

ON GUARD

The Immaculate Heart
Not New Devotion
Our Lady's Mission

By REV. P. J. FLYNN

Speaking of devotion to the Blessed Virgin under the title of her Immaculate Heart, it is important to note that the only thing new about the Immaculate Heart of Mary devotion is its current popularity. The devotion itself is not new. It is as old as the Church herself.

DURING her dramatic apparitions in 1917 to the children of Fatima, the Blessed Virgin explicitly appealed for devotion to her Immaculate Heart. This appeal, no doubt, gave great popular impetus to the devotion. But long before the events of Fatima both the faithful and the Church officially had fostered and promoted devotion to Our Lady under the title of her Immaculate Heart.

Traces of this devotion, as one Vatican document points out, can be found even in the writings of the early Church Fathers. During the middle ages and subsequent centuries, noted figures in the Church, both men and women, eagerly promoted the devotion which today has gained such a widespread grip on the consciousness of Catholics everywhere. And all this was before the revelations of Fatima.

AT THE beginning of the nineteenth century, Pope Pius VII, in recognition, no doubt, of increase of the devotion among the faithful, instituted officially the Feast of the Most Pure Heart of Mary. Approval of this celebration, which was fixed for the Sunday after the Octave of the Assumption, was limited to those dioceses and religious institutions that asked the permission of the Holy See.

Again about the middle of the nineteenth century, when the feast had attained great universal popularity and acclaim, Pope Pius IX enhanced it with a special Divine Office and Mass of its own. Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary continued to spread. And as the Holy See itself has explained, under the guidance of the maternal Heart of Mary, extraordinary and singularly sanctified blossomed forth in many souls. Priests and faithful, spurred by zeal for the Mother of Christ, fostered the unanimous desire that the feast of the Heart of Mary be extended to the Universal Church.

Then came the revelations of Our Lady at Fatima when she asked for world wide devotion and consecration to her Immaculate Heart.

THE INSTINCTIVE affection of the Catholic world for Our Lady of the Immaculate Heart received further impetus when the present Pontiff, Pope Pius XII, climaxed the devotion of centuries by solemnly consecrating the whole human race to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on December 8, 1942. The Pope's action marked the conclusion of the silver jubilee honoring the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin at Fatima.

In order that the memory of this consecration might be served annually by the whole Church, Pope Pius XII also raised the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary to the rank of a major feast (a double of the second class) with its own Divine Office and Mass and fixed the date for its celebration on the octave day (August 22) of the Feast of the Assumption.

Briefly, this is the history of the ever growing popularity of Our Lady under the title of the Immaculate Heart. The title is one that speaks most eloquently to a world stunned and prostrate before the impact of global carnage and destruction.

TODAY, humanity finds itself on the verge of a modern Calvary. Perhaps that is why, more than ever before, a frightened and sinful world turns appealingly to the maternal Heart of Our Lady who once stood so bravely on the first Calvary and offered maternal comfort to the Dying Christ in His darkest hour.

The Immaculate Heart devotion is devotion to the Mother of Christ. And devotion to the Mother of God under any of her famous titles is devotion to Christ Himself. The veneration and confidence which we show her are rooted in the fact that she is the Mother of the Divine Son of God.

Through the appeal of her Most Pure Heart, the Mother of Christ today calls upon a world to come back to God. Through the appeal of her Immaculate Heart, she seeks to win all men and women to the Love of the Divine Son of God. That today and always is the mission of Our Lady of the Immaculate Heart.

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NEW YORK

St. Joseph Sisters Plan New St. Agnes Girls High School

A new St. Agnes High School for girls will be erected on the twenty-acre tract, recently purchased on Westfall Road, south of Rochester, by the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph, according to the Reverend Mother Rose Miriam, Superior.

Since its inception in 1940, St. Agnes High School has been located in temporary quarters at the former St. Agnes Institute next to Corpus Christi Church on East Main Street.

PRELIMINARY PLANS and sketches for the new school building have been drawn by Mr. Leo F. Ribson, architect, and, "if nothing prevents, construction work will start next Spring," Mother Rose Miriam stated.

The school site was purchased several weeks ago by the Sisters of St. Joseph from Miss Cora F. Warrant for \$20,000. It is situated at the west end of Westfall Road and is almost due south of the University of Rochester buildings. The area is a rapidly growing residential section.

The new school will be situated close to Genesee Valley Park, with one approach through the park and another via West Henrietta Road.

At its opening eight years ago, St. Agnes taught first year high school students under the charter of Nazareth Academy, a girls high school also conducted in Rochester by the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Subsequently, St. Agnes obtained its own New York State charter and at its first graduation exercises held June 28, 1944, in the Memorial Art Gallery Theater, His Excellency Bishop Kearney welcomed the new school into the family of diocesan schools.

With the new St. Agnes, the Sisters of St. Joseph will have in their charge two major high schools, both located in the See city of the diocese.

Nazareth Academy, Rochester's first Catholic high school for girls was started by the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1870 and today has an enrollment of over a thousand students.

A NATIVE of Rochester, Monsignor Burns is the son of Mrs. Adelaide Burns, 10 Sibley Place, Rochester, and the late John Burns, well-known Rochester newspaper man.

An alumnus of Blessed Sacrament School and St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's Seminaries, Rochester, Monsignor Burns completed his studies for the priesthood at the North American College and was ordained in Rome on Dec. 8, 1937.

Returning to the United States in August, 1938, he was appointed assistant pastor of Holy Rosary Church, Rochester. In 1942 he joined the faculty of St. Andrew's Seminary, and in 1945 was appointed professor of Moral Theology and Canon Law at St. Bernard's Seminary.

IN JANUARY, 1946, announcement was made of Father Burns' appointment to the Sacred Congregation of Oriental Churches in Rome. His assignment was announced by His Excellency Bishop Kearney, who had been notified of the appointment by Archbishop Amleto Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate in Washington.

Just a little more than a year later, in March, 1947, appointment of Father Burns as vice-rector of the North American College was made known by Bishop Martin J. O'Connor, college rector and former Auxiliary of Scranton, Pa.

It will pay you to see Bill Thorne for an accurate watch or a beautiful diamond. Elgin, Waltham, Longines and Bulova. William S. Thorne, Jeweler, 318 East Main St., opp. East Ave.—Adv.

Exit 'The Babe' Ruth's Last Word Before His Death Was A Prayer

Death of Babe Ruth, 33-year-old baseball idol who learned the game which won him so much fame in a Catholic orphanage in Baltimore, has evoked an unanimous tribute—"He was baseball's greatest figure and the sport never will see his like again," he former home-run king of the New York Yankees died early Tuesday evening in New York's Memorial Hospital after a two-year fight against cancer of the throat.

His last reported word was a prayer uttered a half an hour before his death. Last rites of the Catholic Church were administered to him on July 21 when his condition became grave.

The Rev. Thomas H. Kaufman of St. Catherine of Siena Church was at Ruth's bedside when he died. Father Kaufman, who spent most of the day with the dying home-run champion, told reporters as he left the hospital that the Babe "was all set for it and died a beautiful death."

"He said his prayers," the priest added, "and lapsed into a sleep, and he died in his sleep."

Ruth's career is traced back to his boyhood days in St. Mary's Industrial School in Baltimore. There one of the instructors, Brother Benedict, with a view to keeping young Babe out of mischief, interested him in baseball.

There was Brother Matthias, who trained the boy in baseball; Brother Herman, who had such an influence on the youngster's life that he took the name of Herman when he was confirmed; Brother Paul, who was the head of the school and who signed the Babe's first baseball contract as his guardian because Ruth was a minor when he left the school in 1914, and there was the late Brother Gilbert, then with St. Joseph College, conducted by the same Brothers, who brought Ruth to the attention of the late Jack Dunn, owner of the Baltimore Orioles.

It was the step which led Ruth to fame, fortune and the glory of Yankee Stadium.

Sport writers this week hailed "The Babe" as "a truly fabulous man, the best beloved and best known person in our times, greater even than the great sport which spawned him."

Supporting this tribute is the following story told by Arthur Daley of the New York Times:

"One Sunday morning last March the Babe was kneeling in church when a priest, banished old lady timidly tapped him on the shoulder. 'Mr. Ruth,' she whispered, 'I just want you to know that I pray for you every day.'"

"Obviously," comments Daley, "she had never seen a baseball game in her life. Yet her imagination had been so captivated by the Bambino that she remembered him in her prayers."

And undoubtedly, he concludes, the old lady's prayers for Ruth are multiplied today by hundreds of thousands throughout the country.

Sketch of the proposed new church and rectory of St. Margaret Mary Parish in Irondequoit shows the edifice to arise on present site, Rogers Parkway. Rev. Charles J. Bruton is pastor and founder of St. Margaret Mary Church. Architects are Joseph P. Flynn and Herbert H. Bohack. Construction is expected to begin this fall. (Story on Page 7).

Hungary Catholics Rally To Bishops Against Red Attacks

Budapest — (NC) — Hungarian Catholics have given a striking answer to the ever-increasing communist-inspired campaign of vilification directed against their spiritual shepherds. In response to a summons from their Bishops, they have crowded, during the past three evenings, every church throughout the country, thus testifying that "under our heavy cross, we stand firmly at the side of Christ, our Church and our religion, and are united in the rarest watch over our youth."

They prayed the Rosary and the Litany of Loretto for the freedom of the Church and her greater glory, for their Hungarian fatherland, for the prisoners of war, for all suffering countrymen and Hungary's youth.

THE IMMEDIATE occasion for these country-wide services of prayer was the conclusion of the "Year of Our Blessed Lady" which was proclaimed in 1947 by His Eminence, Josef Cardinal Mindszenty, Primate of Hungary, in the name of the country's episcopate.

In a pastoral read in all churches, the Primate emphasized that this year of special devotion to Our Blessed Lady has brought an increase of religious knowledge and particularly of Catholic self-respect in the exercise of their religious duties throughout the nation.

"Let us be grateful for the unbroken blessings which we have received during the past year, and let us increase our prayers and work of atonement," the pastoral said.

In another letter to his flock, the Primate asked special prayers for the thousands of religious who were forced to cease their teaching activities in Catholic schools that have been nationalized—schools "in which many generations were taught the love of God and of mankind, loyalty to the Church and to the country."

"PRAY FOR THEM," the pastor concluded, "that, though far from their schools, they may follow the path designed for them by God. . . . When we ask your help and that of the parishes, we hope your hearts and doors will always be open to them."

Ecumenical authorities have issued a statement declaring "completely false" the reports circulated abroad that priests and Religious who taught in Catholic schools had been advised by the Hierarchy to leave the country.

The statement said that six large schools have been returned to Protestant denominations; the Catholic Church, however, is still awaiting a decision by the Hungarian government regarding the number of schools to be returned. Meanwhile, Brothers and Sisters who formerly taught are being assigned to duties in parishes and charity organizations.

Church Warns Press Of Possible Censure Budapest — (NC) — Following a particularly severe anonymous attack on His Eminence, Josef Cardinal Mindszenty in the daily, Hungarian Nation, the chancery of the Hungarian Primate has issued an official statement warning the author of this and similar outbursts of the serious consequences incurred by them under the provisions of Article 234, Canon Law.

At the same time, press reports state that the Rev. Stephen Balogh, a Catholic priest formerly stationed at Szeged and member of the Hungarian parliament, (Continued on Page 6)

Stalin Anti-God Role Recalled London — (NC) — Premier Stalin was the first secretary of the Anti-God League 25 years ago, Archbishop Richard Downey of Liverpool reminded 2,000 Brothers of the St. Vincent de Paul Society at their annual convention in Manchester. The leopard has not changed his spots," the prelate declared.

He called on the Brothers to make the fighting of communism their aim today just as Frederick Ozarn, the founder, made the fighting of French atheism the aim in his day.

"We have got to do something and I think that the remedy is one's own sanctification," the Archbishop stated. "It is spread to those around you and in that way you will be winning a very active apostolate. The only way to bring peace, happiness and prosperity to the masses is by the sanctification of the individual."

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Honored



MONSIGNOR BURNS

Pontiff Names Father Burns To Papal Rank

The Rev. Richard K. Burns, a priest of the Diocese of Rochester and serving as vice-rector of the Pontifical North American College in Rome, Italy, has been elevated by His Holiness Pope Pius XII to the rank of Papal Chamberlain, with the title of Very Reverend Monsignor, according to an NCWC news dispatch received here.

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New Canadian Diocese Named

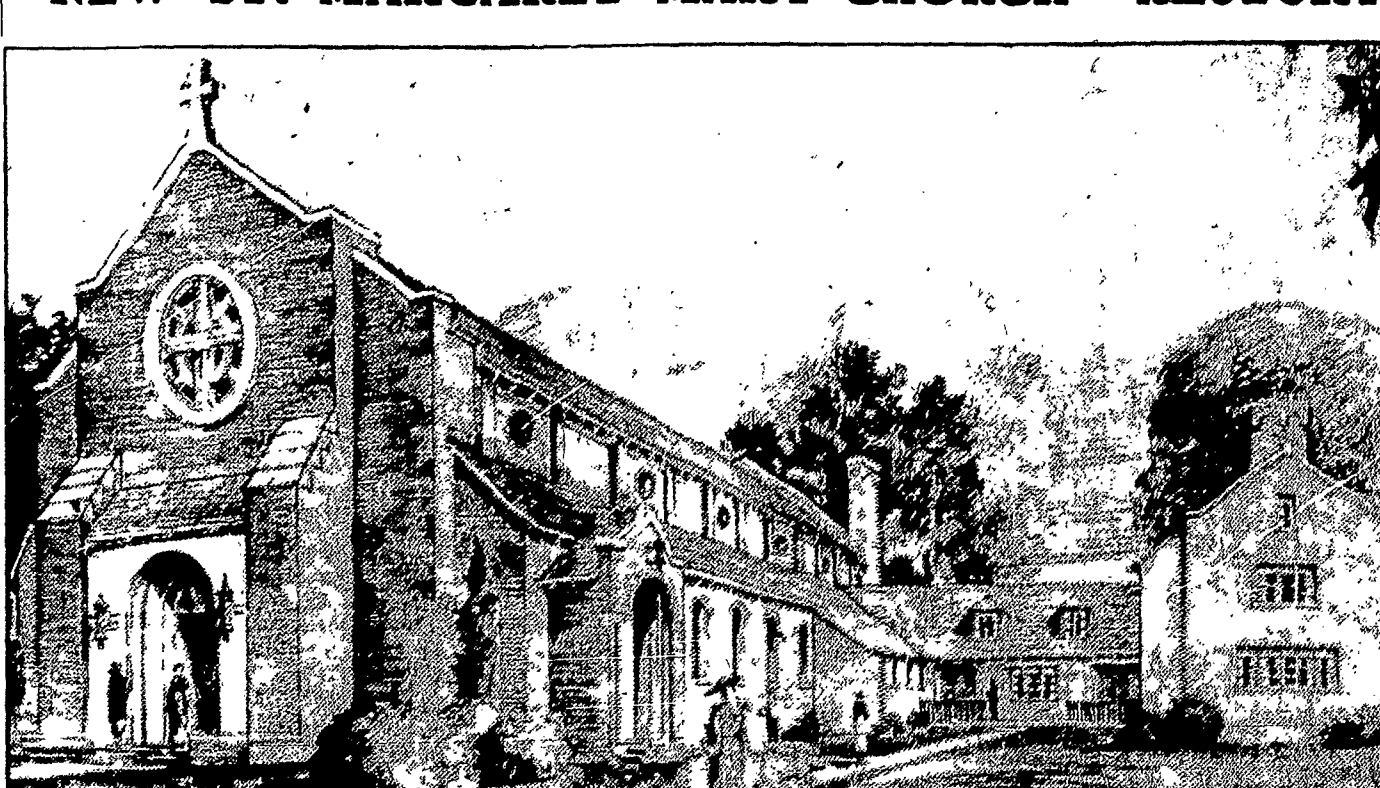
Vatican City (NC) — The Holy See has created a new diocese and named two new Bishops in Canada. Osservatore Romano, Vatican City daily, has announced.

The new Diocese of St. Paul in Alberta was formerly part of the Edmonton archdiocese and becomes a suffragan See of Edmonton. Msgr. Maurice Baudoux, a pastor in the Saskatoon diocese, has been named first Bishop of St. Paul.

Another Canadian priest, Canon Benoit Giza, has been named Titular Bishop of Abitibi and appointed Auxiliary to Bishop Joseph Alfred Langlois of Valley field in Quebec province.

Osservatore also announces the creation of the diocese of Curitiba in Brazil. It will be a suffragan See of the Archdiocese of Olinda and Recife.

NEW ST. MARGARET MARY CHURCH—RECTORY



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