Barbara Ward Elected

London — (NC) — Miss Barbara Ward, a governor of the British Broadcasting Corporation and assistant editor of the Economist, British political and financial weekly, has been elected president of the Catholic Women's League of Great Britain.

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Franciscans Invest Negro Novices in New Community

Smithtown, L. I. — (NC) — Seven novices have been solemnly invested here in the newly-founded Franciscan Missionary Servants of Christ the King, believed to be the first Negro religious congregation of Brothers in the United States.

Bishop Bartholomew J. Eustace of Camden, N. J., officiated at the investiture at St. Patrick's Church of the novices, whose community, designed to serve Negro missions in the U. S., originated as a result of a letter sent to several American Bishops by a Negro GI while he was stationed in North Africa during the war.

Sgt. Walter Pierre, seeking to help the people of his race to come to the knowledge and love of Christ, wrote the letter, which was published in "The Catholic Missions" and drew widespread interest. He came to Camden at Bishop Eustace's invitation after his discharge from the Army.

The ex-GI began his work by assisting the Rev. Joseph F. Hanley, pastor of St. Bartholomew's parish, which has a percentage of Negroes. At the request of Bishop Eustace, the Franciscan Brothers of Brooklyn offered a house at their novitiate and juniorate at Smithtown for the new community.

Under the Canon Law requirement that the first year of the novitiate must be supervised by an established religious congregation, the first novices will be guided by the Franciscans for the next year. Brother Aquinas, O.S.F., is their first novice master.

Members of the new community will serve U. S. Negro missions as catechists, parish visitors, and social workers. Men interested in the community's work may write the Brother Superior at Smithtown.

Priest Declares Forgiveness Of Would-be Killer

London —(NC)— The Rev. John Wilson, 38-year-old curate of St. Joseph's Church, Helensburgh, near Glasgow, sent a message to court this week forgiving his would-be murderer, 24-year-old Edward Boyce, who attacked and stabbed him in a lane when he was returning to his presbytery one evening last month.

Boyce, who pleaded guilty to attempted murder, was appearing in the Edinburgh High Court to receive his sentence. He was sent to jail for six years.

The court was told that Boyce, a Protestant, was friendly with a Catholic girl who tried to persuade him to become a Catholic. He refused and ultimately the friendship was broken off. The priest called regularly at the girl's home during the courtship and Boyce apparently considered that the priest had influenced the girl's change of heart.

Father Wilson, who fought Boyce with his bare hands though he was armed with a dagger, is now well on the way to complete recovery.

College Honors Labor Journalist

St. Bonaventure, N.Y.—(NC)—Paul W. Weber, Detroit journalist and labor leader, has been named to receive the 1948 Catholic Action Medal. It was announced by the Very Rev. Thomas Plassmann, O. F. M., president of St Bonaventure College, which bestows the award. It is given annually to a Catholic lay person who has been outstanding in the field of Catholic Action.

Presentation of the medal will be conferred at a date to be announced later.

Mr. Weber will be the youngest recipient of this honor, being not yet 41 years of age He is actively engaged in the field of journalism, and is founder as well as editor of The Wage Earner, leading Catholic newspaper devoted to labor.

He is Executive Secretary of the Newspaper Guild of Detroit, heads the Detroit Association of Catholic Trade Union Actionists, and is Vice-President of the Michigan Industrial Unity, Chicago, as well as Director of the Detroit Archdiocesan Labor Institute

Born at Lancaster, Wis., Mr Weber received his higher education at Columbia College, Dubuque, and DePaul University He is the author of numerous articles in newspapers and periodicals, and has written a Catechism of the Association of the Catholic Trade Union.

He is married and the father of three children.

Our Lady of Victory Church To Mark Centenary Sunday

By ARTHUR P. FARREN

Rochester's "Little Church Around the Corner," in whose pews five generations of people have knelt in worship, on Sunday will witness the celebration of the parish centenary.

First organized as St. Mary's French Church in 1848 when this area was part of the Buffalo Diocese, it changed to its present name and location — Our Lady of Victory Church, Pleasant St.— with the establishment of the Rochester Diocese.

It was as his first public act as head of the new Diocese that Bishop McQuaid laid the cornerstone of the small brick edifice on July 19, 1868.

During its long history under six bishops and 15 pastors, the parish has comprised in the majority persons of foreign ancestry — Germans, French, Swiss, Hollanders and Belgians. Today its approximately 300 families, mostly Belgian, reside in many parts of Monroe County.

PERHAPS THE little church is now most well known because of its convenience for scores of downtown workers who make daily visits to the Blessed Sacrament — it is only a stone's throw from Main Street — and for the annual novenas and pilgrimages it sponsors.

Highlighted in its century of memory were the famed careers of three of its pastors— the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Hippolyte De Regge (later the first Chancellor of Rochester Diocese), the Rev. Canon Alphonse A. Notebaert and the Rev. Camiel VanderMuelen.

It was in 1847 that Bishop John Timon of Buffalo, while visiting the Rochester area preaching missions in English, German and French, saw the need of a church for the French population of the

REV. STEPHEN COUTURIAUX

city. Many of them had been attending St Joseph's Church on Franklin Street, which had been erected in 1843.

FOR THE SUM of $50 Bishop Timon the following year purchased the little St. Mary's Church on Ely Street, off South Avenue, which had been vacated by German parishioners when the new St. Joseph's Church was completed. It then became known as St. Mary's French Church.

From 1848 to 1852 the new parish was administered by two of the Redemptorists from St. Joseph's — Fathers Mason and Van Campen. First resident pastor was the Rev. A. Saunier, who served from 1852 to 1854. Trustees were Antoine Langie and Ambroise Dupont.

Succeeding pastors, from 1854 to 1863, were the Reverend Fathers P. Bricon, B. F. LeFevere, A. Pierard, C. J. Magne, P. Matricori, A. Anatore and A. Le Breton.

IN 1863 Father De Regge was appointed to minister to the French Catholics of the city. Dissatisfied with the Ely Street building, the new pastor determined, despite some opposition from parishioners, to erect a new church building. The Pleasant Street edifice, still standing today, was dedicated five years later.

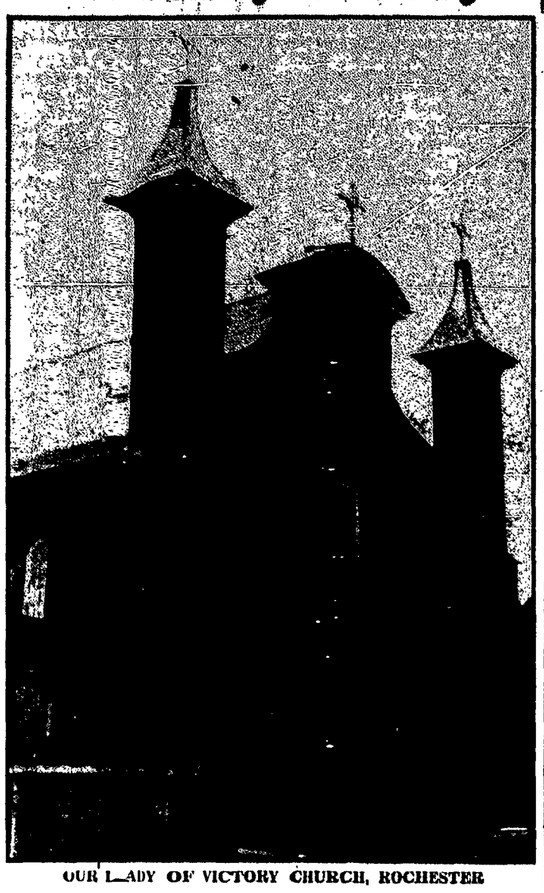
It was significant that he obtained more than half the sum for the new building from friends in Belgium, whose descendants later became the majority of parishioners.

He remained in charge of the parish from 1863 to 1879, except for a period of two years (1869-71) when the Rev. J. Dole was pastor. Father De Regge was made a Domestic Prelate by Pope Leo XIII in 1865, with the title of Rt. Rev. Monsignor. First lieutenant of Bishop McQuaid during these years, he was honored by being appointed the first Chancellor of the new Diocese.

In 1869 he accompanied the Bishop on a tour of Europe in search of priests for the diocese. This quest was somewhat fruitless -- but it served as a springboard for the establishment of St. Andrew's Seminary, of which Monsignor De Regge, who had labored so hard for its erection, later was president.

Monsignor De Regge sailed for Belgium in 1893 and died in Antwerp July 13, 1894. He was interned in Ghent. His request that his heart be removed and sent to his chosen America was ruled out by attending physicians.

Father Notebaert, another native Belgian, was appointed pastor to succeed the Monsignor on July 10, 1879. He celebrated his 25th anniversary of ordination in 1896. Louis C. Langie, a son of one of the founding parish trustees, presented Father Notebaert with a purse of gold. Many notables of rank in Belgian affairs attended.


OUR LADY OF VICTORY CHURCH, ROCHESTER

A fire of undetermined origin caused approximately $10,000 damage to the church building on May 15, 1912. Destroyed were many valuable decorations brought from Europe by Father Notebeart. Less than 90 days later the interior was rebuilt, and a Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated on Aug. 5.

UNDER THE pastorate of Father Notebaert a parish school was first started in a stable in the rear of the church in 1890. The building was renovated and enlarged in 1894.

Father Notebaert was widely noted for his charity, especially to new immigrants. He marked his golden jubilee in

REV. A. A. NOTEBAERT

the priesthood in 1921. The parish and the city were saddened March 29, 1928, to learn of the death of this outstanding yet humble priest. He had numerous admirers among the city's non-Catholics.

Succeeding him was Father VanderMuelen, well known through the years as "Father Van." Coming to Rochester from Belgium in 1913, he had been serving as assistant to Father Notebaert.

Father Vander Muelen was pastor from 1927 until September of this year, when he retired at the age of 80. He was perhaps best known for the novenas and retreats he conducted at the little church, and the annual pilgrimages to the Shrine of St. Anne de Beaupre, Canada, he directed over a period of 33 years.

HIGH POINT of his pastorate occurred in 1938 when the parish marked its 90th birthday. At that time "Father Van" received a signal honor from His Majesty, Leopold III, King of Belgium. In token of his services to the people of Belgium he was granted the title of Knight of the Order of the Crown, bestowed on him through the Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs.

While pastor he made six ocean crossings to Europe, one by air. On Sept. 13 he set sail for Belgium and retirement.

Appointment of the Rev. Stephen Couturiaux, S.S.C.C., also of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, was announced by Bishop Kearney on Sept. 28. For years his special work in the order has been the promotion of the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in the Home.

Born in Belgium in 1882, Father Couturiaux was ordained there in 1908. After laboring for several years in parish work in the Hawaiian Islands, he returned to Belgium to teach. Coming to the United States in 1920, he was stationed at parishes in Massachusetts until the 1930s, when he was engaged by the order to further the Enthronment movement throughout South America, Cuba and this country.

The Rev. Willibord Willemen, S.S.C.C., who came to Our Lady of Victory in 1943 as assistant pastor to Father VanderMuelen, continues in that post under the new pastor.

Monastery in Utah Elevated To Abbey

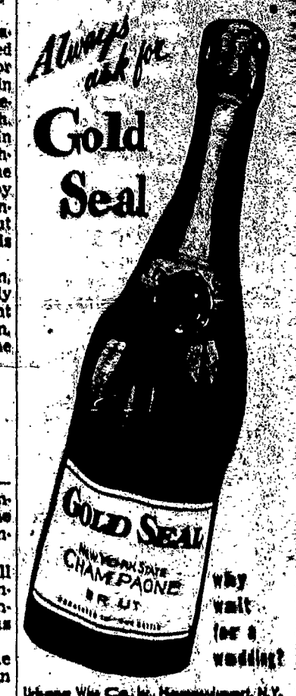
Huntsville, Utah — (RNS) — Elevation of the Cistercian Monastery of the Holy Trinity to the status of an abbey, was announced here.

In becoming an abbey it will now be independent of the Monastery of Our Lary of Gethsemani, Kentucky, which served as the parent institution.

Within the next few weeks the monks here will choose their own abbot.

Chinese Pentateuch

Peking — (NC) — The Chinese translation of the Pentateuch, or first five books of the Bible, was published here October 1. The 400-page book is the work of the Franciscan Institute of Biblical Studies, staffed by Father Gabriel Allegra, O.F.M., and five Chinese private scholars.



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Do you know that the Sisters in one of our hospitals in India have baptised 200 pagan babies as they were about to breathe their last? This is ransom for Christ.
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Even a ten dollar gift to ransom a pagan baby for Christ will be deeply appreciated. Won't you be a missionary with these daughters of Mary?

PURGATORIAN
Don't neglect to have Masses said during November by our devoted Near East missionaries. You can enroll a loved one deceased in our Purgatorian Society of Masses for twenty dollars perpetually. A dollar enrolls one for the whole year.

HELPLESS AT CHRISTMAS
Orphans and lepers are helpless on Our Lord's feast of giving. Your mite for ORPHAN'S BREAD or the DAMIEN LEPER FUND will assure homeless children and whitened lepers of some Christmas joy.

BLIND EYES
You in your goodness are the eyes of the blind. The Vincentian Fathers have a home for the blind, abandoned on their doorstep, at Hebo, East Africa, and they need three hundred dollars. Can you help them?

OUR NEEDIEST
Thousands of them are in the Holy Land itself, now a land of sorrow, once bright with the footsteps of Jesus and Mary. Think of them before Christmas. That ten dollar gift for a food package can do so much.

WELL TIMED
It's the gift well timed, not its amount, that will count. Stringless gifts to the Near East missions at Christmas are well timed.

NO CHAPELS
We should like to build more chapels in the diocese of Archbishop Ivanios of India, but it is hard to raise the thousand dollars needed for each. Can you put a House of God among God's grateful poor? If you cannot, perhaps you will want to make a smaller gift towards the Shrine Chapel of the Little Flower, which we shall build in Lebanon, for the conversion of Russia.

STILL STANDS
The altar on which St. Gregory offered the thirty Gregorian Masses, day after day, for his departed friend, still stands in Rome. Write for our free description and for information about these Masses to be offered after your own death.

SHANGHAI LADIES
Those dear Irish Sisters of St. Columban run a home and school for our poor Russian children of Shanghai. We had hoped to raise five hundred dollars for them before Christmas, but we lack half of it. The joy of helping them is better than a movie. Won't you have a part?

BIG MONEY
Always big money for our poor, always too much is one hundred and twenty dollars, yet it will give their humble chapels a chalice, ciborium for Holy Communion, and an eternal light burning for you, the sanctuary lamp. You may have your name engraved on these sacred gifts.

HANDS OF BEAUTY
Yes, and of divine power—the beautiful hands of the priest. Won't you adopt a Near East boy and make him your own priest? His six years of training cost six hundred dollars. Even a dollar monthly, to the CHRYSOSTOMS, our club for this holy purpose, will accomplish wonders.

BAD, VERY BAD
That's what Cardinal Newman called a will without a gift for God in it. When the thought of death and parting from your earthly possessions brings you to make your will please think of those poor Near East missionary priests and sisters and the Near East.

Send all communications to
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PAGE 1

Father VanderMuelen (left) conferring with Father Willemen.