

## Nun Receives Habit of Dominicans

### Chaplain Preaches At Nun's Reception

(Text of the sermon delivered by the Rev. Michael L. Hynes, Chaplain of the Dominican Monastery, 1310 Church St., Elmira, given at the Reception of the White Habit of the Dominican Order, Tuesday, Jan. 19 appears below.)

The ceremony of this morning is reminiscent of one that the young student for the priesthood goes through called Tonsure. Kneeling before his Bishop in the sanctuary and while the bishop is cutting three locks of his hair, the boy says: "O Lord, thou art the portion of my inheritance and my chalice, you are the one that will restore my inheritance to me."

That sacred ceremony together with vesting him with the surplice, transfers him from a layman to a cleric. He is now officially inaugurated into the service of Christ.

**THE ANALOGY** with the reception of the religious habit is still more striking and impressive. You, dear sister, are called a "bride of Christ" and that you henceforth are going to be dressed in the white robes of a beautiful young bride, you presented yourself at the altar to make your solemn promises. Forgoing the privilege of an earthly spouse, you took a heavenly one. And who will question the wisdom of your choice? We never lose when we exchange an earthly lover for a heavenly one.

Before a wedding ceremony the priest addresses the couple in these words: "My dear friends, you are about to enter into a most sacred and most serious union; most sacred because established by God himself; most serious because it will bind you together in a relationship so close and so intimate, that it will profoundly influence your whole future."

How much more solemn and binding is the union that the young sister makes before the altar, when she takes Christ for her lifelong partner in the religious life? It is true a relationship that will influence her whole future, for time and eternity. This is the kind of contract that we have witnessed this morning. This is the kind of giving and receiving, that makes a cloistered religious a mystery to the world, but a wide-open book to God.

**I THINK** it is safe to say that the reception of a young girl into any religious order is misunderstood by the world in general, and by some worldly-minded Catholics in particular. But when it comes to entering a cloistered order, that is considered not only useless but positively criminal.

Why should any young girl tear herself away from parents, relatives, friends, and the whole world, and lock herself behind the locked doors of a cloister, to spend her whole life in silence and hard work? Of course you and I know the answer to all these silly insinuations. Perhaps she wishes to tear herself away from peace and happiness, and as one sister told me "the key to the locked doors is on the inside."

**THE MODERN** world is so allied with troubled, busy, busy, so terribly busy, about so many things that are not essential, that it has lost sight of Mary's world completely. It

took a gentle rebuke from the lips of Christ to teach that truth to another girl 1900 years ago.

"Martha, Martha, thou art troubled about many things. One thing only is necessary. Mary has chosen the best part, which shall not be taken away from her."

To refer to one order of religious as active and to another as contemplative is a little misleading. No active order of religious is without its contemplation amidst the distractions of a busy life for others; and no contemplative order lacks its feverish activity for personal holiness and salvation of souls in the silent fulfillment of prayer and meditation.

There must be a generous mixture of both the active and the contemplative in every good religious. Pope Pius X, of happy memory, who will soon be declared a saint of God, gave us proof of this, when he chose St. Theresa, the Little Flower of Jesus, a cloistered Carmelite nun, to be the patroness of missionaries throughout the world.

**NOW LET** me say a word to our new Dominican sister Mary Thomas of the Eucharist. Some one has so rightly said: "The cow does not make the milk." I need hardly remind you: young recipient, that the habit does not make the contemplative religious; but it does help.

From now on, dear sister, you will be closely associated with those who are schooled in the training of contemplatives. The lessons may be long and difficult. Most of your crosses will come from within, because the world has been locked and fenced out. Humility is the foundation of a religious life, and it is built upon the rocks of humiliations. The road to heaven is shorter over the hill of Calvary. There is no crown without a cross; and you will not forget as the days and years of your training in perfection go slowly by, that on your reception day you chose the crown of Thorns.

Now a word to the parents. Of all the blessings that God can bestow upon a Christian home, there is none to be compared to a vocation to the priesthood or the religious life.

God, honest, God-loving and child-loving parents want to know where their girl is, and that she is happy. Is there a place in God's great big world, where that natural longing of a parent's heart is so sure of fulfillment as in a cloistered monastery? The beloved daughter is always there, and they know it. They can visit her any time they wish. They know that she is happy or she would not stay there. More than that, they know that she is helping them much more in many ways than if she had remained in the world. But best of all she is spreading the Kingdom of God in the world by her prayers and self-sacrifices, enjoying and preparing for herself and them the reward promised by her divine spouse: "He that

The centuries-old impressive ceremonies of a Reception of the White Habit of the Dominican Order took place last Tuesday, Jan. 19, at the Dominican Monastery, 1310 W. Church Street, Elmira, in the Monastery Chapel. Miss Clementina Valentino, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Onofio Valentino of New Haven, Conn., received the White Habit of the Dominican Order of Preachers, in the presence of her family, the Religious of her Community and many friends.

**DRESSED** As a bride, the Postulant, prostrate in the choir behind the grille, answered the questions asked her by the Rev. Michael L. Hynes, Monastery Chaplain, acting as delegate of the Bishop, as follows:

"What do you ask, my child?" "God's mercy and yours," she replied. "Do you wish to receive the holy habit and to observe the Constitutions of the Nuns of the Sacred Order of Preachers?" "Yes, Reverend Father, this I wish and desire by the grace of God," she answered.

The Habit is then blessed and given to the Postulant, who then dresses the Postulant in it. Before receiving the white veil, indicative of a Novice of the Order, the Postulant came to the Communion Window in the grille, where the celebrant cut off a lock of her hair, symbolizing the putting away of all worldly vanities. The celebrant then presented her with a Crucifix and Rosary, to be her daily companions for life.

**THE FINAL** ceremonies of the Ritual are most impressive. The celebrant offers the new Novice two crowns, saying: "Behold, my child, two crowns, one precious, the other of thorns; choose that with which you wish to be crowned." The Novice choosing that of thorns, says: "I choose the crown of thorns."

After the Postulant places the crown of thorns upon the head of the Novice, the celebrant blesses her and announces to her the name by which she will be known in religion. In this case it was Sister Mary Thomas of the Eucharist.

Father Hynes in his sermon emphasized the importance of a religious vocation and spoke particularly upon the "contemplative order." "To refer to one order of religious as active and to another as contemplative is a little misleading. No active order of religious is without its contemplation amidst the distractions of a busy life for others," Father Hynes said, "and no contemplative order lacks its feverish activity for personal holiness and salvation of souls in the silent fulfillment of prayer and meditation."

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(Text of sermon appears on this page.)

leaves father and mother, brother and sister, and all the world for my sake, will receive a hundred fold in this life, and eternal happiness in the next." God grant this grace to you this morning, dear sister Mary Thomas of the Eucharist. And may God bless you all. Amen.

**Portugal Nuncio**  
Lisbon (NC) — Archbishop Fernando Canto, new Apostolic Nuncio to Portugal, spoke on behalf of the Diplomatic Corps at the President Lopes' New Year's reception for the corps.

Southern Tier Edition

## Courier Journal

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 1954

### Inquiry Classes To Open At St. Peter and Paul's

In keeping with its traditions of Inquiry and Convert Classes, Saint Peter and Paul's Parish, Elmira will open a new class this coming Tuesday evening, Jan. 26, at 7:30 in the Conchale of the Parish School.

This new Inquiry Class will be the Parish's answer to the chair of Unity Observance in which prayers were offered for religious unity. It will be dedicated to Our Lady and will be known as the Marian Inquiry Class.

In the January 10th issue of the Parish Bulletin, The Chalmers, Rev. Hubert A. Blaky, Pastor of Saint Peter and Paul's Church, announced that the Marian Inquiry Class will be "for those interested in the Catholic Faith, for those who wish to become converts, and for Catholics who wish to review their Catholic teachings."

**THE CATECHISM** used will be the modern and up-to-date "Catechism for Adults" which is the result of the combined efforts of many priests engaged for many years in convert work in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

In the Preface, Rev. William J. Cogan, the author, says: "The special treatment of marriage and family life is based on the conviction that most people will save or lose their souls as married people, and that, therefore, they should clearly know their duties as married people and as parents."

The one weekly instruction will be given each Tuesday evening between 7:30 and 8:30 a.m. and will be supplemented by the Audio-Visual educational equipment, particularly by the use of filmstrips depicting the entire scope of the catechism and Bible History.

Every possible modern technique will be used to help those who come: charts, Mass boards, pamphlets, etc.

Not only those to whom written invitations have been sent, but anyone, Catholic and non-Catholic, is most welcome to attend. Holy Mass will be offered this Sunday in honor of Our Lady for the spiritual success of this Marian Inquiry Class.

**Watkins Nun's Mother Dies**  
Word was received from Rome last Monday of the death of Mrs. Josephine Blas, 85, mother of Sister Gabriel, the superior of the Filippine Sisters at St. Mary's of the Lake Convent, Watkins Glen, N.Y.

She leaves two sons and six daughters. Three of the daughters are in religious life, two in the United States and one in Italy.

A Requiem Mass is being offered at St. Mary's of the Lake Church, Saturday at 8, by the pastor, Rev. Benedict Ehrmann.

**Novena Slated In Lourdes Church**  
A Novena in preparation for the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes will open in Our Lady of Lourdes Church on Tuesday evening Feb. 2 and continue each evening with solemn closing on the eve of the Patronal Feast, Feb. 10.

The Rev. John E. Hurley, C.M., will conduct the services. The general intention of this Solemn Novena is "for a just and lasting peace for the world."

**821 Baptized**  
Tokyo (NC) — Greater Tokyo had a record 821 adult baptisms at Christmas time, a sharp increase from last year's 383. Nine parishes averaged 32 adult baptisms each.

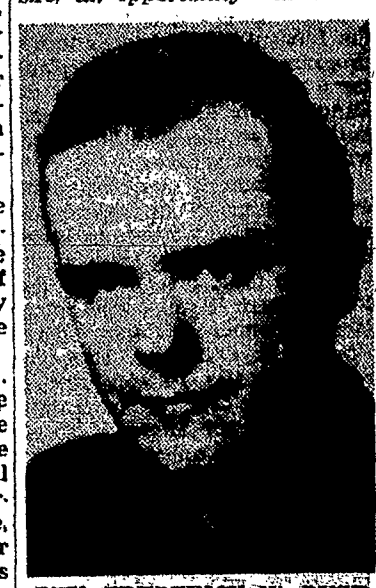
**City's Patron**  
Paris (NC) — Mayor Frederic-Dupont and the municipal councilors of Paris will officially take part this year in the religious ceremonies honoring St. Genevieve, the city's patron saint.

### Subjects Listed For Inquirers At St. Patrick's

First two lectures of St. Patrick's Inquiry Class will be held next week on Tuesday and Friday evenings at 7:30 p.m. in St. Patrick's school, Elmira.

Topics to be discussed are: Jan. 26—"God—Who Is He?" Jan. 29—"Revelation" "God's Message to Men" "The Holy Bible—God's Book for Men"

Purpose of the Inquiry Class is to afford to interested persons an easy opportunity to learn what are the credentials, the doctrines, moral teachings and the devotional practices of the Catholic church. The meetings are intended to be informative, not controversial and for those who so desire, an opportunity will be afforded to interested persons an easy opportunity to learn what are the credentials, the doctrines, moral teachings and the devotional practices of the Catholic church. The meetings are intended to be informative, not controversial and for those who so desire, an opportunity will be afforded to interested persons an easy opportunity to learn what are the credentials, the doctrines, moral teachings and the devotional practices of the Catholic church.



REV. FREDERICK W. BUSH

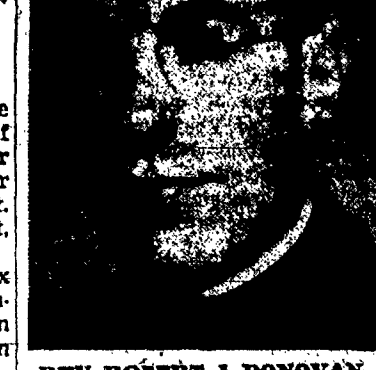
forded to ask questions and to have personal interviews.

**NON-CATHOLICS** are hereby provided with an easy means of learning at first hand just what the Catholic church is, what it teaches and how it functions.

Non-Catholics in mixed marriages may acquire a clear understanding of the religious obligations of their Catholic partners and thus be better able to avoid a frequent source of family discord.

Catholics who wish to accompany their Non-Catholic friends are also invited. There will be no fee of any kind.

Meetings will be held each Tuesday and Friday evenings at 7:30 p.m. in St. Patrick's school from Jan. 26 through April 23 and will be conducted by the Rev. Frederick W. Bush and the Rev. Robert J. Donovan, assistant pastors at St. Patrick's church.



REV. ROBERT J. DONOVAN

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### 3 Diocesan Ceremonies Set As Marian Tribute

First Marian Year tribute to the Blessed Mother by high school and college students of the diocese will be held simultaneously in Rochester, Elmira and Auburn on the Feast of Mary's Purification, Feb. 2, of the Diocesan Sodality Unions sponsoring the event, announced today.

A Solemn High Mass at 7:45 p.m. in each city with a sermon on the meaning of the Marian Year for Catholic youth and reception of Holy Communion by School and parish groups will highlight the observances.

**IN ROCHESTER**, His Excellency Bishop Kearney will preside at the Solemn High Mass to be celebrated in St. Boniface Church by the Rev. J. Joseph O'Connell assisted by the Rev. Charles E. Connell and the Rev. John W. LeVoe. The sermon will be preached by the Rev. Richard Torrey.

Ceremonies of the Mass will be handled by students of Aquinas Institute and the choir of Nazareth Academy. Our Lady of Mercy High School and St. Agnes High School will sing. St. John Fisher College glee club members will chant the Proper of the Mass.

**IN ALL THREE** deaneries, candles will be blessed before the Mass as is the liturgical custom for this feast and representatives of each parish and school group present will receive a blessed candle from the presiding priest. These candles will be used at each sodally gathering of the respective organizations throughout the Marian Year.

Priest-directors will urge the young people to receive Holy Communion at the evening Mass, as "an additional tribute to Christ and His Mother and a petition for the many intentions listed by Pope Pius XII for the Marian Year."

The Auburn ceremonies will be held in Holy Family Church at 7:45 p.m. Celebrant will be the Rev. Robert J. Downes assisted by Rev. John Steger and the Rev. William E. Davis. The preacher will be the Rev. Joseph P. Beattini and the choir of Holy Family High School will sing.

**THE SODALITY** of Our Lady, St. Mary's Parish, Elmira, will host to the Sodality members of the city and vicinity on Feb. 2, in the celebration of the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Following the desires of Our Holy Father as expressed in the encyclical letter "Mater et Magistra," the church is dedicated to Our Lady, the centers of Marian devotion, the sodality will send invitations to all the teen-age sodalities in the area.

**Benefit Party Set At St. Mary's Hall**  
The benefit card party sponsored by the Rosary Altar Society of St. Mary's parish, Elmira, will be held in the auditorium on Wednesday, evening Feb. 17 at 8 p.m.

A variety booth featuring baked goods and hand-made accessories will be staffed by Mrs. Richard Wagner and Mrs. Robert Johnson. Mrs. Richard Wagner is in charge of awards.

**Red Cross**  
Newark (NC) — Forty high school students for the first time at the Newark Seminary here responded to an appeal and donated blood for a Red Cross blood bank.

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