

Church Construction Dollar Value Gains

Washington, D. C. (AP)—The previous record, set in 1946, the dollar value of new church construction was \$408,000,000. A strong possibility exists, however, that the larger expenditures placed over starts of new buildings in the latter construction, due to the increase in building costs. The Department of Commerce said it could not offer any specific data but that building cost above the previous record, cost, on the whole, have advanced about ten per cent since the stated in a year-end report here, outbreak of the Korean war.

GOD LOVE YOU!

By MOST REV. FULTON J. SHEEN

OUR worry is not so much because Russia is anti-God, but because the Western Powers are Godless. . . . GOD LOVE YOU TO J. F. for \$50 gathered from little sacrifices in a Soldiers' Home. . . . The average Indian lives only 27 years. The Holy Father's Missions provide dispensaries to care for sick men and women and give them added years of life in which to glorify His name. . . . GOD LOVE YOU TO G. K., who has her old shoes repaired instead of buying new ones, to help the missions. Some priest, thanks to her, is now well-heeled and can have a few souls. . . . GOD LOVE YOU TO J. J. who prayed to "Our Father who art in Heaven" for Russia and China this week. A World Mission Rosary was dedicated to a missionary country. Upon request and a \$2 offering to the Holy Father's Missions, we will send you one blessed by us. . . . GOD LOVE YOU TO J. J. who tried for years to stop smoking, without success. Last month he decided to stop in order to send the savings to the Missions and has had no suffering, at all, in doing so.

Are you unhappy, discontented and low in spirit? Then deny yourself every day some tiny little pleasure and send the sacrifice to the Holy Father's Missions. . . . GOD LOVE YOU TO the Wheeling School of Nursing for \$200 sacrificed for the Holy Father's Missions. . . . GOD LOVE YOU TO Mrs. P. M. "I have 5 children. I am sending \$1 for each child to help other children less fortunate than my own. With this offering I pray that my children will lead good lives." . . . An eleven year old boy in India finished his three years' instruction in the missionary school he could not be baptized without his parents' consent. The little apostle converted his whole family and the Bishop received them into the church. What a contrast to those who say: "I never mention religion to my husband." . . . GOD LOVE YOU TO Mr. and Mrs. L. H. who have two sons in the seminary and who sent \$100 for the missions from "money we saved from our allowance for new clothes this season." . . . GOD LOVE YOU TO Mrs. J. T. W. "I will give up candy for a year. Enclosed is \$30 to help the Holy Father's Missions. Pray that my daughter will return to the Church."

GOD LOVE YOU TO C. R. who sent \$25 for the lepers saved by not buying a new coat. . . . Archbishop Stepinac immediately after being released from prison, in his first sermon in five years said: "Too many people are too well fed at tables and their backs too near a fire." Sacrifice! Sacrifice alone will save the world. . . . GOD LOVE YOU TO Mrs. E. D. M., a mother of 7 children in a tuberculosis hospital with her child of two years and 8 months. Six children are in a home and her husband in another hospital. She makes daily sets for a living. She sent one for \$3 and sent us \$2. A sacrifice like this does more to spread our holy faith than \$100 without sacrifice. . . . Our "God Love You" column is making our good Catholic people conscious of two great truths: First, the necessity of sacrifice to save the world; and secondly, as the Holy Father said, the "greatest of all charity is to the missions." . . . GOD LOVE YOU TO Arthur M. McC who sent \$150 for the Holy Father's Mission's saved "by taking advantage of winter rates at auto courts and doing my own cooking. Now I'm not satisfied with any one else's except Mom's."

The Holy Father is pleased with the sacrifices the American Catholics are making for His Missions! Continue to make them in the name of Jesus and Mary and send them to the Most Reverend Fulton J. Sheen, National Director of The Society for the Propagation of the Faith, 109 East 58th Street, New York 16, New York or your Diocesan Director, Very Rev. Msgr. John S. Randall, 50 Chestnut Street, Rochester, N. Y.

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Sermon Delivered At Msgr. Byrne Mass

(This is text of sermon delivered by Rev. Joseph M. Egan, S.T.D., professor of Dogmatic Theology at St. Bernard's Seminary, at the funeral Mass offered for the Rev. Msgr. Edward J. Byrne in Sacred Heart Cathedral, January 9, 1952.)

"With him that fears the Lord, it shall go well in his latter end; and in the day of his death, he shall be blessed." — Ecclesiasticus 1:13

Your Excellency, Right Reverend and Very Reverend Monsignors, Reverend Fathers, Future Priests, Good Sisters, and my dear Catholic People:

Death always comes as a shock and it is strange that it should be so. For ordinarily only the unusual things shock us. Yet, what is so unusual as death? All living things in this visible world of ours follow one universal law — they come to life and they must leave it.

This is true even of the humblest forms of life. The blade of grass in the field, the flower in the garden, the trees on our streets. It is true of every animal that walks the earth, swims in the sea, or flies in the air over God's earth. It is true even of the noblest form of visible life, man himself. It is true even of those whom God has elevated to a state above all earthly dignities — those men who we call God's priests.

AND SO it is this morning. We have been shocked at the death of one of God's priests. We have gathered here to give back to the earth the earthly part of that man whom we knew and respected and loved.

It has long been the custom in the Church not to permit a priest to be buried without having someone rise to speak for a few moments in his eulogy. What can be the meaning of this practice? Certainly it can do no good to him who is gone, as he is now beyond the realm of our earth, and our words have no longer any power to flatter or encourage him.

And so the purpose of this practice can hardly be to do good to him who is the subject of this discourse. It seems to me that what the Church seeks in this practice is the good of us who survive. For the Church knows that from the life of every Christian, no matter how long or short, we can sift with the sieve of charity, some fragments of gold to be an inspiration to us who follow him who has gone before.

This is particularly true of any priest, called as he is to be another Christ. There are in our Blessed Lord the model and exemplar of all priests so many virtues that none of us can begin to reflect them all.

AND YET THINGS that the grace of God working in the soul of a priest, no matter how recalcitrant he may be, are so wonderful that we cannot fail to find there at least one virtue of his Holy Master, Our Divine Saviour, Jesus Christ.

As I think over the life of Monsignor Byrne, his one great virtue that stands out in my mind is a love of God's Holy Word. He loved books, but above them all, he loved the one book that he always knew had God as its principal author. He came naturally by this love of the Scriptures first because he was a priest, and secondly because he was a loyal son of the Catholic Church.

It is a striking thing that Our Blessed Lord began and ended His public life doing the same things that Monsignor Byrne did for forty years of his priesthood, and that is in explaining to his fellow-men the Holy Scriptures.

The first act in public life of our Divine Lord occurred in the synagogue at Nazareth when He stood and read to the congregation the prophetic words of Isaiah and told them that that day the prophecy was fulfilled in their ears.

The same Evangelist St. Luke also tells us what Our Lord did during the very last day He spent on earth. "Then He opened their minds that they might understand the Scriptures." — Luke 24:45.

So one called as was Monsignor Byrne, forty-six years ago, to be another Christ, could not help, having that Great High Priest as his model, but have a deep love for the written Word of God.

MONSIGNOR BYRNE must have learned this reverence for the Scriptures at an earlier date than his ordination, for from his infancy to the day of his death, he always was a loyal and faithful son of the Catholic Church. The Church herself, since once she received from the hands of God and the human authors of these sacred books, that collection now called the Bible, has made it one of the first objects of her care.

During those 1600 years before the invention of printing, the

Church fostered masterpieces in which there were found scholars laboring to transcribe, word on word, verse by verse, the whole of the Bible. When the priests rose to their pulpits, they could find no higher task than to explain the sense and the wisdom that are found there. The Church in order that her priests might be adequately trained, has always required that they should be men gifted by God, and trained with the best that She could offer in education. And the man whose remains lie here today was an example of her training in Sacred Scripture.

Some forty years ago, the Bishop who founded St. Bernard's Seminary chose this man and requested of him that he go even to the Holy Land and there be prepared to come back and instruct generations of students in the Word of God.

What a wonderful role was his to be a man of One Book which he deeply loved. The days may come — perhaps they have come already — when we who studied under him shall forget most of the things that he said. In a way, that doesn't really matter, if we take from him the one thing that he certainly had — his love of Scripture. Then his life of forty years as a priest will have been well worth while.

TODAY WE BURY a good priest, one who did not engage to a great extent in the active work of the priesthood, but one who for all that was mindful of those who did. I think especially today of the work he did in the Mission Society of St. Bernard's. All over the world, as the news of his death gets around to missionaries as noble as Cardinal Tisserant or to the humblest African Catechist, there will be genuine sorrow, for they have lost a good friend.

To those who were close to him by ties of kindred there can be no sorrow on this day; first, because of the consolation given them by the Catholic Faith, which teaches that death means not the end of our earthly life, but also the beginning of one that shall have no end. Too, God was good to Monsignor Byrne even in this world. The patriarchs of old longed for length of days, and these were given to him, the biblical four score years and ten, and then, for good measure, another year, another month, and another week.

TO THIS long life, were added rich honors from his equals and from his superiors. Those who were his peers in the Biblical field chose him as President of the Catholic Biblical Society of America. Four years ago, his Bishop and the Holy Father, to whose directives he was always loyal, elevated him to the dignity of a Domestic Prelate. To the approbation of his equals and the approval of his superiors in the Church of God, there is little now that we can add in his praise.

Monsignor Byrne was a good priest. He was a great scholar. And yet, he was a man. There were found in him, as in all who share Adam's fallen nature, frailties and faults. If, in your contacts with him, you have become keenly aware of those frailties and faults, then Christian Charity demands that you pray for him.

You must grant him in this hour of his greatest need the benefit of your prayers. You must pray that one who spent six and forty years laboring in the priesthood, may now find eternal rest; that one who knew only by their writings the Patriarchs, the Prophets, the Evangelists and the Apostles, may now come to know them mind to mind; and that he who spent his whole life in the search for truth, may now behold Infinite Truth face to face. Amen.

American Hierarchy Statements Issued

Milwaukee (NC) — Our Bishops Speak, new book published here by the Bruce Publishing Company, is a compilation of the annual statements and other pronouncements of the Hierarchy of the United States and of the declarations of the Administrative Board of the National Catholic Welfare Conference. Its editor is the Very Rev. Raphael M. Huber, O.F.M. Conv., associate professor of Church history at the Catholic University of America. Father Huber wrote the foreword and has provided notes and an index.

All the statements made by the Bishops or issued in their name by the N.C.W.C. Administrative Board since 1919, the year the Conference was founded, are included in full. It is the first time all the statements have been brought together in one volume.

Monsignor Byrne Requiem Offered

(Continued from Page 1)

Cathedral Office of the Dead was charged by priests of the diocese at the Cathedral on Tuesday evening.

Burial took place Wednesday afternoon in St. Joseph's Cemetery in Auburn.

Monsignor Byrne is survived by several nieces and nephews.

MONSIGNOR BYRNE was born in Auburn, N. Y., Dec. 1, 1865, the son of Nicholas and Bridget Dempsey Byrne. He attended Holy Family Parochial School and Auburn Free Academy in his native city. He prepared for the priesthood at the diocesan seminaries of St. Andrew and St. Bernard and was ordained in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Rochester, June 10, 1905 by Bishop Bernard McQuaid.

He was the younger of two priest brothers. His older brother, Father Andrew Byrne, who also spent his career as a member of St. Bernard's Seminary faculty, died Jan. 1, 1932.

Following ordination, Monsignor Byrne did postgraduate work at St. Bernard's Seminary and received the doctorate of Sacred Theology degree in 1908.

The next three years, Monsignor Byrne studied abroad; two years at the Ecole Biblique in Jerusalem where he studied under the celebrated Scripture scholar Father M. J. Lagrange, O.P., and one year at the Biblical Institute in Rome, Italy. On his return to the United States in 1911, he joined the faculty of St. Bernard's Seminary.

THROUGHOUT HIS 40-year career at St. Bernard's he held the post of Professor of Sacred Scripture and also taught Greek and Hebrew. He was tireless in his insistence with his students that a knowledge of Greek and Hebrew, the languages in which the Scriptures were written, was essential to a good understanding of the books of the Bible.

As a scholar he was particularly proud of the outstanding library which he collected on Scriptural studies and the sciences allied to Biblical re-

search such as archaeology, history, Geography, and Semitic and Greek languages.

He also possessed a notable collection of exhibits from the Holy Land and many early printed editions of the Bible, including a copy of the English Douay version printed in 1609.

HIGHLY RESPECTED in his field, Monsignor Byrne was a former president of the Catholic Biblical Association of America, and a member of the editorial board, composed of the nation's leading Catholic Biblical scholars who directed the five-year task, began in 1930, of revising the English translation of the New Testament. This revised English translation was published in 1941 and is now the standard text for Catholics in the United States.

He maintained a lifelong correspondence with many Scripture scholars both in America and abroad. As a former pupil of Father Lagrange, he revered the Dominican scholar as "an intellectual giant" and the foremost Catholic Scripture authority of modern times.

On the latter's death a few years ago, Monsignor Byrne was one of a group of world scholars who contributed articles to an elaborate memorial volume honoring Father Lagrange's achievements in the field of Scripture study.

MONSIGNOR BYRNE's activities were not limited to his own specialty but extended to a deep interest in Church history, the Catholic Missions and world events bearings on the Church's life.

With the postwar establishment of the new state of Israel, he became actively concerned about the fate of the Holy City of Jerusalem and other sacred shrines in the Holy Land. He strongly advocated Pope Pius XII's proposal to internationalize the Holy Land Shrine and attempted to interest statesmen and newspaper editors in the merits of the Pope's proposal.

AN HONORARY member of the Bernard's Student Mission Society he developed an interest in the work of Catholic homes and foreign missions. One year he visited experienced workers in the missions field in the student body.

FOR THE PAST twenty years he was associated with a small Rochester group known in city and township as the group of early Catholic missionaries in New York State. With this group Monsignor Byrne played a leading role in leading and inspiring early missionaries who were particularly active in the Rochester area. He was one of the group who on the main Auburn Road to the memory of the early missionaries, Father Peter Menard.

In recognition of his long service to the Church, Monsignor Byrne was elevated to the rank of Monsignor in October, 1947, by Pope Pius XII.

With other Monsignor priests also honored, Monsignor Byrne was invested with the purple robes of his rank by His Excellency Bishop Kearney on November 11 of that year at special ceremonies in the Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Officers of the Mass who assisted Bishop Kearney, mostly fellow faculty members of Monsignor Byrne's at St. Bernard's, were:

Rev. Msgr. Wilfred T. Coughlin, assistant priest; Rev. Msgr. J. F. Grogan, Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph Baker, deacon of honor; Rev. J. Kenneth Murphy, deacon; Rev. William Hart, deacon; Rev. Tom McHugh, deacon; Rev. James Davis, deacon; Rev. Thomas Krulik, deacon; Rev. John Lamy, deacon; Rev. James Cuffey, deacon; Rev. John Klein, deacon; Rev. John E. Maney.

Priests present in the sanctuary were the Right Reverend Monsignors William M. Hart, Y.G.; George V. Burns, John R.

Bullard, Joseph Gorman, Rev. Fr. Robert Thomas Gorman, deacon; George Ann Gorman, deacon; Rev. William M. Hart, deacon.

Also present were the Very Reverend Monsignors James M. Hart, deacon; Rev. William M. Hart, deacon; Rev. William M. Hart, deacon.

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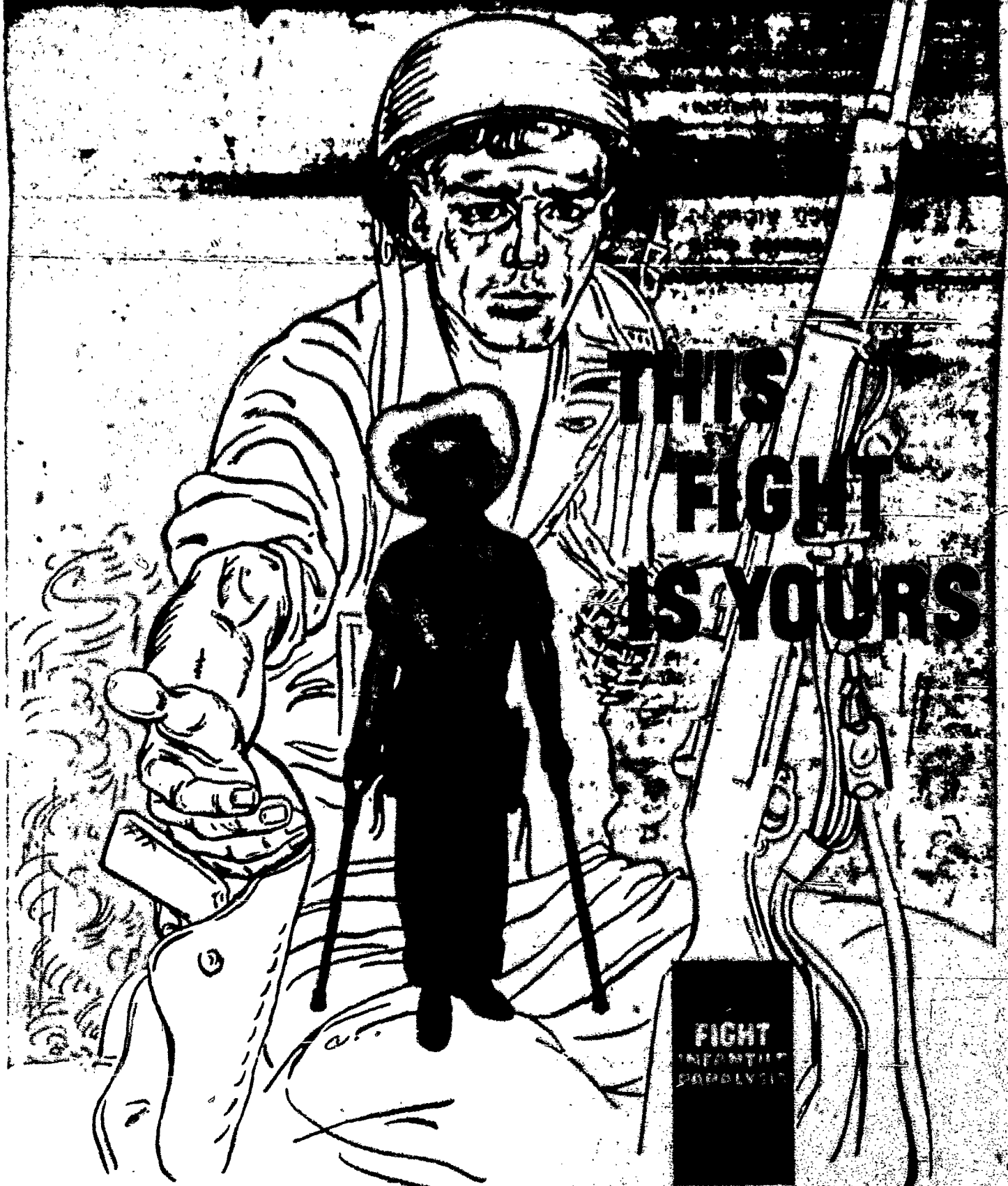
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