His Excellency
Most Reverend James Edward Kearney, D.D.
Chancellor
Very Reverend John Francis Murphy, C.S.B., Ph.D.
President
The Faculty and Board of Advisory Regents of
St. John Fisher College
request the honor of your presence
at the
Blessing and Dedication Ceremonies
to be held
Sunday, October the twelfth
Nineteen hundred and fifty-two
at three-thirty o'clock

Congratulations
LIBRARY BUREAU DIVISION
REMINGTON RAND

Stones From Martyr-Bishop's Cathedral To Be Sealed In College Cornerstone

His Excellency Bishop Kearney will bless the cornerstone of the new St. John Fisher College during the dedication ceremony on Sunday, October 12. The prayers which the Bishop will recite when he blesses the cornerstone are found in the Roman Ritual as follows:

Verse: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Response: Who made heaven and earth.

Verse: The Lord be with you.

Response: And with your spirit.

Let Us Pray

O God, from Whom every good thing takes its beginning and receives its increases as it advances to perfection, grant, we earnestly pray, that what we undertake for your holy praise may, by the eternal gift of your fatherly wisdom, be brought to completion. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Why is a cornerstone so important? The cornerstone of a new building should be an important place in the structure. Though this stone has not the importance a keystone has in a building, it has as much importance as the owners of the building want to give it. The whole structure, as it were, depends on this one stone. Without the cornerstone, the building is seen to collapse.

Christ The Cornerstone

St. Paul uses the term in regard to Christ being the "cornerstone" of the Church. So the words "keystone" or "cornerstone" have come into common use as figures of speech for the foundation, the rock-bottom principles, that on which the rest is built.

The contents of the small copper box which will be put inside the stone and sealed in with cement are interesting.

There is not too much room in this particular stone. But we may be sure that certain things will be placed in there which will amaze and surprise the discover of this box some years from now.

In this particular stone, or, rather, in the box this stone holds, will be some meaningful mementoes for posterity. Included will be a copy of this very issue of THE COURIER-JOURNAL; pictures of the pioneer staff and students of 1951-1952; pieces of stone from St. John Fisher's own Cathedral of St. Andrew in Rochester, England.

These stones have a history that is interesting:

When Father James Embser, C.S.B., novice master of the American novitiate of the Basilian Fathers in Rochester was in England in the summer of 1951, he made a detour to go to see St. Andrew's Cathedral now in Anglican possession. Why? Because that cathedral is the one built by St. John Fisher when he was the Bishop of Rochester.

The site is out of the City of London about thirty miles. The building is an imposing one to this day, and the Episcopalians keep it in good repair, as they now use it as a main church. There is a plaque across the street from the cathedral identifying it as the Cathedral of St. John Fisher.

The rector of the Cathedral gave Father Embser a small 3x3 inch piece of a cornice of the tower, then under repair. This stone is almost soft to the touch. It is a creamy color and probably sandstone.

So, then, this is a storried stone quarried at the tower of our Patron's own church. Soon it will be placed in the tower of St. John Fisher College, since that is where the cornerstone is placed—at the base of the graceful Tower.

Msgr. Lyons

Another and much larger piece of stone from the same St. Andrew's church will also be put into the cornerstone. The late and much loved Monsignor Edward Lyons, then rector of St. Andrew's Seminary on Buffalo Road procured this for the cornerstone of the new St. Andrew's Seminary building.

His Excellency, Bishop Kearney, suggested that half the piece be set aside for the same purpose at St. John Fisher College when the time would come.

After Monsignor Lyons' sudden death, the stone was entrusted to his niece, Cathryn Zelda Lyons, present Registrar and History professor at St. John Fisher College.

Finally, in this cornerstone, will go some medals familiar to all Catholics, signs of devotion to The Blessed Virgin and the saints. And all—though Christ, Our Lord.

Patronal Feast On May 20

The feast day of St. John Fisher is June 22nd. It comes at a time when college is not in session, so a school celebration on that day would be impossible. After consulting with His Excellency Bishop Kearney and examining the dates in Cardinal Fisher's life, it was decided to have May 20, the date on which Bishop Fisher was named a Cardinal, as the official Patronal Feast Day.

Congratulations and Best Wishes
For Success
to
St. John Fisher College

. . . "We believe that our own leaders of the future must be men of depth, whose science and technology, essential as they are, are leavened by rich experience in literature and art, economics, history and religion."

Joseph C. Wilson, President
The Haloid Company

College Song Salutes Martyr Bishop

Hail Alma Mater
Towering a hill
Guardian of our Faith;
Our minds and hearts we raise:
Golden priest of crimson days,
Pray for us and be with us still.
—By R. H. F. and S. A. R. F.

Of course, there are many "firsts" in a new College. The staff of St. John Fisher College, in those early, grim days, often reminded the first students that such things as school songs, papers, alma mater etc. would or, at least, should, come from the students themselves.

One day last year freshman student Ronald Boden came to Father Robert Flood, the college librarian. Taking care not to break legs or scratch arms on unfinished places, the pair arrived at what is now the main corridor housing the Administration offices.

At that time, the asphalt tile was being laid. Lumber, tiles, cans—all such things littered the floor. In that maze was set a piano. A very beat-up keeper of downbeats was it.

No stool nor bench was there. The librarian and the freshman assembled enough boxes of tile to make a sort of bench, with room for one.

After blowing the dust off the keys, Mr. Boden broke into what was a welcome and thrilling piece of music. From the first few bars, Father Flood knew "this was it". By "it" meaning the tune for the Alma Mater. Not perfect as yet, still needing polishing and slight changes, but this was it!

The two talked together in rapt high tones. The men laying the floor tiles inquired the meaning of the anthem. Almost they went unanswered in the excitement. But no words yet! Both composers were sure that "it would write itself". This proved to be quite incorrect.

First, Father John O'Meara, the Dean must be informed of this. Then the student body must hear it in such a way that they would think they had written it themselves. No "pushing", no matter how adroit, would do. The Alma Mater had come, as it had been hoped, from the students themselves, but bad handling of its debut could surely ruin its chances of hearty acceptance.

But, the words? It was decided that a few lads who had some literary talent would be approached and asked to listen to the wordless song. This was done a few times. Each new hearer was an almost instant convert; but remained uninspired as far as words were concerned.

Weeks passed; the song was played by Ronald casually any chance he could get. People liked it, wanted to hear more, and asked for words. Finally, Father Flood decided to make the task of suppling words his own. He would have a summer to meditate on them. Surely he could get them during that time.

Meantime, Ronald was going about getting professional opinion and advise on his music. Most music men decided it was good, in fact, very good. Any changes mentioned were usually the ones noticed the first day. At odd times during the summer, Ronald would come out to the College (now being finally finished) ask about the words, and go away assured that the words were "coming".

In Syracuse, at the home of his mother and sister, her husband and twins Mary Anne and Michael Robert, the librarian finally got the first version of the words. This was not easily done, as it required the help of his sister from the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondolet. She was home for a three day visit, and, of course, her time was quite taken up with visits, visitors and the usual course of events when one is home so seldom.

But, one day, for an hour, she played the tune over and over again on the piano (the twins were asleep in the next room!) until, between them, the sister and brother got the words. Then they had lunch—cold. The rest of the family took a dim view of such goings-on. But the words were there.

Actually, then, these words and this music are the product of diverse people and environments. Surely a case could be made for the song's having been under the inspiration of St. Joseph, St. Vincent (for such was the name of the parish church in Syracuse), St. Jerome (the parish church in East Rochester our neighbor), St. Basil, patron of the librarian's religious family. All saints, as it were, joined to honor St. John Fisher.

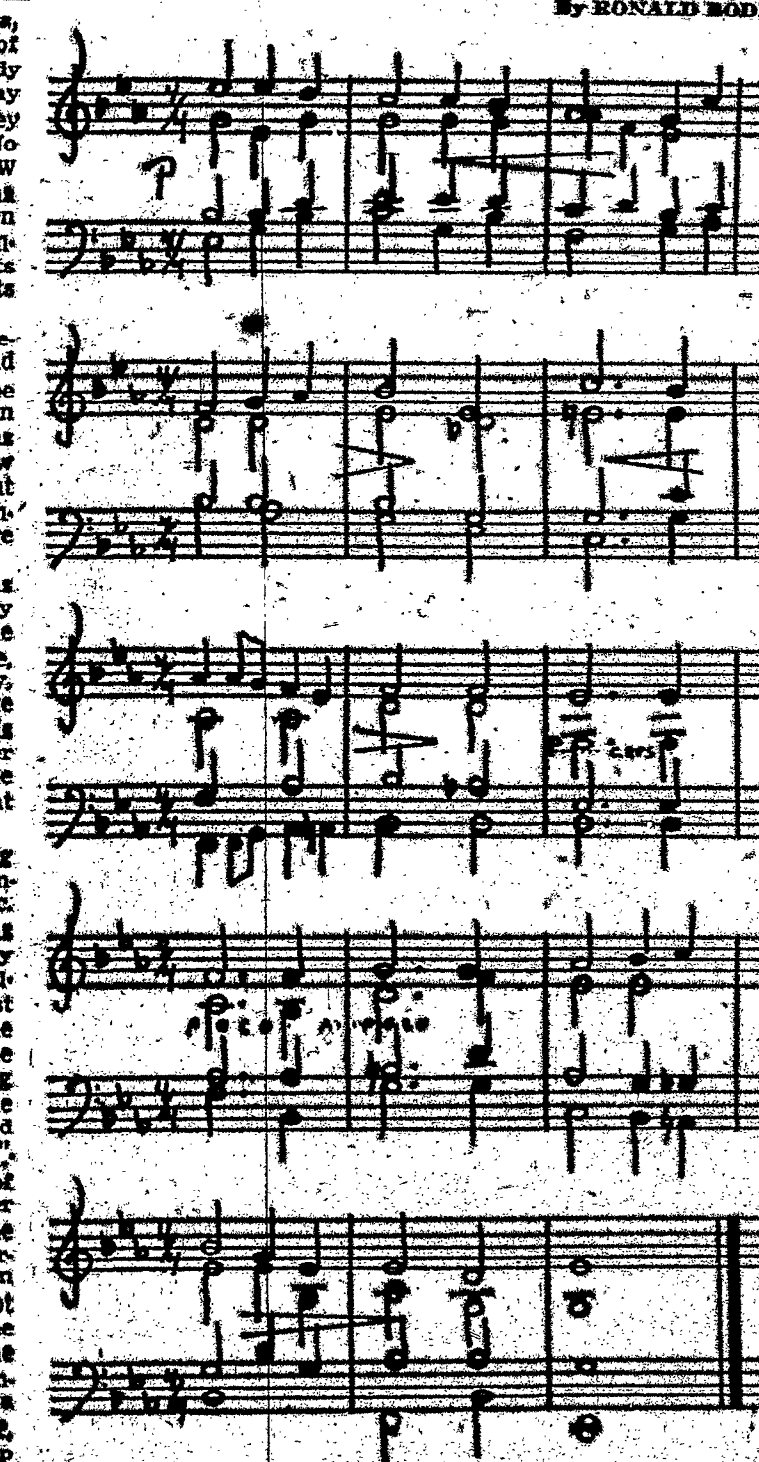
So, now, tune and words. Some of the lines are more poetically valid than others. "Towering a hill" is a good line, since St. John was martyred on Tower Hill, and the College Tower is on the Campus hill.

"Crimson days" contains a lot. St. John was a Cardinal Priest of the Holy Roman Catholic Church. True, he never got to wear the Hat, but he was a Cardinal. In fact, his being created a Cardinal hastened his death a bit, since Henry VIII was quite piqued at the Pope's defiance of his plans and made sure St. John died a cruel death. Crimson, then, for blood and for the cardinalatial color.

The song is copyrighted already. Another few songs are on their way. May the halls of St. John Fisher ring often with glad songs in honor of a man who thought it wise to die for the right reason. Men of Fisher will try to prove by their lives that their glorious patron has listened to their praising him. They shall try the hard way of everyday Faith in action. With a song in their hearts.

Alma Mater

By RONALD BODEN



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