

Thomas O'Connor Cites Growth of Press

(Continued from Page 1)

...to pay our salaries. Somehow or other, good friends like Monsignor Hart and Father Money would find a few dollars to keep us going."

There is more to the story of those struggling years of the Catholic press in the Diocese of Rochester than the sacrifice and sweat of the hardy pioneers who labored to keep the Courier-Journal going.

As Tom tells it: "There were lots of prayers said and they helped to pull us through some tight spots. Prayers of good friends like the Carmelite Sisters and others kept us going."

In the regard, he has an interesting explanation of why to-day the picture of the Mother of Perpetual Help graces the top of the Courier-Journal.

"It was during one of our serious financial crises," Tom recalls, "and we were running a series of articles on 'Our Lady of Perpetual Help' Novena at Rochester's popular downtown St. Joseph's Church. Copies of our paper were distributed at the weekly services. One week over 100 copies were sold and the money realized helped to meet the financial crisis."

From that day the picture of the Mother of Perpetual Help has been given an honored place in the Courier-Journal. Several times when the newspaper moved its offices, Tom personally took it upon himself to see that the picture of the Mother of Perpetual Help was not forgotten.

"She played an important part in the history of our paper," the senior editor emphatically reminds his younger associates. "Contrasting these earlier years with today's improved status of the Courier-Journal, fellow staff members wonder what the story would be if it were not for hardy pioneer journalists like Tom O'Connor who struggled against odds and at the cost of personal sacrifice to give the Diocese of Rochester its own official newspaper."

TOM STRAYS FREELY today when he views the Courier-Journal's splendid editorial office, its improved equipment including modern rotary press, and his associates on the editorial staff. At all this he shakes his head smilingly. "I never thought I would see this day. It's still hard to believe," he admits wistfully. "Names make news." This is Tom's simple philosophy of a newspaper. A story which spells a name incorrectly or omits part of a name is one of the few things which disturb the usual calm demeanor of this meticulous journalist. "Names are important to people and they make news," he insists.

AND THROUGH THE YEARS Tom has learned a lot of names. Now, if any, can match his ability to recall names, dates and events of distant interest. This list is especially appreciated by less-experienced staff writers who are constantly indebted to Tom's memory in writing their stories.

His twenty-five years in the Catholic Press include eight years as Rochester editor of the Echo, a Catholic newspaper published in Buffalo in 1923; the late Bishop O'Hern took over the Rochester Catholic Journal, which had been operated independently for sixty years, and made it the official newspaper of the Diocese. The name of the paper was changed to the Catholic Courier-Journal.

Three years after this reorganization Tom became the editor of the paper which he has served continuously for the past seventeen years.

In the past he was following in the footsteps of the late Maurice E. Sammons who was editor when Bishop O'Hern took over the paper and of the late Willard E. Marakle who with Edward J. Ryan and Thomas H. Donohue founded the Catholic Journal in 1889. "These men," Tom said, "set the standard for diligent editorial work and furnished inspiration for carrying on despite difficulties."

HIS REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT of twenty-five years in the Catholic Press of this diocese will be marked next Monday evening when he will be the guest of honor at a testimonial dinner.

On hand to honor him will be His Excellency Bishop Kearney and His Excellency Bishop Ready of Columbus, the episcopal chairman of the Press Department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference; several diocesan editors including Father Lynch of Syracuse, Father Kerwin of Albany and Richard Reid of New York; and many of the friends that Tom has acquired during his newspaper career. Present too will be his wife, who had a major share in his being able to carry on his work, and their seven children.

Extremely modest by nature, Tom confesses that he is "a bit nervous about all this," and thinking perhaps of those old days when he pounded out copy squeezed up against a noisy linotype, he readily admits that "this is something else I never expected to see—a Catholic Journalist being honored. But I guess it shows that the Catholic Press is coming into its own."

MISSIONER TAKEN AS RED HOSTAGE. Hue, Annam, Indo-China (NC-Fides) — A young priest has been taken as a hostage by the communist-led Vietnamese movement and the fate of another priest and the fate of seminarians is unknown after Vietnamese members ambushed a train and killed the passengers or took them prisoner. The train from Tourane, was bound for Hue. The captured priest is Father

Grall, of the Paris Foreign Mission society, who had been assigned to the Hue mission. The others are Redemptorists. Attacks and assassinations of mayors and leaders in Christian communities are becoming more frequent in the center of Annam. Indications are that this increased terrorism has been ordered by high Vietmi leaders.

Senate Amends Sunday Law

Albany — (RNS) — The New York State Senate passed a bill legalizing football, basketball, and soccer on Sundays after 2 p.m. The measure amends the state's historic Sabbath Law which, in general, prohibits any activities that cause "serious interruptions of the repose and religious liberty of the community."

Sponsored by Senator George T. Manning (R-Rochester) the bill was drafted in response to demands by the Rochester delegation for removal of sections of the state's Penal Law, which is part of the Sabbath Law, under which the only public sports legal on Sundays are baseball and bowling.

THE STATEMENT issued by Father Duhaif is as follows: "Last December, the Rev. G. Antonio Laberge, A.A., an American chaplain in Moscow applied to the Soviet authorities in Moscow for an exit-visa and re-entry visa in order to visit the United States for the first time in three years.

On January 20, the U.S.S.R. granted Father Laberge the exit visa together with a 60-day return-visa to expire March 20, 1949. On February 26, shortly after Father Laberge's arrival in the U.S., the Soviet Embassy in Washington notified him, orally only, that his re-entry had been annulled. No explanation was given.

PREVIOUSLY, in late December, the Rev. Arthur Brassard, A.A., of Leominster, Mass., had been appointed to replace Father Laberge in Moscow. Father Brassard died application for a Soviet visa at the Soviet Embassy in Washington on February 5, and is awaiting an answer.

"Since there should be no vacancy of the American chaplaincy in Moscow, it was expected that the annulment of Father Laberge's re-entry visa would not take place before Father Brassard was granted an entry visa.

"FATHER LABERGE made his visit of his own accord, with no pressure from the Soviet authorities and without objection from his religious superiors.

"Had it been known that his re-entry visa would have been canceled, Father Laberge would have been ordered to remain at his post."

Frank Sheed Gets '48 Literary Award. St. Louis, Mo. (NC) — Frank Sheed, publisher and author, was awarded the Catholic Literary Award of the Gallery of Living Catholic Authors, which annually makes the selection, in a ceremony here. He received the award for his book "Theology and Sanity," singled out as the best book on Catholic thought by a member of the Gallery.

Negro, 40, in College To Aid Negro Youth. New Orleans — (NC) — A 40-year-old retired Negro army sergeant who entered Xavier University here last fall for an experimental semester to determine whether he could undertake college studies, has completed his probationary period and registered for three and a half more years of college life.

He is Kenneth E. Gantt of Crowley, La., a student in the Department of Physical Education at Xavier. His wife, a former member of the W.A.C.S., also is a student in this department. After his retirement from the army, Gantt organized a recreational project for the Negro youth of his home town and he hopes that his college training will equip him to develop the program further.

American Priest Cannot Return To Moscow Post

(Continued from Page 1)

sumption, who went to the Russian capital in 1934 to establish the American chaplaincy. Father Laberge was attached to the Church of St. Louis of the French, the only Catholic church in Moscow. This church is in charge of the Rev. Jean de Malha Thomas, A.A., a priest of French nationality.

THE STATEMENT issued by Father Duhaif is as follows: "Last December, the Rev. G. Antonio Laberge, A.A., an American chaplain in Moscow applied to the Soviet authorities in Moscow for an exit-visa and re-entry visa in order to visit the United States for the first time in three years.

On January 20, the U.S.S.R. granted Father Laberge the exit visa together with a 60-day return-visa to expire March 20, 1949. On February 26, shortly after Father Laberge's arrival in the U.S., the Soviet Embassy in Washington notified him, orally only, that his re-entry had been annulled. No explanation was given.

PREVIOUSLY, in late December, the Rev. Arthur Brassard, A.A., of Leominster, Mass., had been appointed to replace Father Laberge in Moscow. Father Brassard died application for a Soviet visa at the Soviet Embassy in Washington on February 5, and is awaiting an answer.

"Since there should be no vacancy of the American chaplaincy in Moscow, it was expected that the annulment of Father Laberge's re-entry visa would not take place before Father Brassard was granted an entry visa.

"FATHER LABERGE made his visit of his own accord, with no pressure from the Soviet authorities and without objection from his religious superiors.

"Had it been known that his re-entry visa would have been canceled, Father Laberge would have been ordered to remain at his post."

Frank Sheed Gets '48 Literary Award. St. Louis, Mo. (NC) — Frank Sheed, publisher and author, was awarded the Catholic Literary Award of the Gallery of Living Catholic Authors, which annually makes the selection, in a ceremony here. He received the award for his book "Theology and Sanity," singled out as the best book on Catholic thought by a member of the Gallery.

Negro, 40, in College To Aid Negro Youth. New Orleans — (NC) — A 40-year-old retired Negro army sergeant who entered Xavier University here last fall for an experimental semester to determine whether he could undertake college studies, has completed his probationary period and registered for three and a half more years of college life.

He is Kenneth E. Gantt of Crowley, La., a student in the Department of Physical Education at Xavier. His wife, a former member of the W.A.C.S., also is a student in this department. After his retirement from the army, Gantt organized a recreational project for the Negro youth of his home town and he hopes that his college training will equip him to develop the program further.

TRANT'S—ROCHESTER'S LEADING RELIGIOUS STORE



ORDER NOW for IMMEDIATE DELIVERY

THE SEVEN STOREY MOUNTAIN . . .

By Thomas Merton

The autobiography of a young man who led a full and worldly life, and then at the age of 26, entered a Trappist monastery. \$3.00

What they say about this book:

CLARE BOOTH LUCE: "It is to a book like this that men will turn a hundred years from now to find out what went on in the hearts of men in this crucial century." MSGR. FULTON J. SHEEN: "The autobiography of Thomas Merton is a Twentieth Century form of the Confessions of St. Augustine."

Order form for 'The Seven Storey Mountain' with fields for name, address, and city.

Advertisement for Trant's Catholic Supply Store, featuring the store name and address: 96 Clinton Ave. North, Rochester, N. Y.

TRY A COURIER ADVERTISER

BOND MARCH MONEY SAVERS

America's biggest clothier — with the World's biggest tailoring plant — cracks high prices with a Spring Barrage of Super-Values!

Main advertisement for Bond March Money Savers featuring a man in a suit and a woman in a dress. Includes prices like 37.75 and 45.75, and the Bond logo.

Advertisement for Genesee Bock Beer featuring a group of people at a tavern and the Genesee Bock Beer logo. Text includes 'It's Springtime! It's Party Time! IT'S GENESEE BOCK BEER TIME!' and 'YOUR Friendly TAVERN'.