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FATHER DOLAN FUNERAL HELD

(Continued from Page 1)

Deceased, the Rev. Thomas H. Dolan, C.S.B., died at his home, 1217 12th St., on Feb. 4, 1948, at the age of 67. He was a member of the Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Father Dolan Eulogy

By Bishop Kearney

His Reverency, the Most Rev. James E. Kearney, Bishop of Rochester, presided at the funeral Mass for the Rev. Thomas H. Dolan, C.S.B., spiritual director of St. Basil's Community at Sacred Heart, St. Catharines, Ontario, Jan. 31. Text of the complete eulogy follows:

Right Reverend Monsignor, Very Reverend Fathers, Reverend Fathers, Members of the Community of Saint Basil, relatives and friends:

If I can with a certain amount of reticence that I take the privilege of saying the last words for the departed soul at Father Dolan. First of all, those of you who know him and knew the beauty of soul of this priest, realize that the last thing he would have wanted would be a great tribune from anyone, least of all from the head of the diocese. This would be the last thing of which he would have been worthy.

There are present here to many who through the years have known him and lived with him more closely, that the privilege of saying the last words would seem to be theirs. Because of the circumstances that this disease overtook him so suddenly, and since it is also to his Community, I felt that as Bishop I should mark the passing of this first of the Sons of St. Basil to give his life in the service of God in his diocese. Because from the time that the Community undertook to enter into the very important work of the educational program of the diocese, this is the first of the Fathers to give his life, you might say, on the field of battle. I say that because in time of war, we always pay tribute to the first man to give his life as a soldier.

THE MARIANUM Fathers came with the most eager as a soldier in battle for the establishment of the true values of Christ in the hearts of men. It was to be expected that sooner or later some one would be forced to lay down his life in the field of the service of God.

We prefer to pay tribute to him in spite of the fact that in his humble, Christ-like disposition, this would be the last thing he would want. He would probably point out that in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the prayer for the departed priest should be the last word.

It was not my privilege to know him very well, personally; yet I know him very well from his work. He belonged to that group of the servants of God, who devote their lives to youth, in the work of the classroom. There is no serv-

CZECHS SEIZE CHURCH LANDS

Prague—(REUTERS)—Initiation of steps for the confiscation of church lands in Czechoslovakia under a government decree passed last year has caused a ferment in Catholic circles here.

It was announced that the land reform committee of the Ministry of Agriculture, which has charge of the program to distribute a large portion of church-held lands among small landowners, has decreed the confiscation of properties held by the Przemostskan Order in various Czech dioceses.

The decision, which marks the beginning of actual enforcement of the government's reform measures, was taken after a series of hearings at which heads of the Catholic congregation were invited to testify.

Meanwhile, however, Dr. Joseph Beran, Archbishop of Prague, and Dr. Charles Skopny, Bishop of Brno, have called upon President Eduard Benes to protest against the committee's action.

50,000 in Czechoslovakia) Prague, (INC)—The total membership of Marian sodalities in Czechoslovakia has passed the 50,000 mark, with 20,000 members in Czech lands and 30,000 in Slovakia.

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Long after he has forgotten the facts he has learned, a young man preserves the moral lessons which have been given him. Every young man who comes under the influence of Father Dolan has not only kept those lessons but will pass them on to his children. They will be vital long after all of their teachers and all of the community have gone to their eternal rest.

I need not point out that his Community placed in him a serious responsibility. It is not very easy to be a Spiritual Director. It carries a tremendous responsibility. Whatever honors might come to him, his own Community honored him when they gave him the responsibility of Spiritual Director. Spiritual direction is a very serious matter, placed in the hands of any priest. In the selection of such a leader, the choice comes by inspiration of the Holy Ghost. The spiritual direction and care which this priest exercised, reveals just what he has meant to the Congregation of the Sons of St. Basil. May I also say, on behalf of this Diocese, that it is richer because of the contributions of his service. His going will be followed by the prayers not only of his Community, and the young men of Aquinas, but also of the religious of the diocese who have benefited from his generous ministrations.

WE REALIZE that it is necessary for any congregation of priests or religious to see that members have all the academic training they need for the effectiveness of their work, but we realize that secular learning no matter how great, can never take the place of spiritual formation. Indeed, degrees can become as sounding brass and tinkling cymbals, unless there is a deep spiritual foundation; unless the soul's responsibility to God has been developed.

Very often the last moments of such a man are characteristic of his life. God knows, a man lying on a bed of pain has enough to think of in himself, but in his generosity and zeal for the things of Christ one of the last things he did was to say a prayer for the success of the project so close to his Community: the foundation of SAINT JOHN FISHER COLLEGE. One of his last conscious acts was to offer up his pains and sufferings and ask God that they might be applied to make a realization of the dream of the Diocese and his Community: the establishment of the new Saint John Fisher College for men.

It must be a part of God's plan that every man in this realization should be followed very closely by some one close to the Throne. Jesus Christ now has someone close to Him, to whom we can pray for assistance, and in whose hands we can place the responsibility of affecting the success of these plans so dear to his heart and the heart of Jesus Christ, whom he served so faithfully.

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