Bids Farewell

Paris — (NC) — Archbishop Paul Marella, Papal Nuncio to France, has bid farewell to outgoing President Vincent Auriol in the name of the ambassadors and ministers stationed here.

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Illustration from book on Genesee Valley Trappists

'Cowled Farmers Of The Valley'

Book Tells Genesee Valley Monks' Story

The recent elevation of Our Lady of the Genesee Trappist-Cistercian monastery at Piffard, near Geneseo, to the status of abbey and the blessing of its prior Father M. Gerard McGinley, O.C.S.O., as the community's first abbot are commemorated in an illustrated, two-colored book slated for issue NEXT week.

With covers in green and autumnal brown, the book contains 60 pages of material written by monks at the abbey; articles by secular priest friends of the community and contributions by Democrat and Chronicle editorial staff members.

More than 50 photographs, pictures and illustrations, including a two-page layout of camera highlights of Abbot McGinley's solemn blessing ceremony at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart embellish the work.

PUBLISHED WITH full ecclesiastical authority, representing the best in modern printing and engraving by The Christopher Press up-to-date Rochester plant, the book is titled "The Cowled Farmers of the Valley."

Editor is S. J. Fitzgerald. Art editor is Gerald R. Maloney. Photography, including a front-cover aerial view of the abbey and grounds, is by Herb Schaeffer. There also is an introduction by Arch Merrill, chronicler of the Genesee Country. All are well known staffmen.

Contributors among Diocese of Rochester priests include the Rev. Robert F. McNamara, professor of church history at St. Bernard's Seminary; the Rev. Richard Tormey, chaplain-teacher at Our Lady of Mercy High School, the Rev. Joseph A. Cirincione, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church, all of Rochester, and the Rev. Charles R. Renolds, pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Leicester.

Among several features, the book includes full-page, latest photographs of His Holiness, Pope Pius XII, and the Most Rev. James E. Kearney, bishop of the Diocese of Rochester, with their personal messages of congratulations to the new Abbot.

IN ADDITION there are a full-page photograph of and message from the Most Rev. Lawrence B. Casey, auxiliary bishop of Rochester; photographs of and messages from the Most Rev. M. Gabriel Sortais, O.C.S.O., abbot general of the Trappists, and the Right Rev. M. James Fox, O.C.S.A. abbot of Our Lady of Gethsemani Abbey, Trappist, Ky., together with a Foreward by the Abbot General. An official photograph of Abbot McGinley and a biographical sketch with his coat of arms complete that section of the book.

While there will be a limited sale in Catholic and other bookstores, circulation of "The Cowled Farmers of the Valley" will be centered on mail orders to Our Lady of the Genesee Abbey, Piffard, N. Y. Hoping for as wide a circulation as possible in informing the public on the life of the Trappists, which is the chief aim of the book, the Piffard community is offering it at the price of one dollar.

Emerald Isle Plans Giant Pageant Of St. Patrick

Dublin—(NC)—A pageant of St. Patrick, expected to be one of the largest and most colorful events of its kind ever witnessed in northern Europe, will highlight this year's An Tostal in Ireland.

An Tostal is the "Ireland at Home" festival when the people of the Emerald Isle play host to the world in three weeks of celebration and festivity. The 1954 festival will last from Easter Sunday, April 18 to May 9. Many cultural and sporting events of major international importance are included in the program.

The St. Patrick pageant will take two full days to stage and will have a cast of over 1,400 performers, led by top Irish stars. A massed choir of 400 voices and a full orchestra will provide the dramatic musical background.

THE PAGEANT, depicting the conversion of Ireland to Christianity in the fifth century, will take place in three separate episodes at the actual sites where the events occurred.

The opening episode on Easter Saturday afternoon will be at Drogheda, County Louth, where "St. Patrick and his retinue" will sail up the River Boyne to land at the very place where the saint first set foot upon his return to Ireland. As the episode ends, St. Patrick will be seen preparing for his journey to Tara, the home of the High King of Ireland.

The second episode will see St. Patrick at historic Slane, lighting the symbolic Paschal Fire in defiance of the druidic ban. Arrested by the king's soldiers, the saint will be seen next at Tara. The final episode on Easter Sunday night will depict St. Patrick debating with the Druid priests.

FOUR HUNDRED voices will chant the dramatic story of the battle of wits between the saint and the pagan priests. At the moment of St. Patrick's triumph, the pagan idols will disintegrate into flames and a rocket burst forth over Tara Hill to explode into a luminous cross. At the same time, along the "five roads to Tara," more rocket crosses will soar into the night—symbolizing the Faith sky-flaming across the hills of Ireland.

Other events scheduled for An Tostal, include dramatic and musical events, art and literary exhibitions, and a sporting program featuring just about every sport from angling to yachting.

Archbishop Cushing Returns To Home

Boston — (NC) — Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston, released from St. Elizabeth's Hospital at Brighton where he underwent major surgery, has returned to his home here to convalesce. His condition was described as good despite the loss of 20 pounds.

In his first public message after his return, the 58-year-old prelate thanked Catholics for their prayers especially "when I needed them so much last month," he added:

"Now that I am home, a period of convalescence lies before me. How long it will be I do not yet know . . . Naturally I shall make my convalescence here at home . . . If I cannot get completely back to work, I can at least be close to it — and to all who under God make that work possible."

Hospital officials described the prelate's recovery as "normal" and said his convalescence would be "routine."

Beria Asked For Bible Before Death

Dublin — (NC) — The Standard reports that L. P. Beria, executed former Russian deputy premier, asked for a copy of the New Testament during his imprisonment in a Moscow jail.

The paper states that this news was brought to Berlin by Professor P. Yudin, described as former director of the Cominform Bureau in Bucharest and later Soviet Deputy High Commissioner in Eastern Germany.

THE STANDARD says that Beria asked for a copy of the New Testament in Georgian, his native language. It adds that the former Soviet official had read the New Testament as a young boy. The Standard story does not say whether Soviet prison officials complied with the Beria request.

The Standard had earlier printed a story that His Eminence Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski, the Primate of Poland, was held in Moscow's Liublanka prison in a cell next to that of Beria. The Standard's current story states that the Cardinal spent in prayer the day on which Beria was executed.

Aid DP's

Bogota, Colombia — (NC) — A Catholic Committee for Immigration has been established here to assist displaced persons from communist-ruled countries. The group has already brought to Colombia 24 Rumanian, Czech and Polish families.

Marian Year Spurs Modesty Campaign

Chicago, Ill. — (NC) — Special Marian Year efforts to promote modesty in dress will be made by the Supply the Demand for the Supply (S.D.S.) Crusade. High school girls taking part in the nationwide campaign for decency in dress have scheduled a Chicago convention for January 16, at which over 1,000 persons are expected.

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