the right of franchise, made his position more clear in an amplified statement given exclusively to the N. C. W. C. News Service. In this statement Cardinal Gibbons points out that the announced purpose of some of the more radical suffragists constitute a menace to Catholic principles, and he calls upon Catholic women to use all their influence to safeguard the Church and the State against the danger.

Cardinal Gibbons' statement follows:

Cardinal's Statement
"While I have always been opposed to Woman's Suffrage because I felt that political activities would tend to withdraw women from the more delicate and sacred pursuits of home life, now however, that the vote is theirs, I strongly urge upon all of them the exercise of suffrage, not only as a right but as a strict social duty."

"The Catholic Church, following the teachings of the Gospel, proclaims woman as the peer of man. The influence of the Church destroyed the Pagan degradation and servility of woman and lifted her to the highest levels of respect, and of power in society. The history of the last 2,000 years contains no more glorious chapter than the one which shows the influence of Christianity in elevating the social status of woman; and the history of the Catholic Church is replete with incidents and is adorned with personalities exhibiting the splendid deeds of individual women, and, what is still better, the mighty moral and spiritual influence of emancipated womanhood. In the ethical sphere, the power of Christian womanhood has been, and still is, one of the firmest and most essential pillars of human society."

"Although the exercise of this ethical influence and this spiritual power may be invaded and lessened by the demoralizing effects upon woman arising out of the excitement and struggles of the political arena, yet, now that suffrage is no longer a possibility but an assured fact, it behooves Catholic women to take upon themselves this new social duty, and so to exercise it that their influence shall minimize the evil forces that through this extension of the suffrage new menace the most essential factors in Christian civilization, namely, the family and the home."

"That these forces are swift to take advantage of their widened opportunity, admits of no doubt."

Already there are national leaders of the militant suffragists who proclaim to their ardent followers that they must use the new political power of women to secure a national divorce law similar to that prevailing in bolshevist Russia and in Sweden, namely, a law permitting divorce wherever a husband or a wife desires it, for any so-called 'cause,' or for none at all.

"It therefore becomes the duty of Catholic women to register and vote, and especially in the coming presidential election. They should vote for the candidate who will, in their opinion, contribute best to the material and social progress of the State. They should bring to bear upon politics their predilection for righteousness, their desire and their determination that our civilization may conform to the everlasting principles of Christianity."

J. CARD. GIBBONS.

Soissons' Bishop Consecrated In Ruined Church

(By N. C. W. C. News Service.)

Paris, Sept. 8.—Particularly moving was the consecration of Soissons' new bishop, Mgr. Binet, which took place among the ruins, in a cathedral whose nave has fallen in. To supply the place of the rich chimes of the tumbled down tower, a small bell had been hung in a modest wooden belfry. In place of the grand organ which has also been destroyed, a small harmonium was heard.

But the ceremony was none the less noteworthy for the attendance of both the faithful and the notabilities. Surrounding the Cardinal Archbishop of Rheims, who was acting as consecrating prelate, were the Archbishop of Rouen and a number of other prelates. Among the audience were also members of the town council, the court, the bar, representatives of the army, senators and deputies from the department, the father and mother of the new bishop, who for a long time have lived in Soissons.

Amongst the speeches delivered at the luncheon that followed the ceremony, the most notable was an address by an officer who had come to congratulate his former subordinate, "Private Binet." Mgr. Binet served during the greater part of the war as a stretcher-bearer on the firing line and was decorated three times for his bravery.

Statute to Stop Form of Bigotry In New Jersey

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)

Newark, N. J., Sept. 20.—A law making it a misdemeanor to exclude applications for teaching positions in the public schools on account of the religion of the applicant has been passed through the efforts of the Federation of the Holy Name Society of this State.

The law grows out of the discrimination made in 1917 by a New Jersey Board of Education against an application for a position because of the fact that she is a Catholic. It is intended to vitalize the provision of the State Constitution that declares: "No religious test shall be required as a qualification for any public office or trust in the State."

New Jersey is not the only state in the country in which this type of bigotry is prevalent and the action of the Holy Name Federation is expected to prompt similar action in many parts of the United States.

Watson's Success Due To "Twelve-Twenty Club"

Secret Organization of Anti-Catholics Conducted His Campaign

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)

Atlanta, Ga., Sept. 18.—Comment on the recent Democratic primary elections, in which Thomas E. Watson, archbishop of Georgia, was nominated United States Senator, attributes his success in large part to the machinations and exertions of the "Twelve-Twenty Club," a secret organization of anti-Catholics. This club is said to have a large number of members, every one of whom is pledged to vote not only against Catholics, but against any candidate friendly or favorable to them.

Anomalies in Campaign

This new clandestine cabal against Catholic citizens and taxpayers has existed for some time in Atlanta, but the late primaries indicated that it now has a statewide membership and organization. Many Georgians, who denounced Tom Watson during the campaign, were found marshaling votes for him at the election. They are suspected of being affiliated with the "Twelve-Twenty Club."

There were several anomalies in the campaign and the election in Georgia, not the least noteworthy of these was the defeat of Senator Hoke Smith, joint author of the Smith-Towner bill which seeks the federalization and centralization of public education. It is now agreed that Sam L. Olive, candidate for Congress in the Tenth District, was beaten principally because of his advocacy of federal aid for State schools. It is said that many white voters feared the Smith-Towner bill, if enacted, would give the Federal Government jurisdiction over the education of negroes, and this was distasteful to them.

Olive was one of those Georgia legislators who opposed the adoption of a resolution requesting the collection of funds for the erection of a monument to Admiral W. S. Benson, who is a native of Bibb County. Olive and his fellows pretended that the Knights of Columbus had sponsored the resolution. The proposal originated with the Daughters of the Confederacy.

Carl Vinson, a former victor in an anti-Catholic campaign, won the congressional nomination Olive was seeking. Vinson is at present representing the district in Congress.

Extent of Anti-Catholic Prejudice

In the Fifth District, which includes Atlanta, Ben Blackburn, one of Watson's lieutenants in the presidential primaries, lost the nomination to W. D. Upshaw, incumbent. Blackburn is a virulent anti-Catholic, and Upshaw is publisher and circulator of a spurious "oath" supposed to be subscribed by the Knights of Columbus. He is known also as a lecturer on the "Manace of Rome in American Politics."

There was so much competition for the anti-Catholic vote that in many cases two or three "parties," who pledged themselves to "keep the Pope out of America," were candidates for the same jobs, and there were few who dared express a willingness even to be fair to their fellow citizens.

K. of C. Chosen In Georgia Primary For the Legislature

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)

Augusta, Ga., Sept. 17.—One of the outstanding features of last week's primary in Georgia is the election of J. T. Vocelle, a Catholic and a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus, to the legislature from Camden County. Vocelle, who is only 23, and therefore perhaps the youngest representative-elect, received the largest majority of any man on the county ticket. Opposition to him was mainly anti-Catholic and the usual lot of misstatements about Catholics and the K. of C. oath were circulated and printed in the effort to discredit him with the voters. There are but a few Catholics in the county which is in the far southeast of the State.

Lourdes Miracle Denied By Zola Is Vindicated

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)

Paris, Sept. 8.—The death is just reported at the Convent of the Good Shepherd in Angers of Marie Lebranchu, who miraculously recovered her health at Lourdes in 1892.

In his book "Lourdes," the late famous anti-religious writer, Emile Zola, with the idea of charging the Catholics with imposture, wrote that Marie Lebranchu had entered a hospital and had died there soon after.

Now the proof has thus been made of the writer's false report. Marie Lebranchu not only outlived him, but she never suffered from any relapse since she recovered her health twenty-eight years ago.

WILL REPRESENT CARDINAL MERCIER

(By N. C. W. C. News Service.)

Washington, Sept. 16.—Cardinal Mercier will have a personal representative at the Fifteenth International Congress Against Alcoholism, which convenes here September 21 to 27. The eminent Belgian prelate, who was making preparations himself to come to America for the convention, has been forced to abandon the trip, but in his place will send Father Voellings, the militant clerical member of the Belgian parliament, who is declared to be the one Belgian best equipped to express the Cardinal's views on alcoholism.

AMERICANS DECORATED

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)

Paris, Sept. 8.—For their work in offering relief to victims of the war at Rheims, Major Du Bellet, of the American Red Cross, and former American Consul at Rheims, has been awarded the cross of Commander of St. Gregory by Pope Benedict XV, and Mrs. Du Bellet has received the Good Merit Medal. The honors were bestowed by Cardinal Leccon in the name of the Pope.

Catholic Daily For Brazil

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)

Rio de Janeiro, Sept. 2.—Plans for the establishment of a Catholic daily paper in Brazil, published after the Catholic daily of Argentina and exchanging with these papers, have been started here and already 10,000 copies of more than 100,000 copies of the work have been printed. The work is being done by the Society of the Holy Name of Jesus.