

Bishop Kearney's Sermon At Pontiff's Anniversary Mass In Washington Shrine

This is text of sermon delivered by Most Reverend James K. Kearney at Pontiff's Anniversary Mass, March 12, in National Shrine of Immaculate Conception, Catholic University Campus, Washington, D.C., on the occasion of the observance of the eleventh anniversary of the coronation of His Holiness, Pope Pius XII.

We have assembled this morning in our National Shrine to offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on this eleventh anniversary of the coronation of His Holiness, Pope Pius XII. To the words of St. Peter at Our Lord's Transfiguration, "It is good for us to be here," we may add that it is indeed a high privilege to participate in this magnificent liturgy which is an expression of the devotion and loyalty of the Church in America to the Vicar of Christ.

Here on the campus of His Holiness' own university, in the distinguished presence of his personal delegates, and surrounded by representatives of the various communities which carry on the work of Christ in every field of Catholic endeavor, in the presence of so many who have joined with us to honor the Vicar of Christ, we offer this supreme act of worship as our most precious tribute to His Holiness as he completes another year in the Chair of Peter.

The story of these trying and stirring years is too well known to require narration here, and a review of the accomplishments of the past decade could not be treated worthily in one discourse without incurring reproach for so much left unsaid. We should rather find in the Holy Sacrifice itself the theme for our consideration on this occasion, presenting it to God as our Thanksgiving for one of the great hopes of all time, and then giving the Holy Sacrifice with all its merits to His Holiness, as a pledge of our jubilee consecration to his hopes and wishes.

AND WHAT better expression of our thanks to God for Pius XII than this very service. The Mass is the supreme Act of Thanksgiving. The thought of gratitude is inseparable from that of adoration. In fact, he who adores himself before the Divinity is forced to thank God for everything in the same gesture in which he acknowledges everything that He has. So it was that Christ, while immolating Himself before His Father, gave expression to infinite gratitude. All the evangelists tell us that Our Lord, at His institution of the Eucharistic Sacrifice at the Last Supper, "gave thanks" at the very moment of His

truly most and just, right, and profitable for us at all times, and in all places, to give thanks to Thee, O Holy Lord, Father Almighty, Eternal God, through Christ our Lord. This is then our thanksgiving to God.

Thank God then for a great Pontiff. One of the traditional titles of the Holy Father is Pontifex Maximus. The holder of bridges. And while the title has been given to many popes, it seems to fit the present Holy Father in a very special manner. Reconstruction has been his special responsibility, and with untiring zeal he has consecrated every moment and applied every talent to the rebuilding of the bridges that man in his blind folly has destroyed.

We have all witnessed the harrowing destruction wrought on civilized communities by modern engines of war. Bridges, as necessary channels of communication, were a special target. But the twisted ruins of the world's magnificent bridges which he scattered over every terrain on the continent are nothing compared to the ruins of human heart and human soul and human relationships. These shattered bridges challenged the mind and heart of the great Pontiff and with unceasing zeal and devotion, he has consecrated his heart and hands to the reconstruction of civilization. The broken bridges between God and man, the broken bridges between the prisoner and his fatherland, the broken bridges between the sons of God in the various classes of society, for all of these the Pontiff Maximus with the inspiration of the great architect, the Holy Spirit of God, prepares his plans and commits them to men for construction. Listen to His own words.

Just as the modern world has tried to shake off the sweet yoke of God, so it has rejected along with it the order He established and with the self-same pride that moved the rebel angel at the beginning of creation, has pretended to set up another of his own choice.

AFTER ABOUT two centuries of sorry experience and devotion, those who are still sincere and honest admit that plans and impositions of this sort, which bear the name but lack the substance of order have not produced their promised results and fail to satisfy the natural aspirations of man. This failure is evident at two levels: that of social and of international relations.

In the social field the counter-fitting of God's plan has gone in its very roots by deforming the Divine image of man. Instead of His real created nature with origin and destiny in God, there has been substituted the false notion of a man whose conscience is a law unto himself who is his own legislator brooking no control, who has no responsibility towards his fellows and society, with no destiny beyond the earth and no other purpose than the enjoyment of finite goods with no rule of life except that of the "fall account" and the unbridled satisfaction of his desires.

As an outgrowth of this, which came to a still increasing power over a long period of years because of its most varied applications in public and private life was that narrow individualistic order which today is in serious crisis almost everywhere. But the more recent innovators have provided no better results. Starting from the same mistaken premises and taking the downward path in another direction they have led to no less disastrous consequences including the complete overthrow of the Divine order, contempt for the dignity of the human person, the denial of the most sacred and fundamental freedoms, the domination of a single class over the others, the enslavement of all persons and property in a totalitarian state and the legitimization of violence and militant atheism.

TO THOSE WHO support one or other of these social systems, both of which are foreign and opposed to the Divine plan, may there be a persuasive ring in the invitation to return to natural and Christian principles on which is based effective justice with respect for legitimate freedoms; may the recognition of the fact that all men are equal as regards the inalienability of personal rights put an end to the futile struggle which provokes hatred of brother for brother.

Do not forget that without God material prosperity is for those who do not possess it a tormenting wound, while for those who do, it proves a death trap. Without God intellectual and aesthetic culture is as a river cut off from its source and its outlet: it becomes a quagmire filled with mud and sand.

We expect from the Holy Year, the reform of international society to the plan mapped out by God. According to this plan all peoples — in peace



and not in war, in collaboration and not in isolation, in justice and not in national selfishness — are meant to make up a great human family bent on the advancement of common interest, through mutual aid and a fair distribution of this world's goods which are a treasure entrusted to men by God.

Beloved sons if ever there was an occasion which seemed propitious for exhorting the rulers of people to thoughts of peace that of the Holy Year seems to us the most propitious of all. It is and is intended to be a general appeal and at the same time a contribution to the brotherhood of nations. You thank be to God for a great Pontiff.

OUR THANKS also ascend to God in this Mass for the gift of a real Father. A Father who personifies at the tender age of the lips of Christ, the tender meaning of the Latin words hearts and memories. No one ever knew in His presence and received that sense of being whispered "Father" in his heart. All through the sufferings of war the attitude of His Holiness was always that of the father caring for his children no matter where they were: his father's heart broken by their folly pierced by their ingratitude, but always in that characteristic position of hands lifted toward heaven in supplication for his children.

We cannot easily forget his tender regard for our own boys and girls during the war years who far from their own families found him never too busy to come to them with a fatherly blessing which they will cherish to the end of their days. A blessing whose spiritual power will linger in their souls long after the waves of forgetting their reception have been forgotten. Nor can we forget his fatherly solicitude for the pilgrims of war.

LISTEN AGAIN TO the words of Our Holy Father. "When, in recent times, taking their rise from an unfortunate war or political upheavals, waves of reprisals were unleashed, unequalled in history at least for the number of their victims, Our heart was pierced with bitter grief, not only because of the misfortune that bred other misfortunes and hurled into the fray thousands of families who were often innocent, but because with long sadness we saw here the tragic evidence of apostasy from the spirit of Christ.

"Whoever would be a sincere Christian must know how to forgive. Thou wicked servant" is the rebuke of the gospel parable (Matt. 18: 23) was it not thy duty to have mercy on thy fellow servant, as I had on thee?"

"WHEN REASONABLE motives are present, charity and mercy do not run counter to one's duty to administer justice aright. But imprudent intolerance and the spirit of reprisal most certainly do, especially when vengeance is taken by public authority against one who has erred rather than sinned, or when a punishment deservedly inflicted is prolonged beyond all reasonable limits.

"May the Lord inspire all who are in positions of public responsibility with thoughts of reconciliation and concord, and with out prejudice to common good, gone before us with the sign of

faith and who keep the sleep of peace."

The special advantages enjoyed by the Divine Victim, relating Himself directly upon these servants of God who have been named of the past year, that of the Mass the great act of witness a particular one, for himself of the Holy Year, that of the Mass and entire Mass be applied to those who are in better circumstances.

What a dispenser of mercy is the Father! While we were praying our Mass with Him, we were members of the Eternal Priest deriving immeasurable personal profit from His Father's prayer, as it stood to feel the effects of infinite supplication made by Christ to the Divine Majesty.

IT WOULD SEEM then that the most acceptable preparation of this anniversary is the word and heart of His Holiness, and the offering of this Mass for those intentions which he has committed to our care. For what intentions then do we offer this Mass today? Let us listen again to the words of His Holiness.

"Let petition be made to God in the first place that all by prayer and penance may expiate their sins and strive to reform their lives and acquire Christian virtues so that this great Jubilee may happily prepare a general return to Christ. Besides the following petitions should be humbly made to God: that the loyalty due to the Divine Redeemer and to the Church which He founded may be maintained by all with an unshaken spirit and a vigorous determination to combat the intrigues, deceptions, and attacks of the enemy; that all those who are still outside the Catholic Church, those who have wandered from the right path, and even those who deny or hate God, may be illumined by His Light and under the influence of grace, be brought to obey the precepts of the Gospel. That everywhere, but especially in the holy places of Palestine, tranquillity of order,

founded on a just settlement, may be restored as soon as possible; that the various social classes, with hatred banished and differences settled, may be united together in justice and fraternal agreement; and that, finally, the great number of those in want may be given work to earn an honest living and may receive necessary and opportune aid from those who are in better circumstances."

MY DEAR CHILDREN of the Holy Father, precisely because this is a Holy Year of Jubilee our tribute to His Holiness then cannot be confined to this day or to this sanctuary. He has asked of us as a year of prayer, his penance, the sincerity of our tribute to His Holiness today will be found frequently expressed in our daily lives tomorrow and hereafter and tomorrow will be the last moment of this Holy Year. Prayer and Penance, begs the Vicar of Christ, means the incident in the seventh chapter of St. Matthew's Gospel.

And indeed, as among the crowd came to Him, falling down on his knees before Him saying, "Master, I beseech Thee have pity on my son for he is the only one I have and he is a lunatic, that suffereth much. And wheresoever a spirit taketh him, he suddenly crieth out and dasheth him and teareth him, and he shall hardly depart thence, so that he foameth and gnasheth with his teeth, and dieth away. And I brought him to Thee, disciples, and I desired that thou wouldst cast him out." And when Jesus saw the multitude he said together, "He hath the unclean spirit saying to him, Thou dost and dumb spirit, I command thee go out of him, and enter no more into him. And crying out and greatly tearing him the devil went out of him and he became as one dead, insomuch that many said he is dead. But Jesus taking him by the hand lifted him up and he arose and the crowd was cured that hour. And when he was come into the house the disciples came to Jesus and

asked Him privately. Why could not we cast him out? Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief. For this kind is not cast out by prayer and fasting."

THESE WORDS of Christ to His apostles are His Holiness' words to us for the world today, possessed and torn by the devil of atheism, without respect for his indifference, his lack of feeling of the law, his contemptuous condoning of sinners and his exclusion of the poor, the old and feeble of his children and the deliberate attempt to rob them of their rights and to give rights of life to the strong and the young.

The Holy Father with the inbred faith that can move mountains would drive out these evil spirits and pains us hope in the universal prayer, "penance" (understand). That is our goal and our responsibility to the world.

Unless we assume that responsibility, unless we individually make this Holy Year the year of prayer and penance asked for by His Holiness, then for us personally, this ceremony can become merely a courteous tribute to a great priest, and the Holy Year which he opened with all its pageantry, a tale told by the historians, full of pomp and ceremony, signifying nothing. In God's name then, let us not fail him here in America.

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The Story of Rochester's First Prescription Drug Store
IN 1820...
Rochester's first drug store was opened in 1820. William Paine, founder of Paine's, conducted the business for 20 years, retiring in 1840 in favor of Lansing B. Swan, a trusted employee for many years. After the death of Lansing B. Swan in 1852, two employees, Alfred S. Lane and Cyrus E. Paine, reorganized the business under the firm of Lane and Paine. Rochester was making rapid strides in size and population, and Lane and Paine continued to grow with it. In 1873, under the leadership of Cyrus Paine the store's present 3-story building was erected. Just about this time, Clarence E. Van Zandt later to become president of the Paine Drug Company, entered the business as a clerk.

IN 1910...
On its 90th anniversary with Van Zandt at the helm, Paine's was incorporated and the name changed to the Paine Drug Co. The other officers were: George W. Sanford, vice-president; Frank F. Coler, secretary and general manager. Upon the death of Mr. Van Zandt in 1926, Frank H. Coler assumed the heavy responsibility of guiding the activities of this now world-famous professional institution, with George W. Sanford, Fred W. Fleming, Howard F. Ely and B. William Carlin as members of his executive staff. After the death of Frank Coler in 1934, Sanford removed into the president's office and Paine's administrative heads were: George W. Sanford, president; Fred W. Fleming, vice-president; Howard F. Ely, vice-president; B. William Carlin, vice-president and Elmer F. Holman, treasurer.

IN 1950...
Now, just a few weeks before our 130th anniversary — we are announcing the retirement of our president, George W. Sanford, and the newly appointed members of our executive staff. We take great pride in the fact that all executives in this new administration are long-time employees of the Paine Drug Co.
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H. F. ELY, Vice-President
B. W. CARLIN, Vice-President
E. F. HOLMAN, Secretary and Treasurer
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