

Tribute To Men Who Served Paid At Impressive Field Mass In Auburn Cemetery

AUBURN—Memorial Day of 1943 was fittingly observed on Sunday with the offering of a Solemn High Mass in St. Joseph's Cemetery. The third annual Field Mass was attended by hundreds of people and was under the sponsorship of the Holy Name Society of Auburn and the following service organizations: W. Mynderse Rice Post, American Legion; Claysburg Post and Calverton Post, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Seward Camp, Sons of Union Veterans; United Spanish-American War Veterans and Boy Scouts.

The high mass was in charge of Charles Westover and the singing was directed by Capt. Raymond E. Meale, Commander Philip Campagnola. The General Committee was headed by John J. Moran, chairman; Stephen H. Baker, secretary, and Francis C. Marshall, treasurer. A united men's choir from the various churches of the city sang the Mass under the direction of Gerald T. Conroy, organist at St. Mary's.

Rev. William E. Cowan, D. D., pastor of St. Mary's, was celebrant; deacon, Very Rev. Dean John A. Conway; subdeacon, Rev. Vincent O. M. C.; Master of Ceremonies, Rev. Dennis W. Hickey. The sermon was preached by Rev. Richard T. Torney of St. Mary's Church. Father Torney spoke as follows:

"It is a holy charity and a serious Christian obligation to pray for the dead. For most of us the remembrance of our departed friends is not only a regular devotion, but a personal and private affair. Today, we have gathered as a community to offer a united sacrifice of prayer for a group of warrior dead whom our whole city must forever respect. This is a patriotic duty we are proud to perform. With sober humility we are eager to make Memorial Day a religious event of deep meaning. And so we have assembled under the open canopy of Heaven to offer concerted honor and praise to Almighty God. With deep feeling we beg His mercy upon the souls of our soldiers and sailors who in all wars have given their lives for the good of each one of us. Coming from such a large gathering of sincere hearts our petitions today will surely thunder at the throne of God. And as the Holy Sacrifice proceeds the crescendo of our prayer will beg God for one divine favor: eternal happiness in Heaven for all our soldier dead—eternal invitation for the valiant husbands, fathers, sons and friends who sleep around us here or who rest in distant lands.

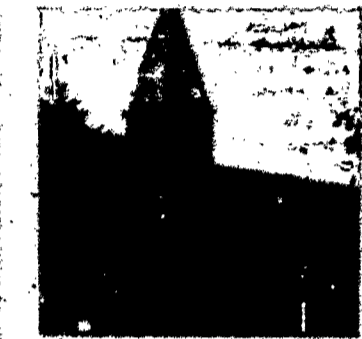
The Bright Hope
In all the quiet, soft beauty of this scene there is sadness and pain. The bright grass, the colorful flowers, the rippling flags cannot hide the bitter story of suffering which lies within a soldier's grave. For our banners however high they wave always have the color of blood upon them. And yet, sobered as we are by the presence of these dead, let us not forget that these few graves are like a men's handful of sand on a long seashore of sorrow.

"America grieves for all her war dead, wherever they may lie, in valleys and deserts and oceans and islands and places unknown. And America sincerely sympathizes with those millions who have waited at home in vain, broken-hearted with compassion. But Christian America is also happy today with the bright hope that our honored dead have at last reached the peace and reward of eternal happiness with God. And our Catholic faith, which teaches us of the infinite mercy of God and of the eternal happiness of the next life, gives us this consolation: that these men who died with God now live in peace with Him who gloriously conquered suffering and death.

"The memory of the men who went from our homes and streets to serve their country should not bring grief but real pride that these heroes were our friends and that they gave their best as true heroes should. Their memory should not cause despair in any heart but rather give rise to a comforting joy that they have a greater happiness now in the Kingdom of God. And no one should sorrow either with the vain regret that these young lives were sacrificed.

because God willed it they shall not be without their reward. Rather than grief and regret, all year hearts today with the consolation of hope in a future happiness and faith in the divine plans of God. And let your will be strengthened with the firm resolutions that our soldier dead shall not have died in vain."

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and 8. Baptisms: 1:30 P. M. Sunday.

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