

Shepherding The Rochester Deaf

By REV. WILLIAM A. DOHERTY, C. S. S. R.

(Editor's Note: The following article, especially prepared for the Catholic Courier by the Rev. William A. Doherty, C. S. S. R., St. Joseph's Church, Rochester, is a resume of the good work done for the Catholic deaf in Rochester and vicinity. The article is timely because of the recent death of Father Burger, who successfully advanced this work. The article was written prior to Father Burger's death.)

Ephpheta Sunday has passed on with the other forgotten Sundays after Pentecost. It meant nothing at all to most Catholics. They merely heard the Gospel read and perhaps listened sleepily to a few sage and sacerdotal remarks on the predominant sins of the tongue.

Apart from the majority, however, there is a minority of Catholics for whom Ephpheta Sunday means something. For them it is a "Big Feast-Day." It is their day exclusively. They do not hear the Gospel read; they see it. Traced in the air is the portrayal of the Divine Master stooping over one whom He has taken apart from the multitude. There, separated from the crowd, alone with his Almighty Friend, is a Deaf-Mute receiving blessedly the divine gifts of speech and hearing.

"From the multitude apart." Those words must strike home to the heart of every Catholic Deaf-Mute. They are separated. And that separation must be painful. Separated from the melody of a loved one's voice; from the accents that tell of those hidden springs of affection; separated from all those tranquil joys that endlessly flow from heart through tongue and ear. Those silent people are in a world apart and they have felt its loneliness. Here and there in the world there were some more fortunate than others. They had a priest to assist in their hearts spiritual compensations for the lost joys they constantly yearned for. Until very recent years there were few priests that devoted themselves to the spiritual welfare of these deserving Catholics. And how they longed for the consolations of the anointed hand and the priestly heart!

Father Galvin, C.S.S.R. Pioneer
I recall an incident that indelibly impressed my memory and which evidences the desire of the Deaf to have a priest of their own. It happened to a sweet-souled priest whom the Deaf will recall as the pioneer Redemptorist in that work, the Rev. Thomas Galvin, C.S.S.R. He was giving a mission to the Deaf-Mutes of a certain metropolitan city. When he had finished the last service and had retired to the sacristy, a representative man rushed in and on bonded knees begged Father Galvin to stay with them and be their priest. To accede to that request was impossible, but Father "Tom" promised to visit them frequently. Both of the principals in that episode have passed on now, but their memory will always be the efforts in behalf of all the Deaf. The spiritation for others to imitate their gentleman who made the request itself still the successful editor of the only Catholic Deaf-Mute paper in the country. And as for Father "Tom," he held those people and all the Deaf in his heart during the years that followed and he diffused his own good influence by interesting other priests in the work for the Deaf.

Work of Redemptorists
At a Redemptorist gathering many years ago, Father "Tom" began to "sign" a hymn that the other Fathers were singing. Suddenly he stopped. Another young Redemptorist had joined him in the sign language. Father Tom overcame by surprise lost his dignified composure and rushed to the young man and said: "Come with me." Up in his room he explained to the younger priest how he had waited for just that moment. Then he told him of his desire to compose a band of missionaries who would devote themselves wholeheartedly to the care of the Deaf.

Father Burger Enlists
Father Galvin had found himself a companion, and it was no other than he who has proven himself during these many long and wearying years a devoted friend and untiring laborer for the Deaf, the Rev. Charles Burger, C.S.S.R. Since that eventful day on which he signed the beautiful hymn to Our Lady, "On This Day Oh Beautiful Mother," the work for the deaf has absorbed the boundless love and the unmeasured zeal of his great and noble Christ-like heart.

Any essay about Deaf-Mute work in the Rochester Diocese would and must evolve into a eulogy of this grand and zealous priest of God. He labored for the Deaf of other cities

and they too have the warmth of his heart; but here in Rochester he crowned those labors with wondrous achievements. Here he broke the priceless vessel of his devotion to them and the exquisite odor of that ointment will forever permeate this field of his labors.

Here and there on time-browned chronicles I have found a reference to some priest's activity among the Deaf. These pages are far too taciturn, for these men also deserve the tribute of our esteem.

Pioneers
St. Joseph's Church for many years it seems has been the headquarters of the Deaf-Mutes. In 1905 there is mention made of efforts put forth in behalf of the Catholic deaf of Rochester. About the year 1912 the Rev. William Essel, C.S.S.R., interested himself in their behalf. In the same year the Rev. A. Engelhardt, C.S.S.R., is also mentioned. Whether or not these priests did more than hear confession cannot be exactly ascertained. Towards the end of the year 1914 the Rev. Aloysius Strauss, C.S.S.R., is recorded as being very proficient in the sign language and as conducting bi-monthly meetings for the Deaf. In these meetings he gave a conference and religious instruction. The memory of Father Strauss is held in veneration by the Deaf for he worked wholeheartedly for them. For two years he toiled assiduously and then his health failed. In August of 1915, after medical science proved ineffectual, he was transferred to a more favorable climate.

After Father Strauss had left, the Rev. Florian Reichert, C.S.S.R., and the Rev. Joseph Schnorr, C.S.S.R., undertook the care of his flock. Father Schnorr was transferred in 1917 and the Deaf were orphaned for about six weeks. Then the beloved Father Strauss returned and took full charge again. He inaugurated his return by having a mission to which he invited all the Deaf of the city. His choice of the missionary fell upon the Rev. Charles Burger, C.S.S.R., who was then stationed at Pittsburg, Pa. The response of the Deaf was by no means commensurate with zeal of efforts of their pastor and missionary. About a year later the little flock noticed the waning health of their shepherd and feared they would again be deprived of his watchfulness. Their apprehensions became realities. Father Strauss was removed to the hospital and died piously in the Lord on October 5, 1918.

Father Burger Takes Charge
From that time until 1920 the Deaf were without a ministering priest. In January of that year the Rev. Charles Burger, C.S.S.R., was transferred from Pittsburg to the Redemptorist community at Rochester. Shortly after his appointment here the Rt. Rev. Bishop summoned him to the chancery and they talked about reorganizing the work for the Deaf. Father Burger was then commissioned to secure the names of all the Catholic Deaf and assemble them into a congregation. This was done and according to previous arrangement a mission was given them by the Rev. Chaplain of the Buffalo School, Father Gilmore.

After Father Burger had begun the work he was to initiate into it a priest of the Diocese whom the Bishop promised to appoint. This priest was to be in permanent charge of all the Deaf. A certain priest came to Father Burger and took about one lesson in the sign language but appeared no more. On December 12, 1926, the Sacrament of Confirmation was administered in St. Joseph's Church and after the ceremonies Father Burger presented his "class" to the Rt. Rev. Bishop. Upon that occasion the Bishop again promised the Deaf a permanent chaplain of their own. Two days later Father Burger received a notice from the Bishop's office telling him that henceforth he was to take full and permanent charge of this work.

(Continued Next Week)

Sandy: What did you think of that two-for-a-dollar cigar I gave you?

Andy: I thought you kept the ninety-five-cent one.—Illinois Central Magazine.

Missionaries Learn First Aid



A group of missionary priests and Sisters who have just completed the seventh annual medical course of the Catholic Medical Mission Board, at New York. Dr. William F. Rodden, Director of First Aid, New York Chapter, American Red Cross, is shown explaining how splints are placed on broken limbs. Left to right: Sister Anthony Marie, Sister M. Hildegard of Cornwells Heights, Pa.; Rev. Matthew Neidhammer, O. M. Cap., Brooklyn; Sister M. Pauline, Marty, S. D.; Rev. Joseph Heminghaus, C. S. S. R., Guan Guayama, P. R.; Rev. Thomas H. McManus, C. S. S. R., Magaguec, P. R.; Rev. William T. Walsh, C. S. S. R., Caguas, P. R.; Sister M. Bonifacio, Cornwells Heights, Pa.; Dr. Rodden; Sister M. Edith, St. Michael's, Apache Co., Ariz.; Rev. Cornelius Osendorf, O. S. B., Nassau, B. L., and Rev. Edward F. Garesche, S. J., President and Director of the Board. (Wide World photo.)

European Tour By Local Group Told By Fr. Lambert

The Shrine of the Blessed Virgin at Lourdes, the audience with the Holy Father in Rome, and the Passion Play at Oberammergau were highlights of the recent American pilgrimage to the Passion Play, the Rev. Gerald C. Lambert, head of the Rochester delegation, told the CATHOLIC COURIER today. Other members of the local party, who returned to Rochester this week are: The Rev. Joseph G. Merkel, Mrs. Anna A. Welzler, Miss Mary E. Dentlinger, Mrs. Gertrude L. Schicker, Miss Beatrice E. Schicker, Thomas Holahan, and Miss M. A. Elizabeth Heller.

Participating in the American Day ceremonies at the shrine at Lourdes the American pilgrimage assembled at the Grotto for Rosary and Sermon followed by solemn procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the sick and crippled. Prior to the placement of the Blessed Sacrament in the main Basilica, the celebrant, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. E. Hoar, Brooklyn, assisted by the Rev. Thomas F. Conlon, O.P., National Director of the Holy Name Society, and Father Lambert, blessed over 50 infirm people asking for cures. These persons encircled the square in front of the Basilica on stretchers and wheel chairs.

From Lourdes the pilgrimage went directly to Rome where on July 22, they were privileged with an audience with the Holy Father. Father Lambert said that the American party assembled in four different rooms in the Vatican; and knelt on the floor awaiting the entrance of His Holiness. After briefly addressing them and expressing his appreciation of their visit, the Holy Father blessed the pilgrims and extended his blessing to their families as well as to those souls entrusted to the care of the clergy present. While the Pope presented his ring to each member of the pilgrimage, he was accompanied by Monsignor Hoar, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Burke of the American College, Father Conlon and Father Lambert. Father Lambert celebrated Mass at the tomb of St. Peter during his stay in Rome.

Witnessing of the renowned Passion Play at Oberammergau was a fitting close to such a pilgrimage, Father Lambert said. As the major events of the Passion of Christ, beginning with His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, are depicted, the audience forgets that it is seeing a dramatization, according to Father Lambert, for the Play becomes a real, living thing. Devout silence throughout the performances was maintained until the people left the theater.

Residing in the homes of the natives of Oberammergau, during their stay there, the party was impressed with the pious lives of these people, who live simply and quietly. Father Lambert noted that the quaint, native church was crowded every day.

Redemptorist Preaches At St. Mary Auburn Tridium

Auburn—A Tridium, or three days' devotions in honor of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, ended with a solemn commemoration at the 10:30 o'clock Mass last Sunday morning at St. Mary's Church. St. Mary's of the Assumption is the patron saint of St. Mary's Church. The devotions opened Thursday morning. Services were conducted each evening at 7:45 o'clock and consisted of rosary, sermon and benediction. The sermons were preached by Rev. John Sullivan, a Redemptorist Father from Buffalo.

"The Catholic press is the great coordinator of Catholic Action, the voice of organized effort in all fields of endeavor."—Catholic Action Magazine.

Holy Apostles Fete To Be Held 2 Nights On August 25 and 27

Parishioners of Holy Apostles Parish will conduct a Lawn Festival Saturday and Monday evenings, August 25 and 27 on the school grounds, Lyell Avenue and Austin Street. Members of parish societies form the committees with Clarence Pehler, general chairman.

Amusements and attractions of various kinds will be provided for entertainment of all who attend. Assisting General Chairman Pehler are the following committees: Gate: Daniel Byrne, Eugene Kase, Simon Mohan; Grounds: John J. Kennedy, George O'Neill, John Dembs; Refreshments: Frank Miller, Joseph Richards, Harry Dunham, Thomas Welch, James Mulcahey, Frank Kerr, Michael Fredericks, Peter Hemmer.

Games and Sports: Frank Henneberger, John Ackerman, John B. Dougherty, William McGinn, William Batz, Louis Magin, Edward Tydings, John Miller, Henry Streicher, Andrew Smith, Leon Holland, Frank Gardiner, Joseph Carroll, John Schwalbach.

Ice Cream and Cakes: Mrs. Anna Johnson, Mrs. Charles Kase, Mrs. Mary Dranham, Mrs. L. Korth, Mrs. M. Dalton, Mrs. C. Quigley, Mrs. A. Cramer, Mrs. John J. Kennedy, Mrs. Harold Johnson, Mrs. Anna Guerin, Mrs. M. Dougherty, Mrs. E. Morath, Mrs. William Erb, Mrs. F. Henneberger, Mrs. Mary Sheehan, Miss Margaret Miller, Miss Emma Stehle.

Candy: Mrs. Frank Gifford, Mrs. Al Gottemeler, Mrs. Wesley Miller, Mrs. Peter Hemmer, Mrs. George O'Neill, Miss Phyllis Gifford; Flea Pond: Arlene Deuter, Laurita Sullivan, Mary Frances Gilliam, Alice Gundy, Bernardine Figa; Soft Drinks: Mildred Magin, Betty Streicher, Margaret Boland, Sally Lane.

Cashiers: Ruth Eberle, Eileen Neary, Jean Hammer, Dorothy Miller, Wilma Sans, Betty Goscher, Mary Rivers, Sarah Walsh, Helen McCormick.

"Personally I think that the Holy Name Society has done more to make Catholicity respected in America than almost anything during the past generation."—James Walsh in Holy Name Journal.

Highest he whose lot is lowest.—Newman.

Century-Old Catholic Newspaper Philadelphia Owned By...

A Catholic newspaper that will be 100 years old on October 21 was brought into the office of the CATHOLIC COURIER, this week by Thomas Newhart, 222 Chest Street. The newspaper, "The Catholic Herald" of Philadelphia, dated October 23, 1834, is bit yellow with age, but otherwise preserved, containing four pages and somewhat smaller in size than the standard paper, showed that it had been in existence for two years and all recent prior to the issue saved for these 100 years.

No large headlines appear on the front page, the appearance being that of an editorial page of today. A piece of poetry appears in the first column. As was customary in those days, foreign news was received in letter form, and news from home appears on the front page. There is no local news in the issue.

MASSES in the Rochester Diocese

CITY
St. Ann's: Sunday 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00. Daily 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00.

COLENTINE
Main St. Sunday 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00. Daily 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00.

ST. ANTHONY'S
Portland Ave. Sunday 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00. Daily 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00.

ST. MARIANO
Georgetown Ave. Sunday 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00. Daily 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00.

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Auburn Mayor Participates In St. Francis Lawn Fete

AUBURN—A blithe crowd of men, women and children attended the St. Francis Church bazaar conducted last week at the grounds opposite the St. Francis Church in lower Clark Street. Mayor Kirk Bowen, Rev. Pietro G. Moia, pastor of the church, and Rev. Corrado Prodamo, O. F. M., who conducted special services, each evening in the church, participated in the opening and closing ceremonies.

The committee in charge of the arrangements included: Anthony J. Contigula, chairman; Joseph F. Picciano, vice chairman; D. Anthony Camardo, secretary; Jack A. Proclino, treasurer; Matthew P. Oche, Miss Philomena De Joy, Miss Gaetana Ferlenda, Joseph F. X. Iacavino, Alexander Iampaglia, George Locastro, Mrs. Maria V. Lusiano, Mrs. Mary Martino, Philip Orpallo, Paul Paglia, John Scala, Dr. Anthony Spadaro and Joseph Speno.

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