

Three Thousand Visit Elmira's New K. C. Home for Inspection

Elmira—A crowd estimated at 3,000 visited the new home of the Elmira Council, Knights of Columbus at Church and Baldwin streets as a public inspection formally opened the clubhouse Sunday.

The complete interior remodeling of the building, and new decorative designs drew the interest and admiration of the swarms of visitors attending the opening Floral bouquets from other fraternal organizations and local florists added to the beauty of the arrangements.

Practically all the interior work has been finished. The outside will be repainted soon, however, and the porch enclosed, according to announcements.

A busy program has been arranged by the organization in celebration of the first week of occupancy.

A reception, entertainment, card party and dance was held Monday. A regular meeting marked by an exemplification of the First and Fourth Degrees, were held Tuesday night. An informal dance will be sponsored Friday night by Edward J. Dunn Circle, Columbian Squires. Knights and their friends will enjoy a smoker

Activities in Auburn

By PAUL PINCKNEY

Auburn—Luke Bergan, lecturer of the Auburn Council, Knights of Columbus, is planning several social and athletic activities before the Lenten season sets in. Arrangements are being made for a number of bowling matches and dancing parties. During the past week David McAndrew, former amateur national and junior professional billiard champion, was the guest of the local council at its home in Genesee Street.

James A. Hennessy, director of the Holy Family choir, today announced that the old-fashioned minstrel show held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 20, 21 and 22, in the Holy Family Auditorium was a huge success.

Since there was no snow on the ground, the Young Ladies Sodality of St. Aloysius Church enjoyed a strawride Monday evening, February 20, in place of its annual sleighride. The Misses Tessie C. Keenan, Jessie Moffit, Helen Ganley, Mary Brechee, Mary Dunn, Peggy Lynch, Josephine Johnson, Rita Landers, Dorothy Currier, Evelyn Shannon, Mary Agnes Brennan and Genevieve Dichi, were in charge of the refreshments and entertainment which followed.

Outstanding 45 players of St. Alphonse Church Club of this city defeated the allied forces of St. Bernard's Church Club of Scipio and St. Mary's Church Club of Skaneateles Tuesday evening, Feb. 14, at the church hall in Water Street. The final score was 297 to 228 and was the first in a series of three games. Rev. Frederick G. Straub, Rev. John T. Moore, and Rev. Thomas G. Curtin of Skaneateles formed the reception committee.

Mrs. N. N. Lucid, Grand Regent of the Syracuse Court, will be the guest speaker at the meeting of the Auburn Court, Catholic Daughters of America, to be held at the Catholic Daughters Home in South Street Monday evening, Feb. 27. A reception in honor of Mrs. Mabel Woods, retiring district deputy, will be tendered at this time. There will be a special program and speechmaking for this occasion.

Miss Isabel T. Goss has been appointed delegate of the Auburn Court to the New York State Court Catholic Daughters of America convention to be held May 15 at Saranac. A score of members from the local court are planning to attend.

A parish card party under the auspices of the Rosary and Scapular Society and Young Ladies Sodality of St. Mary's Church was held in Lyceum Hall Wednesday evening, February 22. Features in keeping with the observance of Washington's Birthday were carried out. Mrs. M. Frank Dulles was general chairman.

Narrow Escape For Auburn Thespians In Automobile Fire

Auburn—Four members of the Little Theatre Players of this city narrowly escaped death or serious injury while enroute to Trumansburg to present "Once a Crook," Thursday evening, Feb. 16, when the car in which they were riding caught fire. Those in the machine, that blazed up when alcohol from the radiator splashed over the hot engine and fared up, were Harold Brewster, J. Martin Hanlon, Bradley Carroll and Miss Almera Carroll. Mr. Hanlon was driving. The four occupants jumped from the car and a blanket and mud were used to smother the flames. No one was injured but the party was forced to return to Auburn for another car. They reached Trumansburg in time for the second act. Miss Carroll and her brother, Bradley, are members of the Little Theatre cast which presented "Highness" at Rochester Tuesday evening, Feb. 20, in the tricity dramatic contest in which the Buffalo and Rochester Civic Clubs also participated.

and entertainment Saturday night. The Council will also hold a pre-Lenten dance Monday, Feb. 27, in the new ballroom on the second floor of the building.

Ash Wednesday Rites Described By Benedictine

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sprinkled with ashes, in which they had to expiate their sins by forty days' rigorous penance in order to obtain their reconciliation to the Church on the Maundy Thursday following.

The imposition of ashes remained for long confined to public penitents, and quite unconnected with the day's offering of the Holy Eucharist, but since all have need to manifest contrition, when at length the rule of public penance began to fall into disuse it is not surprising that this outward sign of grief for sin was adopted, in modified form, by the faithful generally. Then too, it began to be linked up with the Mass, and records show that in Rome in the 12th century, the Pope, clergy and people all took part in the function and, after the imposition of ashes in the church of St. Anastasia, walked barefoot in procession up the Aventine Hill to the basilica of St. Sabina, where Mass was celebrated.

As with many other Catholic rites we find the prototype of this one in the Old Testament, where the practice of using ashes (or dust) in token of penance or mourning is often recorded. It was not confined to the Jews, as we read for example that Job put on sackcloth and covered his flesh with ashes (Job xvii, 16), and that the King of Nineveh, alarmed by the threats of Jonas, "was clothed in sackcloth and sat in ashes" (Jonas iii, 6). Another way of using ashes in proof of repentance is shown us by the Psalmist when he cries: "For I did eat ashes like bread and mingled my drink with weeping" (Ps. ci).

Regarded as Dust

It may be asked why ashes came into use originally as a sign of penance or mourning, and the probable explanation is that they were simply regarded as a kind of dust—dust being the natural symbol of nothingness and worthlessness and thence of humiliation, etc. This is granted that ashes are what is meant in the Old Testament, but it is, in fact, a question whether the Hebrew word which has been rendered by "ashes" in the translations of the Old Testament does not rather mean "dust." We may note that the Church in her Liturgy for the day speaks of ashes as dust. Abbot Cabrol shows the natural suitability of ashes for the significance assigned to them, as follows: "As oil is a symbol of joy, so ashes are a symbol of grief, of penance, of repentance and of mourning. Being extremely light they are easily blown about by the wind, and so like dust are taken as a type of fragility and instability" (Liturgical Prayer). The practice of so using ashes was adopted by the Church at a very early date, and Tertullian in the second century A. D. mentions sinners doing penance in sackcloth and ashes.

Turning to the actual rite of blessing the ashes, we find that it begins with an Introit which is here a prayer for mercy. Then the priest recites four ancient prayers taken from the ritual of penitents, over the ashes, which in accordance with a medieval tradition should be made from the palm branches blessed on the Palm Sunday of the year before. The purport of these prayers is that God may bless the ashes and make them a means of sanctification for those who receive them. In the first of the four prayers is the petition that whoever shall be sprinkled with them, for the remission of their sins, may receive both health of body and safety of soul; in the others the special graces of pardon of sins, the rewards promised to the penitent, and the spirit of compunction, are asked for. Having concluded these prayers, the priest sprinkles the ashes and incenses them, after which he signs the people with them on the forehead, in the form of a cross, saying meanwhile: Remember, man, that thou art dust, and unto dust thou shalt return. (Gen. iii, 19.)

This solemn reminder of our end comes to us at a very appropriate time. Spiritual writers, we may notice, not infrequently recommend the practice of beginning one's prayer, or self-examination, with the thought of death. One of the greatest of the English mystical writers, for example, in a beautiful treatise on prayer written for a disciple, goes so far as to advise the latter when beginning his prayer to fix firmly in his mind that he will die at the end of it! Our holy Father St. Benedict again, who wishes his monks to remain continually in the presence of God, counsels them to keep death daily before their eyes. It is not difficult to see why the thought of death is a very profitable one for a Christian, and particularly as a preparation for prayer, for the time, that is to say, when we want to put all else on one side and get as far as possible into touch with God. We all live in great measure immersed in illusions, and death is a great reality in the light of which we can see these illusions more or less as they are: they fade away or at least dwindle for the time being, and as a result we draw at

Miss Doran's Third "Column of the Air" Scheduled Tuesday

Elmira—Miss Carolyn Ruth Doran will give the third of her series of interesting talks under the title "The Column of the Air," Tuesday at 3:30 p. m. over Station WESG here.

Among the subjects considered in her "column" Tuesday of this week were the Hitler movement in Germany, the activities of radicals in America and the attack on President-elect Roosevelt. Miss Doran is heard each week on Tuesday at 3:30 p. m.

Elmira Nurses Enjoy Lecture By Miss Doran

Elmira—Miss Carolyn Ruth Doran, a member of the National Committee on Representation of the National Council of Catholic Women, addressed the Elmira branch of the International Catholic Federation of Nurses, including graduates of St. Joseph's Hospital and those of other institutions affiliated with this world-wide organization at a meeting in the Dunn Memorial Building of St. Joseph's Hospital, Wednesday evening.

Taking for her subject, "The Duties and Privileges of Catholic Action as Applied to the Nursing Profession," Miss Doran briefly outlined the general program of Catholic Action and the objectives of the affiliated nurses' organizations in their relation to this program. The International Catholic Federation of Nurses is an affiliated organization of the N. C. C. W., and its activities form an integral part of the general program of Catholic Action of the federation of Catholic organizations throughout the world.

Following the lecture a social hour for cards and other entertainment were held in the reception rooms of the Dunn Memorial building.

Rochester Catholic Hour from WHAM Studios

1:30 to 2:00 p. m. Every Sunday

The Rev. Lester M. Morgan, M.A., head of Aquinas Institute English Department, will continue "The Case Against Atheism" on the "Catholic Hour," Sunday, February 26.

TO RAISE HISTORY FUND

New York—By a vote at its annual meeting held in this city, the American Irish Historical Society has set for itself the task of raising \$1,000,000 for the purpose of gathering data on the contributions to American History made by the Irish.

once nearer to the truth and to God. Now Lent is the time par excellence which the Church herself has dedicated for increased prayer and an intensified spiritual life, and so we see that in wishing to give each of her children this forcible reminder of death at its commencement, Holy Church is acting on the same wise principles as the spiritual guides referred to above. She wishes to draw the gaze of souls to God and to the only life which really matters.

During the distribution of ashes Antiphons and Responses from the Lenten Night Office are sung, and the ceremony concludes with a Collect in which we ask for strength to begin the Christian warfare with holy fasting. The word begin probably bears special reference to the catechumens.

"LAPIDAR" DISCOVERY OF SWISS PRIEST BRINGS RELIEF TO THOUSANDS

Thirty years ago a Swiss priest, Father Keunle, discovered LAPIDAR—a marvelous herb remedy composed of harmless leaves, flowers and roots from the high Alps. Remedy so helpful, Father Keunle was released by the Catholic Church to give all his time to the relief of suffering through LAPIDAR. Amazing remedy purifies blood, corrects circulation, therefore helps Stomach and Kidney troubles, relieves Nervous Headaches, Swollen Limbs, Gout, Hardening of Arteries, Skin Diseases, Abscesses, Galstones. Used and endorsed by thousands the world over. Send \$2.50 TODAY for guaranteed introductory treatment. Or write us your troubles and we will mail complete facts FREE.

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"Cradle Song" To Be Given For C. D. A. Charities

Elmira—A famous play and a famous cast of players will be united in a charity benefit performance to be given in the auditorium of the Southside High School next Saturday evening, Feb. 25, at 8 p. m. Proceeds will be devoted to the various charities sponsored by the Catholic Daughters of America here.

"The Cradle Song," a translation from the Spanish, and a cast of players in which members of the famous Davenport family of Canton, Pa., will enact the principal roles, combine to make this performance a promising event.

"The Cradle Song" has long been an important play in the yearly repertoire of worthwhile productions offered by the famous Eva La Gallienne in the old Fourteenth Street Theater in New York. Revivals and first productions of artistic dramatic work have been the high objective of Miss La Gallienne's venture which merited and won the approval of metropolitan critics as well as the patronage of the public to whom the productions were offered for lowest admission prices possible and coming in measure with artistic presentation. "The Cradle Song," which treats most reverently of certain charming aspects of religious life as lived in the convents of sisterhoods of the Catholic Church, especially aroused the enthusiasm of critics. Its appeal is unique; and general interest has been aroused by the promise of a finished performance with such established talent as that of the Davenport family.

Harry Davenport, known and loved by theater-goers everywhere, will appear as "the doctor." Mrs. Davenport, known on the stage as Phyllis Rankin, has the role of the Mother Vicarress. Their daughter, Fanny Davenport, is cast as Sister Johanna of the Cross while their other daughter, Kate Davenport is Sister Marcella. Edgar Davenport, their son, is Antonio.

Miss Elizabeth Holleran and Miss Anna Flitten are general chairmen of the affair.

St. John's, Greece, Men Invite All To Family Party

Men of St. John's Church, Greece, will conduct a family party on February 24 beginning at 8:30 p. m. in Memorial Hall, Ridge Road. Dan Fagan and his "Old-Timers" from Station WEAM will provide old and new tunes.

Lunch will be served gratis and at 10 o'clock, a prize will be awarded the oldest couple on the floor. Memorial Hall newly decorated is said to be inviting to anyone desiring an evening of get-together and fun.

The following committee has charge: Chairman John Schairer, assisted by John Welch, John Melzer, Cornelius Martin, Richard Koerner, Emil Dengler, Paul Burke, Peter Von Voorn, Peter De Meyer and William Dovan. A good time is assured all who attend by the committee.

Communion Breakfast Planned for April 9

Auburn—Members of the Holy Name Society of St. Alphonse Church are arranging plans for the annual Communion breakfast to be held Palm Sunday, April 9, in the Pompalm Room of Hotel Osborne. The general committee is composed of Alban J. Linnebach, Eugene E. McCarthy, Alfred J. McGrath, Paul Loeper, Jr., Joseph E. Heleck, Gustave Wietheuecher, Stephen Kleintjes, Joseph G. Elch.

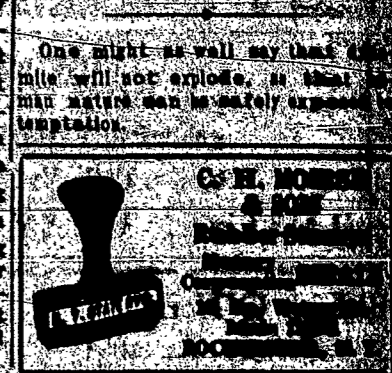
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Window Display Of St. Alphonse Troop Wins Scout Contest

Auburn—Troop 13 of St. Alphonse Church won the annual Boy Scout window display contest conducted by a large number of Scout troops in this city during the past week as part of the national celebration. The St. Alphonse display in Schreck Brothers Furniture Store windows was outstanding, receiving 95 points out of a possible 100 from the judges. This troop of young boys was organized in November 1931 under the leadership of Scoutmaster Joseph Rump and Assistant Scoutmasters Francis Poole and Frank J. Sempke.

VINCENNIAN... Philadelphia... One might as well say that...



1831—Rochester's Oldest Financial Institution—1811 Money Deposited On or Before Friday, March 3rd, Will Receive Dividends (Interest) March 1st Rochester Savings Bank 47 Main St. W. —Two Offices—40 Franklin St. Open Saturday Mornings—8 to 12—For New Accounts and Special Rates Resourced Over \$25,000,000.00 1831—STRENGTH AND SECURITY FOR OVER 100 YEARS—1811

FEBRUARY IS CATHOLIC PRESS MONTH A Good Time To PUSH THE PROGRESS OF YOUR CATHOLIC PAPER FEBRUARY has been designated CATHOLIC PRESS MONTH for observance in every diocese in the United States. During the next month, every Catholic in the diocese will have an opportunity to further the progress of the Catholic Press in general, and of the official diocesan newspaper in particular. YOU WHO know and value this newspaper can encourage others to read it regularly. YOU who already subscribe can urge that others become subscribers. Every friend of the CATHOLIC COURIER can participate in pushing the progress of the official Catholic press by gaining another friend for his newspaper. RIGHT NOW you should plan to think, talk, and push the progress of your own DURING FEBRUARY... Gain a READER Gain a SUBSCRIBER Gain a FRIEND CATHOLIC COURIER OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE MEMBER CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION