

Sermon Delivered At Father Fischer's Mass

At the Mass delivered by the Rev. James H. Coffey, Procurator of the Roman Curia, at the Standard Mass, held in the Chapel of Our Lady, in the Standard Church, Livonia, March 19, 1952.

"...made perfect in a short space, he fulfilled a long time for his soul pleased God. Therefore God hastened to bring him out of the midst of tribulation." Wk. IV. 15.

Dearest Beloved in Christ:

Of all the callings of man, there is none more sublime than that of the priest. A priest, while yet a man, stands between God and his fellowmen to dispense the eternal mysteries. A priest whose lips are daily purified with the precious blood of Christ whose hand is lifted in absolution of sin, whose tongue teaches Christ and Him crucified, gives His whole being to His Master.

Like Mary, his Mother, he handles the body of Jesus, he offers the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for the living and the dead. He is the custodian of God's grace and the dispenser of it to men.

LEAVES MOST precious possessions, sanctifying grace, comes to us at the hands of the priest; in Baptism he makes us children of God; in Penance he restores us to friendship with God; and in the Eucharist he brings the living God to each of us. By His sermons and instructions, he makes us realize our duties and obligations, and counsels and encourages us to a better life. At our last moment, he is with us to offer the consolation of the last sacraments of the Church and to send us safely on our journey into eternity.

Truly the dignity of the priest is beyond compare, for no other person in the world possesses such great power.

Father Fischer's whole life was given to doing God's work well. Like every good priest, he was obedient to his Bishop, always doing the work assigned to him. Like Our Savior, when asked to baptize, he was obedient unto death. His obedience did not, however, make him perfect, for his labors showed a slight apostasy.

He had the love in this life. It was the greater because of his constant reminder to others to follow the example of the saints.

"...the love of God can do no wrong for me,"

he would teach. He loved his people, wherever he went,

In his own quiet, unassuming way, he kept word, deed and example inscribed in the hearts of the young. The love of God and the charity of soul that marked his own character.

Final Rites Conducted For Father Fischer

(Continued from Page 1)

Bedecker Sullivan and the Rev. John F. Woloch, deacons of honor; the Rev. Leslie G. Whalen, deacon, and the Rev. Austin B. Hanna, subdeacon. Classmates filled other offices of the Mass. The Rev. John E. Manley was master of ceremonies.

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. William M. Hart, P.A., V.G., imparted the final blessing in the priest's plot, St. Sepulchre Cemetery.

Father Fischer is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Fischer and his brother, Edward Fischer.

THE REVEREND Father Fischer was not exclusively with young people; for the elderly, he had great respect and devotion; for this, we have concrete evidence; for by reason of his position, he was able to exemplify it at every moment of every day and was never found deficient.

He was patient and quiet as administrator at Livonia in 1949. He served as director of Social Action Division, Catholic Charities, directed youth work in Columbus Civic Center and was diocesan director of Boy Scouts and director of Camp Stella Maria.

He also served as assistant pastor of St. Alphonsus Church, Auburn, and as first director of Camp Columbus near Auburn, as well as assistant at St. Ann's, Hornell.

Also attending the Solemn Pontifical Mass were: Monsignor Karr, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. George W. Eck, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Alfred T. Craugh, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. John M. Duffy, the Very Rev. James C. McAnin, Chancellor of the diocese and the Very Rev. John S. Randall.

OTHER PRIESTS attending were the Reverend Fathers Edward M. Scheid, Francis C. Waterstrat, Leo A. Jones, Frederick G. Straub, Roy B. Murphy, Thomas M. Reddington, John A. Reddington, Joseph O'Connell, Paul Murley, John J. Steger, Joseph G. Merkel, Peter T. Jankowski, Raymond N. Wheest, Ornella W. Feller, J. N. Margaret, Thomas F. Brennan, Ralph F. Neagle.

The Reverend Fathers Charles V. Boyle, Donald J. Mulcahy, John E. McCafferty, Arthur E. Redigan, F. Charles Bauer, William Lammens, Richard C. Neagle, Paul E. Tuite, Robert A. Doherty, Michael J. Keleg, Charles P. Hilbert, M.M., Robert J. Fox, Dominic Grasso, Raymond J. Walsh, Richard Tomay, Lawrence E. Ward, Eugene J. McDonald, Patrick J. Flynn, Albert J. Geiger, Raymond F. Moore.

THE REVEREND Father Arthur F. Florack, George C. Vogt, Wilbert L. Wagner, S.V.D., three, renouncing all for God. His heart is filled with the grace and love of God, and he goes forth full of hope and high ideals. The second time, face up, clothed in the vestments of the Church ready to say Mass, he has lived up to his ideals, he has pointed the way to God; he has preached his last sermon, he has offered his last sacrifice.

Lying there, he gives us a message of hope that springs from a life spent in the service of Jesus Christ. May he receive purity at His Divine Hand.

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THE REVEREND Fathers John C. O'Connell, John J. Burke, Bernard C. Newcomb, John L. Maxwell, John C. Newcomb, Bernard C. Newcomb, John Walsh, John Murphy, William J. Gaynor, Gregory Dugan, Edward J. Lintz, Thomas Lavin, S.V.D., Louis W. Edelman, John S. Hayes, Charles J. McCarthy, Otto J. Vogt, Edward Zimmer, William H. Schiffer, Gerald Dunn, William Thomas, John Coonan.

The Reverend Fathers James Slattery, Jerome Schiffel, William J. O'Brien (Rochester), Thomas Manley, Michael J. Tyding, James C. Lane, Francis M. Feeney, and William J. O'Brien (Livonia).

'St. Peter's Barque' Only Ship Flying Pope's Flag

By REV. JOSEPH J. SULLIVAN

VATICAN CITY — (NC) — Apparently the only ship that the Vatican intends to have in the immediate future is the same one it has always had: the Barque of St. Peter's.

This is the impression gained from well-informed officials discussed speculations in

the Roman press about the possibility of the Vatican City flag flying from sea-going vessels.

Speculations began last October when a decree published in *Aetate Apostolicae Sedis*, official organ of the Holy See, established the legal principle that Vatican City State has the right to operate its own fleet and maintain its ship registry.

Now again, as last October, informed persons insisted that the immediate purpose of this decree, issued by the Pontifical Commission for Vatican City State, was legal in character, but that no immediate steps were contemplated to put the principle into practical effect.

It was then pointed out that the principle would have practical value in case of another war when the Vatican, being a neutral, could operate ships under its own flag and would be in better position to obtain necessary supplies.

Samuel Walker

London — (NC) — A pioneer of the Catholic press in Britain, Samuel Walker, of Hinckley, Leicestershire, has died at the age of 75.

45,000 Nursing Sisters In Germany

Freiburg, Germany — (NC) —

Approximately 45,000 Catholic Sisters are now engaged in hospital work throughout Germany, according to a survey of Caritasverband, German national association of Catholic charities. They attend to patients occupying a total of 186,255 beds.

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