

Funeral Mass Sermon

Father Thomas Harrington

(This is the text of the sermon delivered by the Rt. Rev. Monsignor George W. Eckl at the funeral mass for Father Thomas J. Harrington in St. Joseph's Church, Livonia, February 21, 1953.)

"Thou art a priest forever, according to the order of Melchisedech."

(Ps. 109-4)

In pondering over these inspired words of Holy David, we pause in amazement at the word "forever"—Thou art a priest forever—for all eternity.

Not only does a priest serve his God for a brief span of time on earth, but his priestly character follows him into heaven where he will be raised to a pedestal of honor for all eternity.

ON EARTH his priestly dignity singles him out above all other men, and in heaven he will be arrayed with a glory and dignity that will single him out from among all the saints as a priest, arrayed in the glorious garb of a victorious captain of the army of Christ.

This mark of the priesthood was conferred upon Father Harrington more than a half century ago on June 6, 1901.

At an early hour of the day, the Master called him to labor in his vineyard, and for well nigh 53 years he bore the burdens of the day and the heat, sweating the evening of life to hear the welcome summons—"Call the laborers, and pay them their hire."

But Father Harrington was no ordinary laborer, he was chosen as a leader of men, a captain in the spiritual army of Christ, a superior officer whose reward should be in accordance with his rank.

However, during the latter part of his life, God permitted heavy afflictions to come upon him, the disease of diabetes and total blindness.

BUT GOD was considerate of His servant, sending him a trustful friend in the person of his nurse who came more than 25 years ago to minister to his diabetes and to remain to comfort him in his blindness.

Another consolation was accorded him in the person of Father Walter A. Gibson, who cared for him with all the tenderness, devotion and respect of a young priest for an aged and afflicted brother-priest and spiritual father.

Father Harrington was beloved by the people of this parish

where he labored for the last 23 years before his retirement.

EVEN THE non-Catholic townspeople grew to love and reverence him, and would wait for his coming down the street to receive his cheerful greeting.

Here we must also pay due tribute to the devoted religious Nursing Brothers of Buffalo, who cared for him during the last two years of his affliction, and in whose pious arms he passed peacefully away.

His death came on Ash Wednesday, early in the morning, as if the Lord had purposely waited for that day to summon him home, that we might always associate his death with Ash Wednesday.

That we might all take home with us the solemn lesson conveyed to us by the Church on Ash Wednesday: "Remember man that thou art dust, and unto dust thou shalt return."

Thus his long life of service and suffering finally came to a close. How often during those latter years he sat for hours in total darkness, sighing like the blind man in the Gospel and crying out: "Lord, that I may see!"

How often he prayed with rosary in hand for patience in his great affliction.

Finally the end came. He had finished his course, he had done his work, and now he would receive his reward, the reward of a priest.

BUT BEFORE being admitted to enjoy his eternal reward, he may perchance be constrained to linger for a brief period in Purgatory.

Indeed, there are but very few souls so saintly, who could dare assure themselves of immediate entrance into heaven.

Wherefore we ask in his behalf the prayers of his devoted Bishop, of his fellow-priests, of his relatives and of all his sorrowing parishioners and friends.

THAT GOD may soon liberate him from the penitential sufferings of Purgatory and speedily admit him into His Divine Presence, where his eyes shall once again be opened, and when, as a priest forever he shall see and behold his God and Maker for all eternity.

May his soul and the soul of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Fr. Harrington's Requiem Held In Livonia Church

(Continued from Page 1)

the sons of Timothy H. and Margaret Sweeney Harrington.

HE STUDIED at St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's Seminaries and was ordained to the Holy Priesthood on June 6, 1901.

After serving at Holy Cross Church, Ovid, he was in turn appointed to St. James the Apostle Church, Trumansburg; St. Catherine's, Addison and then named to St. William's, Conesus and St. Joseph's, Livonia, where he served as pastor for 23 years.

Surviving Father Harrington are his sister, Mrs. John Light of Avon, and several nieces and nephews.

THE OFFICE of the Dead was chanted by the priests of the Rochester Diocese on Friday evening, Feb. 20.

Assisting the Bishop in the Funeral Mass were: Rev. Roy F. Jagerty, Deacon; Rev. John F. Woloch, Subdeacon; Rev. John M. Ball and Rev. Casimir Muraski, S.V.D., Deacons of Honor.

The Very Rev. John E. Maney, Master of Ceremonies; Rev. Francis M. Feeney, Assistant Master of Ceremonies; Rev. John A. Murphy, Book Bearer; Rev. John T. Walsh, Miter Bearer; Rev. John Steger, Thurifer; Rev. Dominic J. Grasso, Candle Bearer; Rev. Donald Mulcahy and Rev. James F. Marvin, Acolytes.

PRESENT IN the sanctuary at the Funeral Mass were: the Rt. Rev. Msgr. William M. Hart, V.G., the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Maynard A. Connell, the Very Rev. Msgr. James D. Cuffney, the Very Rev. Msgr. Gerald C. Lambert.

Also the Reverend Fathers John L. Connan, Michael L. Hynes, E. Joseph Esser, Leo C. Schwab, Charles R. Reynolds, Robert A. Keleher, Bernard V. Kuchman, Joseph G. Merkel, George M. Kalb, J. N. Margrett, A. J. Schneider.

The Reverend Fathers Austin B. Hanna, Arthur E. Rattigan, John S. Hayes, James F. Slattery, William L. Reed, Edward E. Steinkirchner, Raymond G. Hel-

Vatican's Year Book Publication Delayed

Vatican City —(NC)—Issuance of the 1953 Annuario Pontificio, or Vatican Year Book, has been postponed until March 2, according to an announcement by the Vatican Press Office.

March 2 is the birthday of His Holiness Pope Pius XII and also the anniversary of his election to the papal throne.

Vatican Congregation Issues Sentence Of Excommunication To Father Feeney

Rome —(NC)—The Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office, on February 18, 1953, issued a sentence declaring that the Rev. Leonard Feeney has incurred the penalty of excommunication.

The sentence is published in the official bulletin of the Holy See, the Acta Apostolicae Sedis dated February 18, 1953.

From the same source has come the following information about the case of Father Feeney:

BY A DECREE issued February 11, 1953, the Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office declared that Rev. Leonard Feeney, pastor of St. Michael's Church, Boston, Mass., had been automatically incurred the penalty of excommunication.

The sentence of the Holy Office is the official and authentic act of a metropolitan bishop, and it is not subject to appeal or to any other recourse.

When it became known that Father Feeney would not serve to incense the altar in the parish of St. Michael's, the Holy Office was informed of the situation.

The Holy Office, in its decision, stated that Father Feeney had incurred the penalty of excommunication because he had refused to obey the orders of the Holy Office.

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care, he was reluctant to leave the country and consequently expressed the hope that some other way be found to settle the question without his being subjected to the unnecessary burden of abandoning himself from the country.

THE SACRED Congregation saw no reason to change its stand and so it wrote another letter on November 22, 1952, to Father Feeney telling him that he was evading the issue and that if he did not present himself within an indicated time he would be subject to canonical penalties and his act of disobedience would be made public.

The reply of Father Feeney to the communication of December 2, 1952, contained nothing that was substantially new but merely resorted to the same delaying methods of repeating excuses and subterfuges to cloak his insubordination to the call and command of the highest teaching and governing Authority for the Church.

All the efforts of the Holy See to deal with Father Feeney in a spirit of truly paternal piety and regard proved to be of no avail.

Since, as a last act, to give Father Feeney the opportunity to modify his attitude, he refused to do so, the Holy Office, on January 3, 1953, the penalty was incurred by Father Feeney that he was to appear in Rome before January 31, 1953, under penalty of being automatically excommunicated if he did not appear.

The Holy Office had clearly indicated from the Holy Father himself, yet Father Feeney failed to appear, and the reply to this warning was only a series of excuses and disrespect for the Sacred Congregation as well as for the Pope of the Church.

Therefore, the Holy Office, in its decision, stated that Father Feeney had incurred the penalty of excommunication because he had refused to obey the orders of the Holy Office.

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Decent Newsdealer

Legal Threat Makes Distributors Come Clean

Bryan, O. —(NC)— It took a threat of legal action to do it, but a newsstand dealer here with determined ideas about decency finally succeeded in making his own choice of magazines he wants distributors to leave for him to sell.

Howard Davis, former Marine sergeant, the dealer, brought matters to a head when he instructed his attorney to inform the distributors that he would institute legal action if they continued to force unwanted magazines on him.

SHORTLY AFTER he began operating the newsstand here, Mr. Davis put in his order for magazines. They began arriving, the ones he wanted for his stand being with a number that he would not put on sale.

The magazines he considered objectionable, he tied up in bundles and kept in the backroom of his shop.

A driver for a distributor refused to let Mr. Davis have only the magazines he wanted and declined to take back the publications he kept in the backroom.

Wayne proved unavailing as did a letter Mr. Davis wrote. When he made a phone call to

the company office he was told "you're only one of 150 dealers in our area" and that if he didn't want to do business "like the others," he knew where to go and he could get out of business, too.

The joblot magazines kept coming in, the pile of "returns" in the back room continued to mount and Mr. Davis' determination did likewise.

Explaining the new edict, Auxiliary Bishop Eric F. MacKenzie declared that "music should be a part of the service and not a display of the voice. Anything operatic or a purely solo technique, showing off the voice, is wrong."

"THE PURPOSE," said Bishop MacKenzie, "is to bring back the

Archdiocese of Boston

Restricts Wedding Tunes

Boston —(RNS)— Catholic brides in the Boston archdiocese no longer will march down the aisle to the tune of "Here Comes the Bride."

Neither will their soloists sing "O Promise Me" and other concert-style pieces.

An edict has been issued in the name of Archbishop Richard J. Cushing setting up the "White List" of the Society of St. Gregory of America as a catalogue of music permissible for church ceremonies.

COMPOSITIONS NOT named in the list may not be used for weddings, funerals or more routine ceremonies, unless written approval is granted by an archdiocesan commission.

Many pieces commonly used at weddings are not on the list. Among those now banned here are "I Love You Truly" and the wedding march from Mendelssohn's "Midsummer Night's Dream."

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"THE PURPOSE," said Bishop MacKenzie, "is to bring back the

traditional and strictly religious type of music. The changes will not be and need not be drastic. "The regulations may order the elimination of tunes from opera or stage, but no void is left. There are many better compositions to take their places."

Cardinal Griffin

Consoles Czechs

London —(RNS)— His Eminence Cardinal Griffin, Archbishop of Westminster, sent a special message of consolation to Czech exiles here on the fifth anniversary of the Communist coup in Czechoslovakia.

Recalling his meeting with Archbishop Josef Beran, who was banished from Prague in March, 1951, because of his "negative attitude" toward the Communist regime, Cardinal Griffin said that "we pray for him and for all priests, nuns and laity now suffering persecution."

Adolphe Menjou

Coming to Town!

In a New Television Show—ADVENTURE MYSTERY INTRIGUE

PHANTOM RICKSHA—Starring Ann Kimball and Edward Norris

THE GOLD WING—Starring Adolphe Menjou

THE FURY—Starring John Kelley and Wade Van Dyke

IN PERSON!

Be on the lookout for Adolphe Menjou in person! He'll be in town on Wednesday, March 3 and you'll be seeing him on television over WHAM-TV throughout the day.

ON TV! Yessir, Adolphe Menjou is coming to town and bringing with him an exciting new series of television stories from the four corners of the world—the very best in mystery, intrigue, romance and adventure. Don't miss the sensational new program "Genesee Favorite Story" with Adolphe Menjou on television every week.

STARRING IN THE

GENESEE Favorite Story

Light and Dry Beer & Ale

Every Friday 9:30 P.M. WHAM-TV

The Genesee Brewing Co., Inc., Rochester, N. Y.