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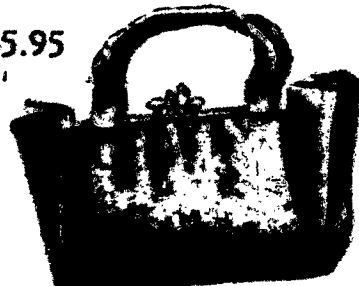
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Our National Patroness

The name of Mary is reverently and constantly associated with the development of America. On the Feast of Our Lady's Immaculate Conception we honor "Mary conceived without sin" as Patroness of Our United States. The whole history of our beloved country has been wrapped up in devotion to Our Blessed Lady.

The ship that brought Columbus, the "Christ-bearer", to the shores of America was named the Santa Maria. Every evening, on that epoch-making voyage, all on board sang the "Salva Regina." Although Columbus named the first island at which he touched for Christ, the second he called Conception, in honor of His Mother.

"Star of the Sea" was the name of the vessel in which English Catholic settlers embarked. Their outpost was called "St. Mary's," and to this day the country that surrounds it is known as Maryland, one of our great states. In 1850 the Sixth Provincial Council of Baltimore requested the Holy See to approve of the selection of Mary Immaculate as Patroness of the United States.

As a vessel consecrated to Holy Mary first brought the Cross of Christ and the light of the true Faith to the New World, so consecration to the same Immaculate Mother will bring us to the perfect fulfillment of a glorious destiny - an ideal civilization founded upon Christian morality and true religion. This dedication of our country to Mary Immaculate obliges us to three things: first, to honor our National Patroness in some special way; secondly, to implore her intercession for the needs of our country and our gallant defenders, everywhere; and thirdly, to exercise an humble apostolate of good example and helpful words as far as in us lies.

God Himself through the grace of the Apostolic See has thrown around our great young country the blue mantle of the Immaculate Virgin, saying to its compassionate heart: "Let this be thy safeguard. Behold thy Mother."

FORTY HOURS

The devotion of the "Forty Hours" will be held in the following churches of the Diocese of Rochester:

Friday, Dec. 4--St. Peter and Paul's, Rochester.
Saturday, Dec. 5--Nazareth Convent, Pittsford.

DR. McGUIRE

(Continued from Page 4)

takes place in a City Hall and Mayor La Guardia gives the blessing! And all this because the marriage in "our civilization" did take place before an altar on which the sacrifice of the Mass was offered.

CATHOLIC FEASTS

We have just begun the ecclesiastical or liturgical year with the first Sunday of Advent. It can be said with truth that the Catholic Church made the year as we all know it. Of course she did not make the solar system. But she threw around the year a cycle of Feasts and Seasons which made the year as we know it and observe it: Advent and Christmas and Lent and Easter and Pentecost.

How many among non-Catholics know that Christmas means the Mass of the Christ Child; Candlemas, the Mass of the Candles; Lammass, the Mass of the Loaves; Michaelmas, the Mass of the Archangel Michael? Yet these days are all observed in one way or another in all "our" civilization.

If the ghosts of the Pilgrims were not at Westminster on Thanksgiving, let us hope that the souls of the Benedictines who once said Mass and chanted the Divine Office there, were looking down with compassion on the fare they loved, and praying that some day, all these festivals will again be understood and observed in their "Merry England"

To Chaplains' School

DENVER - The Rev. William Monahan, assistant at the Holy Ghost Church here, has entered the Army as a chaplain and has been ordered to report to the chaplains' school at Harvard. Father Monahan has been chaplain of the USO-NCCS club in Denver. His brother, Lieut. Joseph Monahan, is in the Corps of Engineers at Fort Belvoir, Va.

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