

Benedictines To Mark Feast Of Founder First Time Here

The Benedictines in the Diocese of Rochester, Mount Saviour Monastery, Elmira, will celebrate for the first time the feast of their holy founder, St. Benedict, the Patriarch of the Monks of the West, on Friday, March 21.

The Monks keep the feast as one of the highest rank. From noon of March 20 to midnight of Mar. 21 a Plenary Indulgence can be gained by all the faithful, on the usual conditions, for every visit made to the chapel at Mount Saviour.

TO EMPHASIZE the importance of the Feast, the Monks released the following information, this week.

St. Benedict was born in Nursia, Italy in 480. He was sent to Rome for part of his education, but disgusted with the moral corruption he found, refused to live the life of a hermit for some years at Subiaco, where he founded twelve monasteries.

About 529, he left Subiaco and founded the monastery at Monte Cassino above the ancient highway from Rome to Naples. Here he wrote his famous Rule, and here he died in 547.

One of the classics of Christian antiquity and as applicable today as when St. Benedict wrote it, the Holy Rule, as it was called, supplanted the other monastic rules in the West.

In some measure, all religious rules written since owe something to St. Benedict's Rule. The holy legislator with his Roman genius for organization made practicable for the West the spiritual teaching of the ascetics and monks of the East.

THE BENEDICTINES became so widespread that the early Middle Ages are known as "The Age of the Benedictines." The monks spread everywhere the light of the true Faith and also had a tremendous influence in civilizing Europe.

They preserved and handed on the classics of Greece and Rome. In addition to their intellectual influence, they made an enormous contribution to the agricultural development of Europe and to the arts and architecture.

The Protestant Reformation led to the closing of hundreds of monasteries. Revolutions and the Napoleonic wars forced most of those remaining to close. Benedictinism was almost wiped out.

In 1837 Abbot Guengerer restored the Benedictines in France at Glennes. The founders of the Bénédictine Congregation of the Benedictines in Germany were inspired by him.

IN THE PAST 115 years, there has been a great revival of Benedictine monasticism both in the old and newer groups or "Congregations" of monasteries. This may be due, at least in part, to the remarkable similarity of modern times to the chaotic period in which St. Benedict lived, when the barbarian invasions were devastating the culture of the time.

Modern Benedictines, like the first monks, have the challenge of making their monasteries great spiritual powerhouses of prayer, and centers where their manual work and studies will benefit the Church and the communities in which they live and give an example of complete Christian life.

The traditions of Solesmes and Beuron are carried on in the United States by the community of Mount Saviour. The Prior of (Continued on Page 3)



AT MOUNT SAVIOR Monastery, top photo shows Benedictine monks at Solemn Vespers. Below, the Very Rev. Damasius Winzen, prior, is conducting a reception ceremony. The two postulants are: (from left) Brother Paul and Brother Michael. The Feast of St. Benedict will be marked today, Friday, March 21, at the Elmira Monastery.

Fr. Ronald To Speak First Saturday To Corning Group

Corning — At the regular monthly meeting of Corning Deaconry DCCW held last week it was announced that the Rev. Ronald Zgodzinski, O.F.M. of Padua High School, Watkins Glen, will be the guest speaker at the first Saturday luncheon scheduled for April 5 at the Baron Steuben Hotel.

Reservations may be made with Mrs. Paul Bennett of St. Mary's Parish, Mrs. Charles Goller of St. Patrick's Parish and with Mrs. Raymond Dell of St. Vincent de Paul's Parish.

TENTATIVE PLANS for the annual silver tea sponsored by the deaconry were discussed. It is expected that the tea will be held in May at a date to be announced later.

Announcement was also made by the Rev. Daniel Hogan, moderator, that plans are under way for a pre-Cana conference to be

Courier Journal

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Culture Lecturer Scores Secularism Of Novelists

"The naturalism and secularism which have so pervaded American life and thinking during the first half of the 20th Century are found reflected, and with a vengeance, in the novels of the writers who attained eminence during that period."

Thus declared the Rev. Benedict A. Ehmman, pastor of St. Mary of the Lake Church, Watkins Glen in the Christian Culture Series address at Dunn Memorial, Sunday afternoon before 250 persons.

The series is sponsored by Elmira Deaconry, Holy Name Societies and will present the Rev. Dr. John E. McCafferty of the Diocesan Matrimonial Tribunal of Rochester, next Sunday afternoon.

Father Ehmman discussed "An Ethical Evaluation of Modern American Literature." Scoring the secularistic influences of modern novelists, Father Ehmman said in his book "you find characters whom their authors seem to regard as merely victims of blind and senseless forces."

THEIR LIVES are uprooted, their minds filled with angry unanswered questions, their persons played upon by violent uncontrollable urges. It is a waste land, and the atmosphere is that of Ash Wednesday, but without the hope of Easter," the speaker emphasized.

"These writers might be called prophets in reverse," Father Ehmman said, "mirroring before us an American not known to all of us. It is the whole picture, indeed. But such as it is, they parade it before us with undeniable power, though often times with such sadistic violence and the atmosphere is that of the terrible specter who will turn away like the fugitives of Sodom and Gomorrah."

AS EXAMPLES of other writers on the better side of the scale, Father Ehmman cited John P. Marquand, Edith Wharton, Ellen Glasgow and Willa Cather.

The speaker said that Catholic life and thought of the past 50 years in America have not produced any fiction of comparable excellence, perhaps "because much of American Catholic life has been ghetto-like on the defensive."

Signs are good Father Ehmman said, said names like that of Paul Hogan are coming into prominence. There is promise in fields of writing outside of fiction.

"We shall not probably produce great American Catholic fiction until our Catholic living penetrates into the essentials of faith and charity," he continued.

"OUR AMERICAN Bishops in their 1947 statement on Secularism plead that 'all who believe in God (should) make that belief practical in their workaday lives.' According to them, 'the tragic evil is not that our Christian culture is no longer capable of producing peace and reasonable prosperity, but that we are allowing secularism to divorce Christianity from life.'"

"Our task is to live our faith to the hilt," said Father Ehmman, "not in some vacuum, but as Americans, by prayer and charity and devotion to truth, lifting up our fellowmen who have fallen."

Forty Hours Devotions of the Forty Hours will be held in the following churches of the Diocese of Rochester: St. Stephen, Geneva.

Sunday, March 23—Holy Rosary, St. Bridget, St. Monica, Rochester; St. Stephen, Geneva.

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Co-Founder's Feast Day To Be Marked By Ladies of Charity

The Ladies of Charity will hold their 12th annual observance of the feast of their co-founder, St. Louise de Marillac, in the Chapel of the Dunn Memorial on Sunday, March 23rd. His Excellency, the Most Rev. James E. Kearney, Bishop of Rochester, will celebrate the Mass at 8:45 a. m. and officiate at the affiliation ceremony, when he will present to each new member the Silver Crucifix, symbol of the Ladies of Charity.

Following the ceremonies at the Chapel a Communion breakfast will be held at the Mark Twain Hotel at 9:45 a. m.

THIS ANNUAL observance of the feast of St. Louise de Marillac by the Ladies of Charity is comparatively new but the reason for the observance dates back nearly 400 years, the group announced.

Louise de Marillac came from an old French family whose members had been high in the government of France. Her mother died while she was young and she was placed in the care of some Nuns at Poissy and it was there that she began to realize her aspirations for a religious life. Her desire was to enter a cloister but her confessor, realizing that God had other work for her, discouraged her.

After her father's death she was married to Antoine LeGras, a pious man, and she continued to minister to the poor, a work she had started sometime before her marriage.

It was after her husband's death that she met St. Vincent who became her confessor. He recognized in her a soul very dear to God and eventually placed her in direct charge of the Ladies of Charity.

THE ASSOCIATION "spread like an epidemic throughout France," St. Louise tells in some of her writings, for it was at a time when the country was devastated by foreign and civil wars and the people were weakened by famine and plague.

In the midst of this terror, Louise and her companions went about like angels of Mercy, nursing the sick, comforting the dying and burying the dead. It was quite an innovation for women to participate publicly in charitable enterprises, especially because most of the Companions of St. Louise had come from distinguished families. So great was the demand for their services that the help of the stronger peasant girls was enlisted.

Finally, Louise asked permission of St. Vincent to take some of these girls into her home to train them to be efficient nurses and to enrich their religious life. The plan was approved and in 1633 the final consecration of Louise de Marillac was begun.

Those interested in registering for the Pre-Cana Conference are asked to call these parish chairmen: Mrs. Charles Goller, Mrs. Paul Bennett, Mrs. Raymond Dell or Family Life Chairman, Mrs. Charles Parken.

Men's Mission To Close On Sunday Solemn closing of the Men's Mission at St. Anthony's Church, Elmira, will take place on Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Services will include a sermon, Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament, to be followed by the Papal blessing.

On Saturday evening, a special service known as "The Hour of Atonement" will be held commencing at 7:30 p. m.

The Rev. John A. Haden, S.A., is conducting the services.

St. Vincent Scout Troop Initiates 7 Corning — In connection with the 15th anniversary celebration of Boy Scout Troop 61, sponsored by St. Vincent de Paul's Church, seven tenderfoot candidates were initiated into the organization and many other awards were granted.

Assembling in the school hall the Scouts, their leaders and committee members, marched to the church where the ceremonies took place.

The Rev. Daniel Hogan, assistant pastor, gave a talk on the relationship between the Scout Oath, Scout Laws and the laws of God. Father Hogan also blessed the badges and pins.

Reds Sentence Bulgarian Priest Vienna — (NC) — A Bulgarian Capuchin, Father Damiano, arrested two years ago and unheard of since, has finally been sentenced to 12 years in prison for his "hostile attitude" toward the communist regime, according to reliable word reaching here.

She had given her home, her freedom, her life to the little Novitiate, for that is what it had become.

Faster than she could train the

Sisters, requests poured in for their services. They were wanted everywhere, in homes, asylums, prisons and even on the

(Continued on Page 1)

Bishop Kearney To Bless Gymnasium-Auditorium

His Excellency, The Most Rev. James E. Kearney, Bishop of Rochester will bless and formally dedicate the new gymnasium auditorium at St. Mary's church, Elmira on Sunday morning at 11:30 a. m., according to the Rev. Thomas J. Toole, pastor.

INVITATIONS to attend have been sent to City Officials, the Judiciary, Contractors, Heads of City Departments and representatives of the banking and industrial groups.

The beautiful new structure, erected at a cost in excess of \$300,000, is designed to serve the social, educational and recreational needs of all groups in the parish.

The building also has six modern bowling alleys, four temporary classrooms as well as housing the finest and most completely equipped auditorium to be found anywhere in this area. A modern stage, 30 by 35 feet, together with a fully equipped projection room makes the Auditorium suitable for any type play or stage presentation. Seating arrangements can be made to accommodate 2500 spectators.

Coming CDA Elect Convention Delegate — Mrs. James Ward, grand regent, was elected delegate to the biannual state convention of the Catholic Daughters of America scheduled for May 5 through 9 at Rochester at a meeting of Court St. Joseph, Catholic Daughters of America, Mrs. Arthur Doran, vice grand regent, is alternate.

The March 17 meeting of the organization which was to have a fashion show has been indefinitely postponed due to conflicting dates and illness among the members.

Mohammedan History St. Louis — (NC) — A course in Mohammedan history has been added by the history department of St. Louis University, the Rev. John P. Bannon, S.J., department director, announced. The course will deal with the history and impact of the followers of the Arabian prophet whose religion is still a principal competitor of Christianity.

Others introduced by Mr. McHale were Mrs. Katherine Cleary of Rochester, mother of Father Cleary; Mrs. Alice Neagle of Bath, mother of the Rev. Ralph Neagle, chaplain of the county; Daniel Harrington, William F. Cumiskey, Past Grand Knight John R. F. Osborne and Peace Justice Thomas E. Kelley.

Seated at the speakers' table were Mrs. James Ward, grand regent of Court St. Joseph, Catholic Daughters of America; Mrs. Catherine Calkins, president of the Ladies of Columbus; Col. John I. Spreckelmeyer, grand knight of the Council; Father Neagle; Dr. Hugh A. T. Keenan, faithful navigator of the Fourth Degree; the Rev. William Canham, pastor of St. Patrick's Church; Police Chief Robert J. Lawrence, Alderman Joseph E. Hayes, Paul Tammaro, former district deputy of the R. of C. and chairman of the program committee; Joseph Mahoney and Charles Houston, co-chairmen of the general committee.

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Pre-Cana Conference Set In Corning On March 30

Corning—Recognizing today's urgent need for proper knowledge and guidance to young couples in preparation for the serious vocation of marriage, the Corning Deaconry Council, of the Rochester Diocese, is again sponsoring a Pre-Cana Conference that will cover various aspects of married life.

Such a program was initiated by the local Council in 1950 and met with good response. Through the talks and informal group discussion, it is hoped that the conference will better equip the couples in meeting the responsibilities and problems arising in married life and enable them to work out a happy marriage.

RATHER THAN extend these talks over a period of several weeks and to enable as many couples to attend as possible, it is planned to concentrate the material to be covered into only one session to be given on Sunday, March 30, from 2 until 7 p. m., in the Catholic Daughters Rooms on E. Market St.

The conference is open to couples of all faiths and planned primarily for engaged couples, couples not yet formally engaged but seriously and definitely contemplating marriage, and couples married one year or less.

There will be no charge to those attending. Refreshments will be served by the Family Life Committee of the Corning Deaconry Council, with Mrs. Charles Parken of Painted Post chairman of this committee who are in charge of this program.

TOPICS TO BE covered are concerned with marriage as a vocation; love, courtship and engagements; the spiritual, moral and physiological aspects of married life.

Speakers will include the Rev. Daniel Hogan, Moderator of Corning Deaconry Council and Assistant Pastor of St. Vincent's Church here, who has also organized the conference and will act as moderator of same. Mrs. Richard Weider, a young mother from Rochester, and chairman of the Diocesan Speakers' Bureau; and Dr. James J. Mulcahy, Jr. Dr. Mulcahy, a graduate of N. Y. Medical College, did 3 years of post-graduate work at the U.S. Naval Hospital at Philadelphia. He has practiced in Corning from Dec. of 1949 and he and Mrs. Mulcahy are the parents of 4 children.

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