

EASTER FEATURES



RABBONI!

How Ireland Prepares For Easter

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cause this traditional pilgrimage stipulates for the visitation of the Blessed Sacrament in at least seven different churches or chapels during Holy Thursday.

Mourning On Good Friday

But perhaps it is in the solemn mourning of Good Friday that the deep pity of the people and their devotion to the Passion of Christ are best seen and expressed. This is a day, apart from all the days of the year, when the hearts of the people beat in tune with the sorrowful liturgy of the Church. Being a Bank Holiday, more people are free to attend ceremonies than on the previous morning. In the principal churches where Mass of the pre-benediction is celebrated with full liturgical ceremonies, there are again overflow congregations. In the smaller churches where the ceremonies are less impressive there is no lack of devout congregation, both at Mass and at the afternoon or evening devotions. In the churches where the special devotion known as the "Three Hours Agony" or preaching on the Seven Last Words, is conducted, the throngs are greatest of all.

In rural areas it is a touching sight to see the whole countryside turn out "in Sunday best" in the early morning on Good Friday en route for the parish church, where generally the hour of devotion coincides with that of the death of Christ. Old women in shawls may be seen to weep for the suffering Saviour as they follow the public Way of the Cross, or proceed to the altar rails in mournful file to kiss the Crucifix exposed for veneration there. It is a solemn day, a holy day, a day in which the message of the Cross is preached and received with fervor and awe throughout the land.

Holy Saturday, distinguished by the wonderful sacraments of the blessing of the new fire and of the water, popularly known as "Easter water", has its own special appeal. It is a day of proximate preparation for the glories of tomorrow. In every Catholic home the Easter water is treated reverently. In many it has a very special significance and there are several local traditions surrounding its use. In some districts it is the custom to send the children to fetch the water.

Joy On Easter Sunday

On Easter Sunday, the joy in the hearts of the people is reflected in many ways, but chiefly in the crowded altar rails when the congregations receive the Risen Lord, for whose coming they have made very special preparation. Having shared so fully in the spirit of penance, prayer and suffering, they are privileged now to share also in

the Church's rejoicing in the great mystery of the Resurrection.

This year Ireland is preparing for Easter with all her old fervor, deepened by her earnest supplication for peace among the nations and for her own continued preservation from the horrors of war. As they gather around the Altar of Repose on Holy Thursday, and gaze upon the figure of the Crucified Lord on Good Friday, Ireland's Catholic people, mindful of the sufferings of war-torn nations, implore for the world an abundance of those graces, gifts and favors which He died to purchase. So too on Easter Sunday their joy is tinged with pity for the suffering people of the belligerent states. They pray that the dark night of war may pass, and from its tomb may arise that "just and lasting peace" in which alone shall triumph one glorious cause—that of the Risen Christ.

Rochester Catholic Hour, every Sunday at 12:15 P. M., on Station WHEAT.

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Street Floor

HOLY SEPULCHRE CHURCH EMERGES SAVANNAH'S TOMB

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, properly called the Church of the Resurrection, has been a part of the tomb of our Lord, situated 267 feet northwest of the Holy Sepulchre. The natural rock was cut away all round and the building raised around it by Constantine the Great.

Principal Places in Palestine Listed

The principal holy places in Palestine associated with the life and death and resurrection of our Lord are the Holy Sepulchre, Calvary, the Gethsemane, the Via Dolorosa, the Church of the Ascension and the sanctuary of the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem. The grave of the Martyr St. Stephen, the church of the Visitation at Ain Karim, the church of the Annunciation at Nazareth, the river Jordan where our Lord was baptized, the Hill of Transfiguration (Tabor), and the sea of Galilee.

First Easter Was Marked April 9 Thirty Years A. D.

Easter Sunday is the first Sunday after the full moon which occurs on or just after March 21. It therefore always falls at some date between March 22 and April 25 inclusive. This date for the observance was fixed by the Council of Nice in 325. The Council of Nice also decided that the observance of Easter should be uniform throughout the Christian world.

Chinese Catholic Now Listed

The Chinese Catholic population in the United States is now being listed by the National Council of Chinese Catholics. The list is being compiled by the Chinese Catholic Mission in New York City. The list will include the names of all Chinese Catholics in the United States and will be published in a book which will be available to all Chinese Catholics.

Good Friday Victim

How strange a paradox, it seems that He should conquer all, and even—when crucified; That God should suffer and be satisfied; That Christ should save for pulpits; but a tree Yet, but for this, and death would hold in fee Our souls and justice were not pacified. We'd pray for grace and not be fortified How like to him by death to make us free.

Franciscans Guard Holy Places For 7 Centuries

The Custody of the Holy Places in Palestine was entrusted to the Franciscans more than seven centuries ago. St. Francis visited Palestine in 1219, and was welcomed by a number of his disciples whom he had sent there two years before. In 1230, they erected their first friary, and soon after, at the express wish of Pope Gregory IX, began a vigorous campaign to oust the vicars of the Holy Places.

Named Active Head of Girl Scout Project

NEW YORK.—Mrs. Paul T. Kammerer, Jr., of this city, Assistant Secretary of the Girl Scout National Executive Committee, is now Acting Director of the Western Hemisphere Center of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, according to an announcement from Girl Scout national headquarters.

Easter Duty Cited As True Mark Of Fidelity To Church

Catholics are obliged to receive Holy Communion at least at Easter time. The making of such Easter duty approaching the Sacrament of Penance in a state of sin, once a year, and also receiving Holy Communion, is a mark of fidelity to membership in the Church. Failure to make such Easter duty entails the penalty of excommunication from the Church and all rights as a Catholic.

Vicariate Has Nine Priests In Two Years

PUNING, China.—With two more Chinese priests just ordained for Puning Vicariate, the Vicariate has the enviable record of seeing nine of its students raised to the priesthood in two years. The Chinese clergy here now number 16, including one priest who is making advanced studies in Canon Law at the University of St. Thomas in Manila.

Easter Egg's Origin Is Probably Pagan

What is the origin of the custom of Easter eggs? Possibly it is a "pagan" custom, since eggs have always been regarded as symbols of fertility. But a practical explanation seems more likely: during Lent, eggs were forbidden in early times as articles of diet, so when Easter came, the eggs which had accumulated and were now once more available, were specially blessed, partly perhaps with a view to resuming inordinate consumption after the Lenten fast.

Catholic Collegians To Meet April 14-15

WASHINGTON.—The National Congress of the National Federation of Catholic Students will be held here on April 14 and 15. This biennial meeting of the Federation is the second in its history, and will be an indication of the progress made by the N. F. C. S.

General Theme Selected For Congress

The general theme selected by the students to be discussed at the Congress will be the two Encyclicals whose anniversaries are being observed this year—Pope Leo XIII's "On the Condition of Labor" and Pope Pius XI's "On Reconstructing the Social Order." A model program for their study and commemoration on the individual college campuses after the Congress will be drafted.

General Theme Selected For Congress

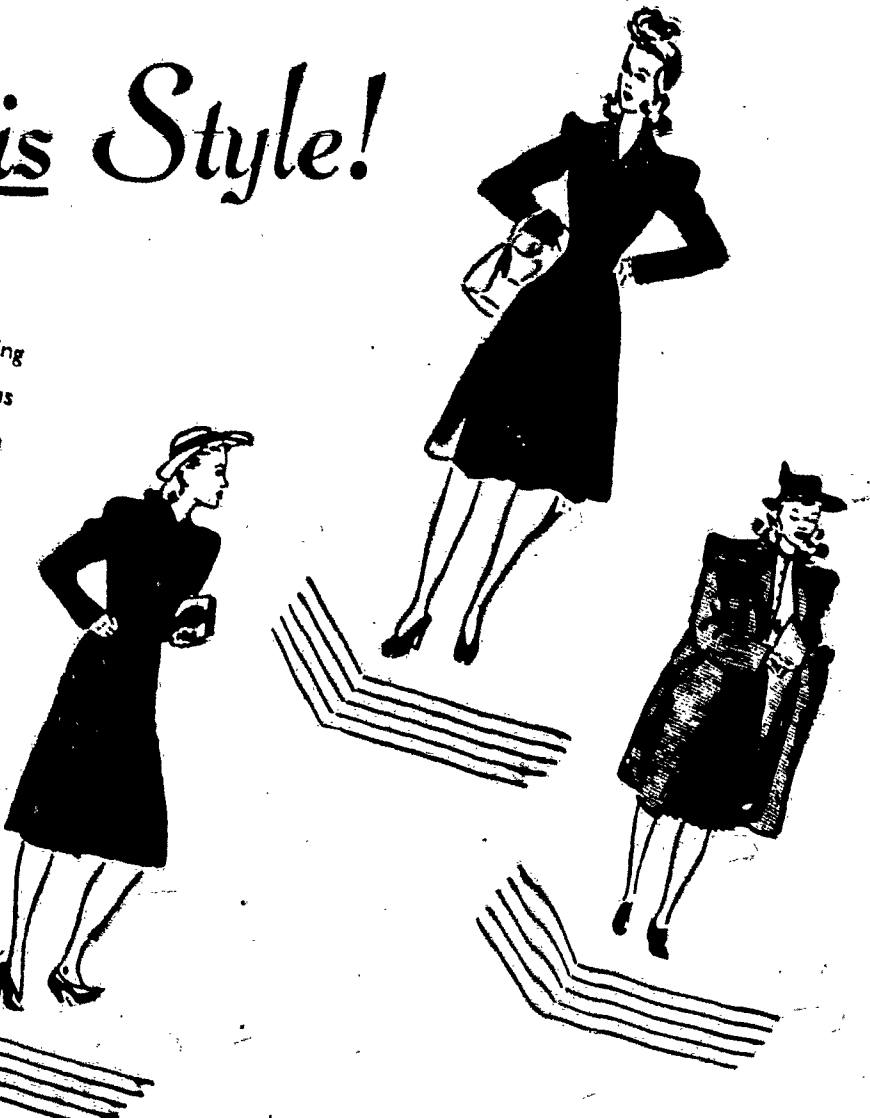
The N. F. C. S. Congress will mark the only national meeting of students which has adopted this theme.

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