

Father Muckle Observes Jubilee

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he also teaches. "God has stored the mind and heart of the priest with truths divine and he passes them on to the souls of men."

For forty years, the speaker said, his brother, Father Muckle, has exercised the dignity and power of Christ's priesthood, "with loyalty and fidelity to the High Priest, his Master. He stands at the altar before you today as he has countless times with a strength and vigor beyond his years."

The preacher asked for prayers that Almighty God will grant him many more years and the strength, physical and spiritual to crown his life with further work in lifting men up to God and in bringing God down to men.

FATHER MUCKLE, the jubilant, expressed complete surprise over the testimonial and thanked all who participated.

Father Muckle reviewed his many years of labor and thanked all with whom he worked during these years.

"I thank my dear brethren who have left their Sunday work to be here with me today and extend to them my congratulations and best wishes on their anniversary of ordination—Father John St. Thomas Church, pastor, on his 44th; Father Joseph of the Pontifical Institute of Toronto on his 37th this very day; Doctor William, pastor of Our Lady Lourdes on his 33th, this year."

"ALSO TO MY sister, Sister Charles, St. Thomas School principal on her 40th year in the Sisters of Mercy. I might add that she taught for ten years in the public schools of New York State before entering religion and helped my brothers and me to get through college."

"I thank them all sincerely. Their love, inspiration, wonderful example and help has meant more than I can tell throughout the forty years."

Following the Mass, Father Charles Muckle entertained his guests in the dining room. He was assisted by his brother, Father Joseph, pastor of St. Thomas Church, and his sister, Sister Charles, principal of St. Thomas School. The celebration was held at the home of Father Muckle, 125 West Street.

The Dignity And Power Of Christ's Holy Priesthood

(Full text of sermon delivered by the Rev. Joseph T. Muckle, of the Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies at the 40th Anniversary Mass of his brother, the Rev. Charles E. Muckle, pastor, in St. Agnes Church, Avon, on June 29 appears below.)

The priest is chosen for men in the things that pertain to God. His office is to bless, to sanctify and to teach.

Christ redeemed man from the sin of Adam but the effects of that redemption must be applied to each individual soul. Every child of God except the Immaculate Mother of God is born into this world with the guilt of Adam's sin upon his soul which, unless reconciled, would bar it from beholding God face to face.

IT IS AT the Sacred font of Baptism that the priest confers upon the soul the fruits of the Redemption, removes that guilt and invests the soul with God's graces giving it a new birth whereby it becomes from a child of Adam a child of God. And the priest consecrates that soul to Christ with Holy Chrism and a mark, a character, a seal is placed on it by which it shall be known forevermore.

But the work of the priest in this regeneration is but the beginning of the work of the priest. By the dispensation of the other Sacraments he nourishes and strengthens that new life, sanctifying and consecrating it all the more to God and for God. Just as a mother nourishes her newly born infant by her own substance, so the priest who shares in the priesthood of Jesus Christ nourishes the soul of the baptized on the very Body and Blood of the High Priest throughout its life until death.

IN THE SACRAMENT of Penance the priest cures the soul of the truisms it has suffered along with us all in the fray of life. And the soul which has received a mortal wound he restores to health and vigor. He pours in the wine and oil of God's grace which, if used right, will enable even that soul which has been afflicted with the weight of his sins and his sins to be blessed and united to heaven. And it is before the priest

that the young man and woman plight their irrevocable and undying love in holy marriage and to that sacred union he imparts the blessing of God even as Christ Himself did by His presence at Cana in Galilee.

And when the messenger of death approaches, again it is the priest who by the last Sacraments supports, consoles and strengthens the faithful soul to pass through the gate of death into eternity. It is the priest, as you well know, who brought true courage and peace to your dying father and mother and countless generations before them, even as he will to you if you but persevere to the end.

But it is at the altar of God that the great power and dignity of the priest is especially seen, wherein he takes the role of Christ. It is at the altar where he exercises at its greatest the power of the priesthood of Jesus Christ.

In his ordination God grasps the soul of the young man being ordained to the very center of its being and sets His seal and imparts a power which remains for all time. In the affairs of every day life the priest is as one of us and human infirmity grips him round. But at the altar what a transformation! His feet are upon the earth but his words reach the very heart of the heavens where God abides with His Son. It is at the altar especially that the priest exercises a power given not even to the archangels. He says, "This is My Body, this is My Blood," and Jesus Christ Himself takes His place as an unbloody sacrificial victim in his consecrated hands.

IT IS AT the altar especially that the priest is set between heaven and earth to bring them together in the exchange of sacred things. He keeps in being on earth at every moment of the day the sacrifice of Calvary for the sins of the world, continuing and keeping in force among men, with all its satisfactory and sanctifying value, the sacrifice of the Cross.

The priest stands at the altar between Almighty God and man. From the lips of the people he gathers the harvest of prayer—the expressions of our innermost aspirations and thoughts, expressions of our adoration and praise of God, of our lowliness

and unworthiness and sinfulness and sorrow and our trials and troubles, our hopes and our joys—the priest at the altar gathers them all up and pours them into the Sacred Heart of the great High Priest and makes them thereby Godlike and divine.

But the priest not only blesses and sanctifies; he also teaches. God has stored the mind and heart of the priest with truths divine and he passes them on to the souls of men. He bears aloft down through the ages the torch of revealed truths to the uttermost parts of the earth.

BY WORD AND example, in season and out of season, he instructs his flock in the truths of faith and sets forth the principles upon which they must base their lives if they are to be real followers and disciples of Christ. His purpose is not to tickle the ears or win the applause of his hearers. He cuts no corners; he tears aside the mask of worldliness in all its varying and alluring forms and sets forth with sincerity and bluntness the true philosophy of life.

Whether as a catechist or preacher, week after week and year after year, he drives home the eternal truth that the only things on earth which have true and lasting worth are those whose value we can take with us before the judgment seat of God. He keeps ever before our minds, the true doctrine of our origin, our nature, and of our purpose and destiny—in a word, the meaning of life. He teaches man to judge all things here below from the summit of the mountain of faith against the background of eternity, visible, though dimly, beyond the expanse of time.

AND THE WORK of the priest as a teacher down through the ages has gone ever further than this. It is the priest who gave the Christian character to Western civilization. It is planned in his mind, it is the work of his hands. He knows every thread of its fibre and warp and woof for he made it.

And down through the centuries it is the priest who bore aloft the light of learning against the darkness and force of barbarism and the false philosophies of life. The history of Christian education until comparatively modern times is the record of

the Catholic priesthood of civilizing barbarous tribes through true learning in the arts and sciences. Whether in the monastic or cathedral schools or in all European universities whose history goes back beyond yesterday, it was almost exclusively the priest who dedicated his life without stint and without temporal reward to the work of education.

Such, in brief, is the dignity and function of the priest. And mind you, even the world is not unmindful of it. Even until this day it is against the Catholic priest that the enemies of God unleash their most savage expressions of hatred. With true instinct they know that to dispense the flock they must first imprison or exile or kill the shepherd.

AND THE NON-CATHOLIC world recognizes the priest as a man apart. Even to them he is a marked man. They feel that in the priest there is the finger of God and a presence and power not from this world. Note the indignation—if any individual priest fails to rise to the dignity and obligations of his office. Who cares for the blade of grass that the passing breeze treads underfoot or for the grain of sand which the receding waves carry back into the sea. But where the mighty oak is riven by the lightning bolt or where the mountain groans and topples

as from the force of an earthquake, men stand aghast, frozen in their steps, with amazement. You can ascertain the dignity of the priest from the effect which a fall produces.

Such, in brief, then, is the dignity and power of Christ's priesthood as it is shared by chosen and consecrated men. For forty years Father Muckle has exercised that priesthood with loyalty and fidelity to the High Priest, his Master. He stands at the altar before you today as he has countless times with a strength and vigor beyond his years. But any man who has spent forty years in the priesthood is, as the span of priest's lives go, facing the West. His sun is setting close to the Western horizon.

I AM SURE I express the sentiments of you, his flock, and of this community as a whole when I say we hope and pray that Almighty God will grant him many more years and the strength, physical and spiritual, to crown his life with further work in lifting men up to God and in bringing God down to men; in raising earth to Heaven and making Heaven bow down to earth in the holy kiss of peace and reconciliation.

Reduced Fare Washington, D. C.—(RNS)—Legislation empowering airlines to grant reduced fares to clergymen has been blocked in the Senate.

Superior



Very Rev. Timothy Connolly, (above) regional director of the Columban Fathers in the United States since 1947, has been elected Superior General of the Society of St. Columban, at the general chapter held at St. Columban, Navan, Ireland. A native of Ireland, he will hold the office for the next ten years, directing the missionary work of the society's 700 members throughout the world. (NC Photos).

Auburn CDA Sets Lawn Card Party

Auburn—Members and friends of Court Auburn 263, Catholic Daughters of America, will assemble for a card party on the lawn in the rear of the Home on South Street Wednesday, July 16, at 2 p. m. for an afternoon card party.

Mrs. George A. Snyder, grand regent, is in charge of reservations and is being assisted by the following committee:

Mesdames Joseph Hickey, Mary Hodgson, Frederick L. Keese, Lawrence C. Salzer, Ella Donahue, Fred L. Risser, Estella Weber, Floyd C. Abrams, Mary Crowley, James Kenney, Frances Foster and Louise W. Merza.

Also the Misses Grace Wilde, Isabel Goss, Julia Harnett, Gertrude Kennedy, Veronica Toomey, Katherine Murphy, and Josephine Engler.

Two Among Graduates

Graduates of St. Louis University included two from Rochester. They are: Joseph E. Cilano, 123 Blakeslee St., bachelor of science, and John J. Schorn, 174 Fairgate St., bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. Cilano also received a commission in the U. S. Air Force Reserve.

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- FANCY FIRM RIPE TOMATOES pkg. 29¢
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- FRESH CURLY LETTUCE 2 for 15¢
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