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U. S. Hierarchy's Origin Is Traced

This is the first of a series of articles prompted by the observance of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the American Hierarchy. The series was prepared by the Rev. Dr. Joseph B. Code, instructor in history at the Catholic University of America, whose latest work, "Dictionary of the American Hierarchy," is soon to be published by Longmans, Green & Company, New York.

By REV. DR. JOSEPH B. CODE
 (Written for N. C. W. C. News Service)

On November 9, 1789, the Holy See established the American Hierarchy when, by the Brief *Ex hac apostolica*, it appointed John Carroll first Bishop of the United States. Since that time not only has the history of the American Church been determined largely by the men who have guided it, but from the days of Carroll these men have reflected in each succeeding generation what the Church has done to bring to the New World the civilization and the culture of the Old, as well as to preserve to posterity the Faith of Jesus Christ. Thus the approaching one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the American Hierarchy is more than the mere commemoration of a historic event, it is the close of a chapter in national history written by men who were leaders in more than religious affairs.

This is not surprising when one considers the ancestry of the Bishops and Archbishops of the United States. Belonging to the world's oldest dynasty they enjoy descent which goes back to apostolic times. Thus the more recently appointed American Bishop may trace his lineage to Jerusalem, to the Upper Room.

Common Origin in Rome
 But in reflecting the apostolicity of the Church the American Episcopate exemplifies its Roman character as well. Although enjoying descent from various national Hierarchies, yet, either directly or indirectly, it has as its common origin the city of Rome. This is one of the most interesting features of our Hierarchy from a historical-geographical point of view.

Archbishop John Carroll, for instance, received his consecration at the hands of the English Vicar Apostolic, Bishop Charles Walmsley, O.S.B. But Bishop Walmsley received his consecration in Rome from Cardinal Lenzi in 1764. Hence those prelates later consecrated by Archbishop Carroll namely Archbishop Leonard Neale of Baltimore, Cardinal Cheverus of Bordeaux, but once of Boston, and Bishop Michael Egan, O.F.M., of Philadelphia and Benedict Joseph Flaget, S.S., of Bardonia, along with those whom they in turn consecrated, as well as the prelates of their respective episcopal jurisdictions which go to make up the Carroll descent, all find a common origin in Rome.

Only one other American Bishop received consecration in England, namely Bishop Henry Conwell of Philadelphia, who was consecrated in London by Bishop William Poynter, Vicar Apostolic of the Western District, September 24, 1820. But since no one received consecration at the hands of Bishop Conwell, the Carroll lineage remains to date the only American line with Rome through the English Church.

In a number of cases however the Roman connection has been more direct. The earliest instance in this respect is the consecration of Bishop Louis William Du Bourg, S.S. of Louisiana, which took place in the Eternal City by Joseph Cardinal Doria Pamphili September 24, 1815. Bishop Du Bourg in turn consecrated Bishop Joseph Rosati, C.M. of St. Louis, who in turn consecrated Archbishop Peter Richard Kenrick of St. Louis, Bishop Michael Portier of Mobile, Bishop Leo De Neckere, C.M. of New Orleans, Bishop Richard Pius Miles, O.P., of Nashville, and Bishop Frederick Riss of Detroit.

Many Further Instances
 It would be impossible to list in the compass of this article even the names of those other American prelates who received consecration in Rome, or who were consecrated by Roman prelates in the United States. It is interesting to note, however, that even during the lifetime of Archbishop Carroll, of the seven Bishops consecrated for American sees three received the plenitude of the priesthood in Rome: Bishop Du Bourg of Louisiana, and Bishops Luke Concanen, O.P., and John Connolly, O.P., both of New York.

Of the present Hierarchy, both of our Cardinal-Archbishops were consecrated in Rome; so also were the present Archbishops of Cincinnati, Detroit, Louisville and New York. Archbishop Francis J. Spellman of New York enjoys the distinction of having been consecrated by him who later was to become Pope Pius XII, whereas on October 29, of this year, two native Americans received episcopal consecration from him who is Pope Pius XII: Bishops Louis La Ra-

voire Morrow, S.C., and William Francis O'Shea, C.M.

These are but mere indications of the Roman character of the Hierarchy of the United States.

Consideration should be given, however, to the other lineages springing less directly from Rome, for for other reasons than to show that the American church in its Hierarchy possesses the mark of universality as well. Four of its prelates—Patrick Kelly of Richmond, John England and William Glancy, both of Charleston, and Eugene O'Connell of Grass Valley, (now Sacramento), received their consecration in Ireland, six Celestine Hallandiere of Vincennes, (now Indianapolis), Joseph Crelin of St. Patrick, Duff, C.S.C., Coadjutor of Galveston, Claude Dubuis, C.S.C. of Galveston, John Baptist Salpointe of Santa Fe, and Francis Xavier Leray of New Orleans, were consecrated in France, four—Francis Norbert Blanchet of Oregon, (now Portland), Augustin Blanchet of Nasqually, (now Seattle), Charles Seghers of Oregon, (now Portland), and Edward O'Dea of Seattle, were consecrated in Canada, whereas, Bishop, later Cardinal, Ignatius Peracio, O.M. Cap. once of Savannah, was consecrated in Switzerland, and Bishop Peter Berard, Vicar Apostolic of Brownsville, was consecrated in Spain. When one adds the names of Americans occupying sees outside of the territorial limits of our country one gets a slight idea of the universality of the Hierarchy of the United States.

Hierarchy is American
 That the majority of our Bishops were consecrated by Americans is evidence sufficient that the Hierarchy of the United States is American. This is all the more true when one considers that the phenomenal growth of Catholicism in this country, with its correspondingly rapid increase in episcopal numbers is perhaps unparalleled in the history of the Universal Church.

And whether enjoying direct Roman descent or belonging to a lineage less direct from Rome, all have been as loyally devoted to America as they have been to the Holy See. What the nation has received from this body of men who have been leaders in things spiritual at all times and many of whom have been prominently active in national affairs is a story which the future historian of the Hierarchy must write. Yet it should be remarked at this critical period of world tension that the American Hierarchy, both past and present, through the parentage and education of its members, reveals definite lines of contact social, cultural, and religious, with the best that is in the Old World. Indeed, the American Hierarchy is a channel by which much that is worthwhile in western civilization is transmitted to the United States.

It is to be hoped that the day will not be far distant when a Simon Gabriel Brute or a Frederick Baraga, to mention but two, will, with Bishop Neumann, constitute the beginning of that other lineage—officially recognized holiness in the Hierarchy of the United States.

1889—Golden Jubilee—1939 Catholic Round Table Meeting Set Saturday

The members of the Catholic Roundtable of Science will know the earth inside and out after listening to Dr. J. Edward Hoffmeister, professor of geology at the University of Rochester, at their Fall meeting next Saturday.

Preceding the address, there will be a luncheon at 11 o'clock at the Faculty Club, and following it, a business meeting.

The chairman of the committee in charge of arrangements is Harold J. Kemp.

Bishops' Anniversary Noted In '89

As far back as the first year this newspaper was in existence attention of the faithful was called to the anniversary of the founding of the United States Hierarchy and the beginning of the Catholic University of America.

Here is a front-page item from our Nov. 2, 1889 issue:

"On the 11th and 12th days of November, 1889, at the city of Baltimore, Md., will be celebrated the centennial anniversary of the establishment of the Catholic Hierarchy of the United States. Moved by the appropriateness of the occasion and the singular fitness of the time, a committee of eminent Catholic laymen formulated a call for a general congress of the Catholic laity of the United States, to be held in Baltimore during the celebration, and which would serve as a striking instance of the harmonious relations subsisting between the faithful and their spiritual directors. The event is to be further signified by the formal opening of that monument of true religion and learning—the Catholic University, in the city of Washington."

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