

Church Construction Dollar Value Gains

Washington, D. C. (RNS)—The dollar value of new church construction set a new record in 1934, according to a report issued by the National Council of the United Methodist Church. The report states that the total value of new church construction in 1934 was \$40,000,000, an increase of 10 per cent over the total value of \$36,000,000 in 1933. The report also states that the total value of church construction in 1934 was \$40,000,000, an increase of 10 per cent over the total value of \$36,000,000 in 1933.

GOD LOVE YOU!

By MOST REV. FULTON J. SHEEN

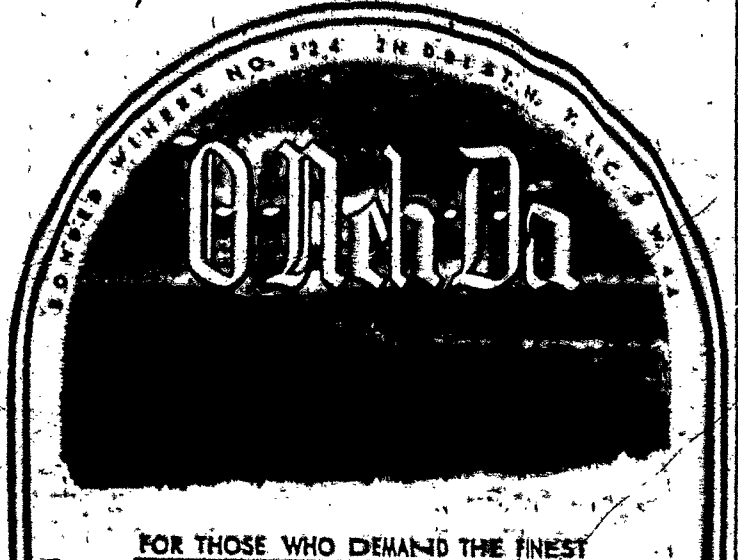
OUR worry is not so much because Russia is anti-God, but because the Western Powers are Godless. . . . GOD LOVE YOU to J. F. for \$50 gathered from little sacrifices in a Soldier's Home. . . . The average Indian lives only 27 years. The Holy Father's Missions provide dispensaries to care for sick men 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 priests, thanks to her, is now well-to-do and can have a few rubles. . . . Communists are teaching their children to pray, "Our Father who art in Moscow." Have you prayed to "Our Father who art in Heaven" for Russia and China this week? A World Mission Rosary would have reminded you. Each decade in a different color is 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 she 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 \$500 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 these 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 but the missionary said 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. J. 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 \$50 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 Stepien 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 sold one for \$2 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 Catholics 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, 100 East 34th Street, New York 17, New York or your Diocesan Director, Very Rev. Msgr. John S. Randall, 56 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 Rt. Rev. Msgr. Edward J. Byrne in Sacred Heart Pro-Cathedral, January 9, 1935.)

"With him that loveth the Lord, it shall go well in his latter end; and in the day of his death, he shall be blessed" — Ecclesiasticus 1:18

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

Death always comes as a shock and it is strange that it should be so for ordinary, only the unusual things shock us. Yet, what is so usual 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 lift 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 an other 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 his 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 itself, 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 2600 years before the invention of printing, the

Monsignor Byrne Requiem Offered

(Continued from Page 1)

Cathedral. Office of the Dead was celebrated 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, 1889, 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 archeology, 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 1936, 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 Scriptural 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 Shrines and attempted to interest statesmen and newspaper editors in the merits of the Pope's proposal.

AS MODERATOR of the St. Bernard's Student Mission Society he developed an informed interest in the work of Catholic home and foreign missions. Each year he invited experienced leaders in the mission field to address the student body.

FOR THE PAST twenty years he was associated with a small Rochester group engaged in study and research on the lives of early Catholic missionaries in New York State. With this group Monsignor Byrne played a leading role in locating and marking early missionary sites. He was particularly active in the dedication of a new bridge over the Seneca River on the main Auburn Road to the memory of the early missionary, Father Rene Menard.

In recognition of his long service to the Church, Monsignor Byrne was elevated to the rank of domestic prelate with the title of Rt. Rev. Monsignor in October, 1947, by Pope Pius XII.

With other diocesan 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 Pro-Cathedral.

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

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Wilfred T. Craugh, assistant priest; Rt. Rev. Msgr. J. F. Goggin, Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph Balci, deacons of honor; Rev. J. Emmett Murphy, deacon; Rev. Leo McManus, second master; Rev. Elmer McNamara, Rev. Francis Davis, acolytes; Rev. Stanislaus Krolak, thurifer; Rev. John Leary, book bearer; Rev. James Cuffney, candle bearer; Rev. John Kleinjes, mitre bearer. Master of ceremonies was the Rev. John E. Maney.

Priests present in the sanctuary were the Right Reverend Monsignors William M. Hart, V.G.; George V. Burris, John B.

Sullivan, Joseph Cameron, Joseph Balcerak, Thomas Connors, Laurence Casey, John Conway, Charles Shay, and William Stauden.

Also present were the Very Reverend Monsignor James McAniff, Gerald Lambert and John S. Randall.

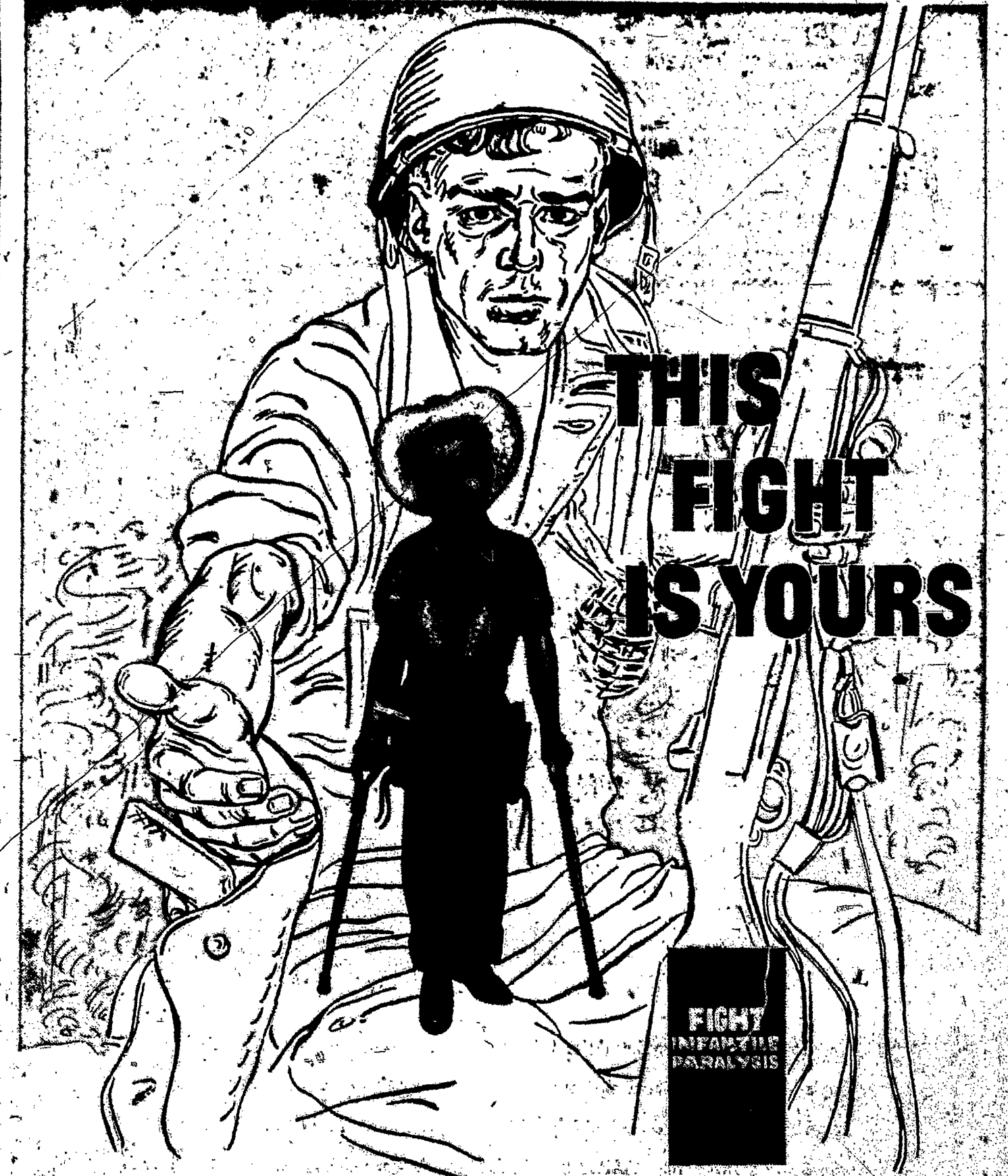
THE REVEREND FATHERS who celebrated the Requiem Mass were: Rt. Rev. Msgr. Wilfred T. Craugh, assistant priest; Rt. Rev. Msgr. J. F. Goggin, Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph Balci, deacons of honor; Rev. J. Emmett Murphy, deacon; Rev. Leo McManus, second master; Rev. Elmer McNamara, Rev. Francis Davis, acolytes; Rev. Stanislaus Krolak, thurifer; Rev. John Leary, book bearer; Rev. James Cuffney, candle bearer; Rev. John Kleinjes, mitre bearer. Master of ceremonies was the Rev. John E. Maney.

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