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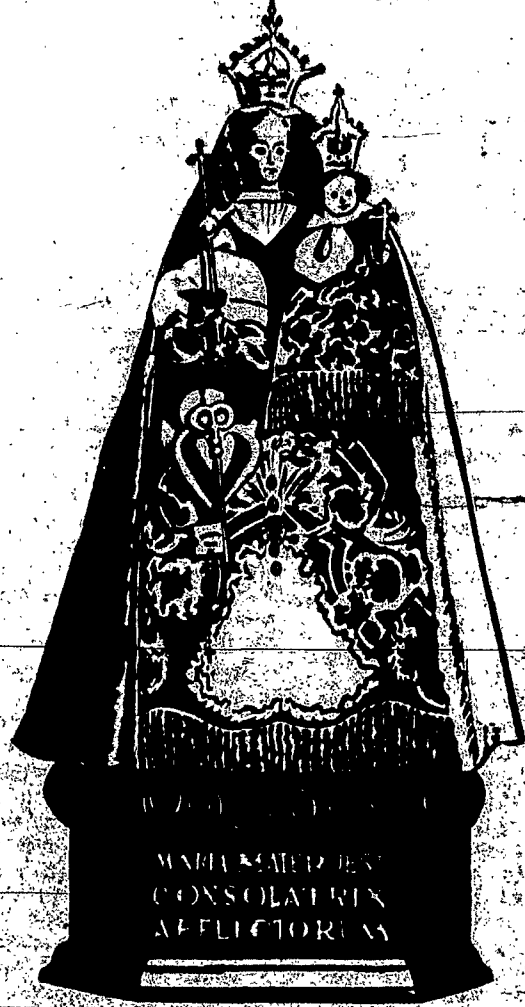
CASUAL SHOP, BLOUSES, 2nd FLOOR



Mary's Shrines LUXEMBURG

By REV. HENRY ATWELL
(This series of articles describes the great Marian Shrines of Europe. A diocesan pilgrimage now being organized by Father Joseph Cirincione will visit these famous shrines next April and May.)

Despite the violent upheavals which have so sadly disrupted the face of Europe, the tiny Grand Duchy of Luxembourg has managed to retain its independence. The little coun-



The above drawing depicts the statue of Our Lady, Comforter of the Afflicted, enshrined in the Jesuit church of the Immaculate Conception in Luxembourg. The tiny Grand Duchy of Luxembourg will be one of many famous places of Europe to be visited by the Marian Year pilgrimage from Rochester this Spring.

try is sandwiched in between Belgium, France and Germany; its area is not much greater than one of our counties.

Its name means "strong little castle" and the capital city huddles at the top of precipitous cliffs. The people of Luxembourg have long been known for the fervor of their faith.

In 1607, the Jesuit Fathers came to the little country and began to construct a magnificent church in honor of our Lady's Immaculate Conception. The church was completed by 1621, after fourteen years in which townspeople, soldiers, and clergy all worked and contributed toward the erection of this shrine.

THE SHRINES have always been noted for their devotion to the almighty Mother of God, and their church and their teaching soon bore fruit. The people of Luxembourg were told of the great shrines of Christendom: Walsingham, Loreto, Chartres, (this was long before Lourdes and Fatima were famous). And they wanted a place of pilgrimage too.

In response to their demand, and under the direction of Father James Brocquart, S.J., they built a chapel, on the outskirts of the city, close to the ramparts. They dedicated the chapel to our Lady under her title "Comforter of the Afflicted."

A delightful figure of our Lady was specially carved from lime-wood. The figure is 38 inches tall and shows our Lady holding the Christ Child. There is great dignity in the expression of her face, and despite the three hundred years it has stood there, the color and brilliance of the gilding have hardly faded at all.

THE LITTLE chapel was highly popular as a center of devotion, and a sequence of remarkable answers to prayer began immediately. In 1627, a suffocated baby revived during the singing of our Lady's Litany; hearing was given to a child born deaf. The very founder of the shrine was overcome by the plague which swept death across Europe, but he was wonderfully cured when he prayed to our Lady, Comforter of the Afflicted.

Half way through the seventeenth-century, France and Spain used Luxembourg for a battlefield. The city was besieged and the townspeople, by official decree, dedicated their city to our Lady. The city was spared destruction, and, in thanksgiving, they presented the "key to the city," a tiny gold key to our Lady. It still hangs by a little cord from her right wrist.

A PROCLAMATION called all the people of the Grand Duchy to consecrate themselves to our Lady, Comforter of the Afflicted, and over 40,000 came to the dedication ceremony and received Holy Communion.

Alas, on June 5, 1795, the French Revolutionaries stormed into the city, desecrated the churches and destroyed the little chapel. The statue was smuggled to safety and hidden until the Revolution subsided. The chapel was in ruins, so the statue was taken to the older and larger Jesuit church of the Immaculate Conception.

Each Spring, the Luxembourgians come to the church for the great Octave of their Queen. A beautiful iron-wrought screen is set up, the statue enthroned before it and banked with fresh flowers. Scores of candles glitter at the shrine, and so many are the Communion that priests give the Blessed Sacrament without interruption from early morning until noon.

Coach Never Sees Games, But Team First In League

St. Louis, Mo. (NC) — A basketball squad whose coach never sees them play a league game has completed its fifth straight season in top place.

Coached by Sister Mary Raymond, R.S.M., whose rule prevents her from going out in the evening, the 18-girl squad of St. John's Hospital School of Nursing here has taken top place in the St. Louis Student Nurses' Association Basketball League.

A former basketball star with Harris Teachers College and St. John's nurses team before becoming a Sister of Mercy, Sister Raymond is forced to limit her coaching to a two-hour practice session once a week. With this limitation the team managed to average 44.9 points a game and hold their opponents to an average of 27.9.

Fr. Lord's Marian Pageant Published

St. Louis, Mo. (NC) — A Marian Year pageant "Joy for the World," by Father Daniel A. Lord, S.J., has been published with detailed directions for its production by the nights and landmarks of the Blessed Sacrament.

The work is a study of the life of the Blessed Virgin told through dramatic incidents, music and dancing. Directions for adapting the pageant for radio or television and for condensing it into play form are included in the newly-published script. "Joy for the World" will have its Canadian Premier in October at the coliseum of the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto under the patronage of James Cardinal McGuigan, Archbishop of Toronto.

Marian Year Stamp For Peace Urged

Washington, D. C. (RNS) — A suggestion that the United States issue a special postage stamp during the 1954 Marian Year calling on its citizens to pray for world peace was made here by Rep. Louis C. Rabaut (D-Mich.).

MR. RABAUT presented the proposal to Postmaster General Arthur Summerfield in a personal conference.

"I recognize that the devotion to Mary is common to all faiths," Mr. Rabaut said. "I believe it would, however, be especially fitting to issue a stamp in 1954 urging all to pray for the blessing of peace for our country and the world. This is, after all, the objective of those who observe the Marian Year."

"A nation in our position in world leadership may properly exhort its citizens to pray," he added.

THE MICHIGAN Congressman said he had received many communications — as had the Postmaster General — urging that a stamp be issued for the Marian Year. But direct recognition of such a religious event would not be possible under the American concept of separation of Church and State, he said.

However, prayers for peace can enlist the support of all religious groups, Rep. Rabaut said, and such a stamp would remind the whole world that Americans aspire to be both a peace-loving and God-fearing people.

Gets House Post Bridgeport, N. Y. (NC) — Father Sebastian P. Weber, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church here, has been appointed first assistant to the Minister General of the Order of Friars, Minor, Conventual, in Rome. It has been announced.

Auburn Parishes Pledge Funds For High School

(Continued from Page 1)
date by those who have permitted them to elapse.

Site of the new school is the former Metcalf estate which faces on Swift and South Streets. The site which includes a little over 30 acres was purchased by the Carmelite Fathers in 1952.

According to their plans the Carmelite Fathers will retain approximately 59 acres south of the proposed Whitefriars Drive for their school property and release the rest of the original Metcalf land for residential development.

AS DESIGNED by Beardsley & Beardsley, Auburn Architects, the Mt. Carmel High School will be a one-story modern institution embracing three wings. The eastern wing of the future building will include common facilities such as gymnasium, with stage and seating capacity for 700, and a cafeteria with seating for 400.

Common instructional facilities will be located in the central section of the building. These will include administration offices, health room, library and science laboratory.

The western wing will provide class home rooms and instruction rooms. There will be 10 large classrooms plus two large dual purpose study halls. Provision has been made for future classroom extensions to the west.

The school will provide for maximum enrollment of 700 students, both boys and girls. The Carmelite Fathers who will direct the school, will teach the boys and the Sisters of St. Joseph will teach the girls.

TEXT OF BISHOP Kearney's letter explaining plans for financing the construction of the new school, as read last Sunday in Auburn, reads:

February 18, 1954
My dear People:
The High School project in Auburn has not moved along

as quickly as some would like. However, we cannot build on pledges, nor can we offer pledges as payments on contracts. It is impossible to estimate our financial needs unless we are sure at least that the original pledges will be honored. We want to start work on July first. The school will cost over a million dollars furnished on the most reliable estimates. The Carmelite Fathers have agreed to assume one half of the additional cost beyond the campaign quota of \$500,000, and the parishes of Auburn have agreed to assume the burden of the difference.

If there is any reasonable indication that the pledges to the campaign will be kept up to date in payments, we shall be in a position by July first to let the contracts. May I ask, then, that these payments be brought up to date by those who have permitted them to lapse. We are deeply grateful to all who have kept their payments up to date. I am anxious to get the school building in Auburn under way as early as possible. A conscientious fulfillment of the pledges by everyone will make the work possible in the near future.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
James E. Kearney
Bishop of Rochester

Buffalo Charities Lists Fund Goal

Buffalo (NC) — The Diocese of Buffalo will seek \$1,500,000 in its annual Catholic Charities Appeal this year, Bishop Joseph A. Burke has announced. This represents a 50 per cent increase over the annual goal of \$1,000,000 set in 1944. The appeal, called "the drive that never fails," raised \$1,529,432.35 in cash last year.

Evening Masses Draw Crowds

Cincinnati (NC) — Evening Masses offered for the first time on the First Friday in some 20 churches of the archdiocese generally drew larger crowds than any of the morning Masses, pastors reported.

St. Francis Xavier Church in downtown Cincinnati was filled with nearly 1,000 worshippers at 5:30 p.m. Mass, and most of them received Communion. A Mass at 7:30 p.m. in St. George's Church drew 800, and in gutting Hyde Park, St. Mary's Church was nearly filled with 700 persons at 8 p.m. Mass.

Pastors reported no noticeable decrease in attendance at morning First Friday Masses despite the large numbers at the evening Masses.

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Women will take over every store position from General Manager down to stock boy! Everything you need for yourself, your family, and your home is offered at savings made possible but once each year—and for ONE DAY ONLY! Hurry down to Edwards Saturday and share in the extra values in Rochester's Greatest One Day Sale!

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