

Catholic Church Divinely Founded By Christ, Father Keller Tells City Club

By ARTHUR E. FARREN

The divinity of Christ and His divine establishment of the Catholic Church were defended before 500 persons of all faiths at a City Club of Rochester dinner last Saturday noon in the Chamber of Commerce building. Speaker was the Rev. James Keller, M.M., founder of the Christophers and one of the nation's best-selling authors, who forthrightly told his audience:

"If Christ isn't what He said, He was the greatest faker who ever lived. He is either true God, or a liar!"

Holding that Christ is truly God, the Maryknoll missionary summarized his belief by stating that Christ established the Catholic Church through His Apostles ("Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church"); gave a "program" to that Church—His grace through the Sacraments ("whatsoever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven")—and promised to be with His Church "until the consummation of the world."

SPEAKING ON "What Catholics Believe," Father Keller said "God made me to know Him, to love Him and to serve Him in this world, that I might be happy with Him in eternity," and added, "I believe this so much that I am ready to die for my belief." He then referred his listeners to "the simple little catechism" for "what Catholics believe."

Responsibility of the individual who "knows" and loves God to bring others to that knowledge and love was stressed by the priest.

Emphasizing that everyone, "even the worst of men, is created in the image of God," Father Keller said it is the "obligation" of the believer "to do something, even though it be just one little thing, to bring out God's image in others."

"Each one of us," the Maryknoll missionary said, "can do something big or little to help rectify the world situation. We must reach our love out as far as we can, to counteract the doctrine of hate that is threatening to engulf us."

That is one of the basic aims of the Christopher Movement, Father Keller said—"the individual's responsibility for the good of all." Christopher literature, he commented, now is being sent to a mailing list of more than a half million persons.

"People can change," declared the priest-author of "You Can Change the World," "just as St. Paul changed." Many of



REV. JAMES KELLER, M.M., those who hate, he contended, can be brought to love through one little prayer or act.

Deplored the fact that "there are 800 million persons in our nation who admit no church affiliation," Father Keller appealed particularly to Americans—"let America go in the next three or four years, so may go the world"—to recall Christ's command to go teach all nations all things.

Father Keller said Catholics "are not really living our faith until we suffer for it," and referred to Christ's counsel, "Take up thy cross and follow Me." In the first three centuries of Christianity, the speaker reminded his listeners, 11 million persons died for their belief.

Everyone, the missionary asserted, "desires his denials, believes in Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell."

Probe Of 'Anti-Religious' Canadian Broadcasts Set

Ottawa, Ont.—(RNS)—The Canadian Parliament has appointed a committee to investigate charges that the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation indulged in "blasphemy and indecency" in a series of allegedly anti-religious programs.

Roman Catholics have taken the lead in protesting the broadcasts. They have been supported by other religious groups, some of which denounced the programs as "blatantly anti-Christian and anti-moral."

THE PROGRAMS in question were a series of lectures by Fred Hoyle, a Cambridge University physicist, on "The Atomic Bomb," Dr. Edwin Cameron, Dr. Anna Freud, Dr. Carl Binger and Bertrand Russell.

George Drew, leader of the Progressive Conservative party in the House of Commons, said the broadcasts were a "subtle, dangerous type of blasphemy."

"The Catholic Church, the Anglican Church, the United Church, the Presbyterian Church and, I think, most of the other denominations have severely criticized the action of the C.B.C. in this matter," he said.

THE UNDERLYING distinction between our democracy and the Communist system is based on the equality of each human being before God," Mr. Drew continued. "The most powerful influence opposed to the spread of Communism is religion itself."

He added that "we do not permit indecent broadcasts when we use the word 'indecent' in another connection and we should not permit indecent broadcasts when that indecency relates to religious beliefs."

A. Davidson Low, chairman of the C.B.C., issued a statement saying that he did not know just what passages in the broadcasts were alleged to be anti-religious or "blasphemous" and that he would appear before the investigating committee to deal with the matter.

He would "read more than one version" of the Spanish situation.

The priest then stated that nothing governed by the hand of man is perfect, and that the history of the Church shows it to have been "in poor condition" several times through the ages "due to human frailty." He then drew a parallel by indicating that the best man for the United States Constitution cannot be judged solely by the fact that last year 48,000,000 American citizens failed to vote.

The Church has weathered centuries of criticism, heresy, scandals, abuses and persecution, Father Keller added significantly.

REFLECTING to other questions from listeners, the priest said that (1) Hell might be described in one sense as "separation from a lover," and that because of Free Will "nobody goes to Hell unless he himself chooses"; (2) that evil and suffering on earth "are mysteries we do not fully understand"; and (3) that there are moral principles justifying war under certain conditions, there is a "moral right of defense," and that "thank God America never has been guilty of an aggressive war."

Queried about the Christopher movement, the founder said there are "no members, meetings or dues." It seeks to reach average people, he continued, "urging personal responsibility and appealing to the best in every person," and encourages them to "help change the world back to love of God and neighbor" by exerting their influence especially in the fields of education, government, communications, and labor relations.

Financed by donations "from big and little people of all faiths," Father Keller said, the movement has a million and a half books in circulation, and distributes its literature free to any persons requesting it. Currently there are 30 movies and three television shows based on the Christopher idea, he said.

FATHER KELLER was introduced by Sol Linowitz, president of the City Club. Lay representatives of several Catholic organizations were among persons at the speakers' table.

The priest made liberal use of specific incidents to amplify various points in his talk, especially the theme of "spreading love." He was roundly applauded following the address.

Weddings in Corning

Walters - Stiles

Corning — The marriage of Miss Kathleen M. Walters, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Walters of 544 W. High St., Painted Post, and Capt. Leaven Stiles, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Stiles of Elmira, took place Saturday, Dec. 29, in St. Vincent de Paul's Church. The Rev. Harold Rogers, assistant pastor, performed the ceremony.

Attending the bride as maid of honor was Miss Bernice Bombray of Elmira. Miss Joan Shoemaker of Painted Post was bridesmaid. Norman Coleman was best man for Cpl. Stiles and ushers were Duane Stiles and Frank Walters Jr.

Following the ceremony a reception for 60 guests was held at the home of the bride's parents. Later the couple left by motor for Tacoma, Washington, where Cpl. Stiles is stationed at McChord Air Base.

Bassney - Davis

Corning — Miss Patricia A. Bassney, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bassney of 353 E. First St., and Pfc. William C. Davis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Davis of 19 E. Second St., were united in marriage Friday, Dec. 28, in St. Mary's Church. The Rev. Lawrence Bassney of Oriskany Falls, uncle of the bride, performed the ceremony.

Miss Lola Cill was maid of honor and bridesmaids were the Misses Jean Davis and Mary Young. Clare A. Knapp of Riverside was best man and ushers were Richard Bassney, brother of the bride and Edward Kennedy, nephew of the bridegroom. A reception for 100 guests was held at Union Hall, Painted Post, following the ceremony. Later the couple left on a motor trip.

The bride, a graduate of Corning Free Academy, is employed at the Ingersoll-Rand Company, Painted Post. Pfc. Davis, who attended local schools, is stationed at Fort Dix, N.J.

Monahan - Mitchell

Corning — Miss Janet Monahan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Monahan of Wayland, and Anthony Mitchell, son of Mrs. Louis Ferraro, 155 State St., and the late Dominic Mitchell, were united in marriage Saturday, Jan. 4, in St. Vincent de Paul Church by the Rev. Joseph V. Gulliford, pastor.

Mrs. Patricia Cooley of Bath attended as matron of honor and bridesmaids were Miss Rose Mitchell and Miss Barbara Ann Wensel. Flower girls were Patricia Carozzoni and Joanne Ferraro. Acting as best man was Joseph Pierotti and ushers were Harry Monahan of Rochester and Ralph Lessa James Barto Jr., was ring bearer.

Following the ceremony a reception was held for 250 guests at the All High Club. Later the couple left by motor for Lake Placid. Upon their return they will live at 155 Washington St.

The bride, a graduate of St. Joseph's School, Wayland, is employed at Hunt Glass Works. Mr. Mitchell, a graduate of Northside High School, is employed at the J. and J. Restaurant.

Burgett - McPherson

Corning — Miss Jean L. Burgett, daughter of Mrs. Elizabeth M. Burgett of 137 W. Second St., and the late Charles A. Burgett, became the bride of Donald V. McPherson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph McPherson of 101 Griffith St., in a ceremony performed Saturday, Dec. 29, in St. Mary's Church by the Rev. Alfred Horv, assistant pastor.

The bride's twin sister, Mrs. Clyde L. Travis served as matron of honor and Miss Janet E. Meeker of Elmira, cousin of the bride, was junior bridesmaid. Ralph E. McPherson, brother of the bridegroom, was best man.

A luncheon was served to the immediate families at the home of the bride's mother following the ceremony. Later the couple left for a brief trip and upon their return will reside at 137 W. Second St.

The bride, a graduate of St. Mary's School and Corning Free

Academy, has been employed in the order and inventory department of Corning Glass Works. Mr. McPherson, who attended Northside schools, is in the U. S. Navy.

Lessa - Hollenbaugh

Corning — Miss Jo Ann Lessa, daughter of James Lessa of East Corning and the late Mrs. Lessa, recently became the bride of Milton A. Hollenbaugh, son of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Hollenbaugh of 60 W. Erie Ave., in St. Patrick's rectory. The Rev. William C. Cannon, pastor, performed the ceremony.

Miss Grace Lessa, sister of the bride, was maid of honor and Fernando Carozzoni was best man.

A dinner and reception was held at the home of the bride's brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Carozzoni. Later the couple left for a brief trip.

German Bishop To Reside in Red Zone

Cologne, (NC)—Mgr. Friedrich Rintelen, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Paderborn, Westphalia, has been appointed second Auxiliary Bishop of that diocese. He will reside in Magdeburg, in the Soviet zone of occupation. There Bishop Rintelen will replace Bishop Wilhelm Westkam, who some months ago became Bishop of Berlin. Bishop Rintelen was born in 1899 and ordained in 1924.

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