

St. Patrick's Cathedral Radio Hour

THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS
Twentieth Talk—By the Rev. Charles F. Shay

Subject: "The Liturgical Colors."

Good Afternoon, My Dear Friends:

There are heroes and heroines whose exploits remain unsung and unwritten. Their number is legion. For some inexplicable reason a few of these are named before the public. They praise resound nationally, frequently internationally. What they accomplish is worthy indeed of admiration and human glorification. Far be it from me to minimize one of their name or achievement. But I do know heroes and heroines, who have merited mundane halls of fame and triumphant procession, but upon whom no earthly praise has ever been showered and who go down unknown to a common grave. Their deeds, however, whilst not recorded in human annals, are registered of God. They are known in heaven, their record is eternal and the Register is none other than the Lord God, Himself.

You will pardon me for exploiting the deeds of this class without permission. But I fear that, whilst they seek only celestial remuneration, they are not appreciated as a class by the world to-day. They seek not the glamour or applaud of mankind; they eschew notoriety; they desire not a name, but a noble deed. They perform noble deeds worthy of noble crowns in the silence of their religious routine and hope only to look in the golden sunshine radiated from their Eternal Spouse.

This class of vocation embraces most accomplished women who hide their talents under a bush, rule and pray in the religious cloister. Some people know them; others admire them; some are despised by them. They are the Sisters of the Catholic Church.

I care not what particular motive of fame designates their community or order. They are as a rule but silent, obedient servants of God. Their lives are regulated by the world, because they serve men and the children of men. They have made sacrifices which the name of humanity has not evaluated. They go about quietly, regularly in the performance of their everyday duty. Few are their actual contacts with the world, but their influence is insatiable. The good which they do will only be known when the book of Judgment is opened in the effulgent light of eternity.

Program of Labor
If you question this for a moment, then step into any convent, school, or church, and with permission you can observe a concentrated program of labor which has only one motto: "To serve God and thereby save souls." I do not ask you to walk in boldly upon them, for their spiritualized modesty would cause them to shrink out of sight. But, if you will, I could ask you to take a Saturday morning with me on a recess of this Cathedral, and unobserved watch some of their number at work in the preparation of the necessities for serving the Altar of God. What is revealed under this circumstance could be revealed in any other phase of the work assigned them—at the direction of their superior.

To make the picture more concrete, may I call you, who stands at my right—Martha Ellis; you at my left—William Sheehan; the Sisters at work in the vestry, Sister Mr. Anderson and Sister Mr. Cornwell; Martha and William, whilst both Catholics, have never had the opportunity to observe closely, much less to know in any other than a general way, what actually is required in preparation for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at which they assist each Sunday at 9:30 A. M. and which is offered for their benefit. The Sisters are perfectly unaware of anyone's presence, save the Eucharistic Christ on the altar, near them, indicated by the burning taper aglow in a red sanctuary glass, and the divine Presence wherever they may be. Their actions therefore, as one would naturally expect, are dignified because their labor is a labor of love about a holy place, a vestry, where they deal with sacred things.

"William and Martha," I said softly, "I realize that this is not a fair

way for anyone to observe, but I want you to see actually for your selves what takes place without notification. Then you can tell other what you have noted with your own eyes."

"I wonder what the Sisters would think," Martha whispered, "of the fact that we were spying in this manner?"

"Oh! don't be wondering. Father is here with us and if perchance we are observed, what about it; we have done no wrong. I know Father will explain it all," said William.

Work of the Sisters
"Yes," I replied, "I shall explain but there is no danger of misinterpretation of our actions on the part of these single-minded Sisters. Moreover, it will be some time before they have completed their vestry charge and begin to arrange things about the altars out here. They would not care even if they happened to find us here, for they are perfect in their own way of observation. In fact, did you ever notice when they walk along the street, two by two, in imitation of the Disciples of Christ, that they are found frequently with their eyes downcast?"

"Yes, Father," commented Martha. "I have noticed this frequently and often wondered the reason why. Look, they have just removed a black veil from their coronet and immediately they begin work."

We observed silently. Sister Antecus, as if by pre-arrangement, opened the first cabinet of the vestment case and commenced to remove the long white Albs. One by one they were examined and placed carefully on the vestment case near-by. Sister Cornwell opened the "little boxes," sixteen in number, at the rear of the case and removed from each one small white Amices and Purificators of linen, which were neatly bound by a white tape about them. This required but a few moments, and the contents were resting upon the case surface before her. Quickly she placed the soiled linens in a special bag for the laundry where they would be washed and ironed according to the regulations of the Church. Into each little box a clean Amice, Purificator and Tails was placed. These were for use by each priest in the preparation of his oblation and vesting for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass during the week. Into the first cabinet clean Albs were hung. The Cinctures were scrutinized carefully and any that were soiled were con-

signed to the laundry pile slowly accumulating upon the vestment case. "Say," Martha, spoke William, "how would you like to have that laundry bill alone for one week, to say nothing of the other articles which no doubt will find their way on that list before the Sisters have completed their weekly investigation?"

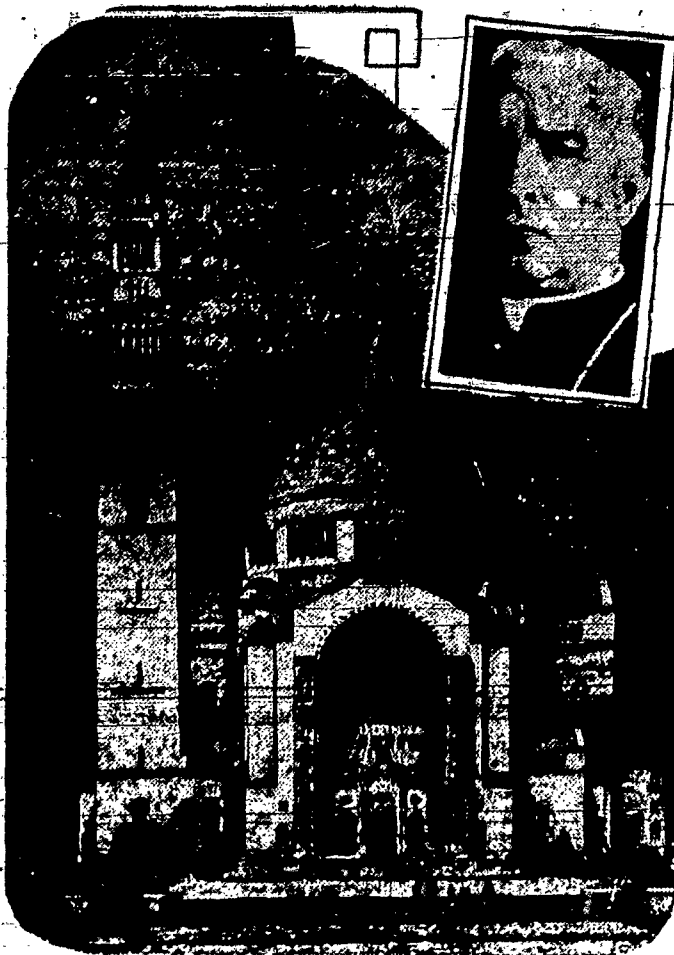
"Silence!" I interposed, "whilst the necessary and may enter your mind for the moment, dismiss it in favor of the spotlessness which must provide everything to be found in the Holy Sacrifice of the Altar. Now keep your eyes glued fast upon what the Sisters do."

The linens inspected, the Sisters commenced to open the lower drawers and to remove a long silk strip, about as wide as the hand, adorned at each end and in the middle with a cross. These were Stoles. At the top of each one could be seen a small piece of white linen bordered by lace which came in contact with the neck of the priest as he crossed it upon his breast. Quickly two chairs were placed in such a position that the Sisters faced one another; in their hands appeared needle and thread. How doted they went about their work.

Silent Prayer
"Look," I said to Martha and William, "their heads are bowed; do

(Continued on Page Three)

Catholic University Rector



A drawing from the final plans for the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on the campus of the Catholic University of America, and, inset, the Most Rev. Bishop Thomas J. Shahan, its founder, whose death a few days ago was mourned throughout the nation. Bishop Shahan, Rector Emeritus of the Catholic University, was interred in a vault in the crypt of the Shrine following funeral services there Monday morning.

"Sights" of Waterloo

The village of Waterloo in Belgium, celebrated for the great battle of June 18, 1815, is naturally full of memorials of that great day, and the visitor may make a visit to Mont St. Jean and the two monuments on the old battlefield, the Lion and the farms of La Haye Sainte and Floumont. A small panorama is exhibited of the great battle, but the old bullets, weapons and other relics sometimes offered for sale in the souvenir shops are mostly spurious. Trestle attaches to the Hotel de Jennes, for in it Victor Hugo is said to have written much of his "Les Miserables."

"Blooding" a Building

A strange pagan belief still exists in England, in the superstition that any new building will be unsafe or unlucky unless human or animal blood be spilt on it before completion. Not long ago a workman fell from the top of Stratford-on-Avon's lofty new Shakespeare theater, and was killed, whereupon one of his fellow-workmen remarked: "That will save blooding the new building." Being questioned, he explained that if no one met with an accident, shedding blood during the erection, it was customary to kill some small animal on the site, to ensure the building's future safety.

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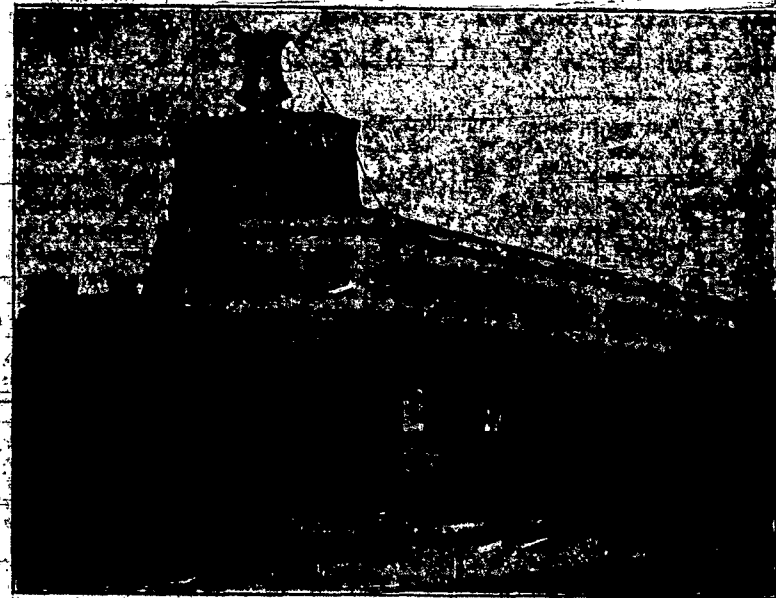
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Law of Little Value

The long-established American custom of permitting works of art over one hundred years old to come in free of any customs duty has not been entirely nullified, but several countries have lessened its value by censoring exportation of antiques. Italy has stringent rules and Spain has recently absolutely forbidden sales of such objects abroad. If works of art over one hundred years old are not permitted to leave their countries of origin, it is of no value to have them duty-free here.—Exchange.

Topsy-Turvy Woman

A woman who lived in a topsy-turvy world, who wrote, read, and slept backwards, is mentioned in the British Medical Journal. She was admitted to the Devon County mental hospital suffering from fits and suicidal tendencies. It was found that in writing she reversed her words and when she drew pictures she drew them upside down. When she wanted to read she turned the book upside down. When she was asked to spell a word she, spelt it backwards.

Finland Capital

Helsingfors is the Swedish name of the capital city of the Finnish republic, which is called in Finnish "Helsinki." Finland was a grand duchy under the Russian empire until the World war, when it became an independent republic. The city of Helsinki is located at the southern end of the peninsula which constitutes the republic of Finland, on the north side of and across the Gulf of Finland from Leningrad, Russia.

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Somewhere beyond the Sepulcher,
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From this old vale of sighs and tears—
He now, has gone away.

He did much good while he was here,
As to this we are sure,
He, many millions gave away.
To people who were poor.

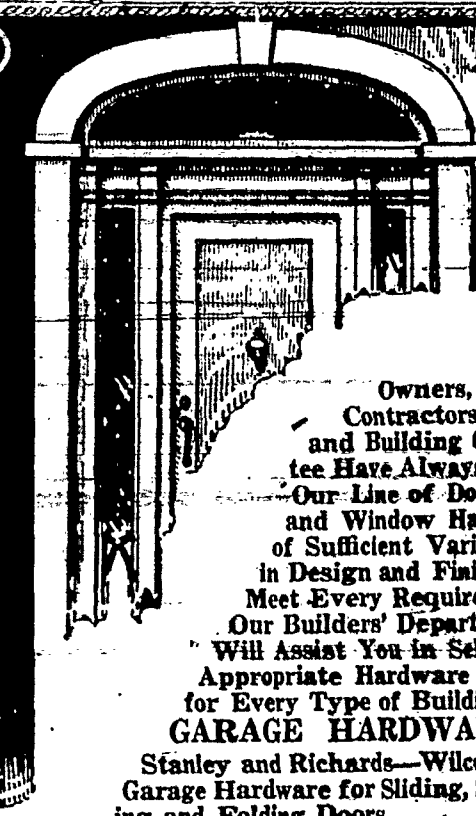
Yes, he did many worthy deeds,
Sad hearts he helped to cheer,
And so, he sadly will be missed—
By many, through each year.

We folks who live in Rochester,
He helped in various ways,
His kindness we'll remember too—
And his kind actions, praise.

Now, that his dust is laid away,
Beneath the greening sod,
Let us have kindly thoughts of him—
And leave the rest to God.

—By John A. Twamley.

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