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The Life of Christ

By BISHOP FULTON J. SHEEN

History and Reason Are Proof That Christ Alone Is Divine

CHAPTER 1

HISTORY IS FULL OF MEN who said that they came from God, or that they were gods, or that they bore a message from God. Buddha, Mohammed, Confucius, Christ, Socrates, Lao-tze and thousands of others, including the one who founded a new religion today in Los Angeles — each has a right to be heard for his claims. As the yardstick must be outside the cloth, otherwise it cannot measure it, so there must be some tests outside of the claimants and available to all men, all civilizations and all ages, to decide whether any one of them is right in his claims. These tests are two-fold — reason and

He will teach, the enemies He will make, the program He will adopt for the future, and the manner of His death. By His conformity with these announcements, we could judge Him.

Reason further tells us that if God does not do this, then there is nothing to prevent any fool from appearing in history and saying: "I am from God," or "An angel appeared to me in the

were born, that you were coming?"

Other Claimants
With this test in mind, line up the claimants. Put in anyone you please, for at the moment Christ is no bigger than any of them. We now address them: "Socrates, did anyone know you were coming?" "Gotama, did anyone ever preannounce you and your message, and predict that one day you would sit under the Buddha tree?" "Confucius, was the name of your mother, the place of your birth recorded, and given to men centuries before, so that when you did come, men would know you were a messenger from God?" "Christ, did anyone know of your coming, the circumstances of your life, where you would live?"

All are silent—but one. There were no predictions about Buddha, Confucius, Tao, Mohammed, or anyone else — except Christ. Others just came and said: "Here I am, believe me." They were, therefore, men among men, and not the Divine in the human, which is the kind of leader we want for these hard times. Christ alone steps out of that line and answers: "My coming was foretold even to the smallest detail."

He tells us to search the writings of the Jewish people and the correlated history of the Babylonians, Persians, Greeks and Romans, and for the moment to regard their writings merely as historical documents, and not as inspired writings. The person of Christ in passing the tests of reason and history

"About two thousand years before I was born, there appeared a man, Abraham, as the head of people in whom all the nations of the earth would be blessed. About two thousand years before I was born, it was foretold that I, who would be born among the people of Abraham, would be also the expected of the nations that had the Gentiles as well as the Jews. About seven hundred years before I was born it was foretold that I would be born in Bethlehem, and that even though born in time, I already had an eternal birth."

Death Foretold
"Not only was my birth foretold, but about seven hundred years before I was born, it was foretold that I would be born of a Virgin. A Virgin shall conceive and bring forth a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel." About seven hundred years before I was born, it was foretold that the Kings of the East would bring gold and frankincense to me. (Continued on Page 5)



Of all claimants to divinity only Christ could say "My coming was foretold, even to the smallest detail."

History, because everyone has it, even those without faith; history, because everyone lives in it and should know something about it.

Coming Foreannounced
Our reason tells us that if any of the claimants came from God, the least thing that God could do to support his claim would be to preannounce his coming. Automobile manufacturers tell us when to expect a new model. If God is sending anyone from Himself with the most important message for all men, He owes it to us to let us know when He is coming, where He will be born, where He will live, the occasion

Joseph and gave me this message. In such a case there is no objective, historical test for such a messenger. We have just his word for it, and he could be suffering a delusion.

If a visitor came from a foreign country to Washington, and said: "I am a diplomat, and would ask for both his passport and his documents testifying that he came from a certain government. His papers would have to antedate his coming. If we ask for such proofs of identity from a diplomat, we certainly ought to do so in the all-important subject of religion, asking: "What record is there before you

Plan 'Day With Mary'



HIGH SCHOOL SOUALITY PREFECTS discuss plans for "A Day With Mary," diocesan-wide youth gathering, honoring the Marian Year and slated for Sunday, March 21, in Nazareth Academy, Rochester. Prefects showing poster are (left to right): MARGARET WEALEN, St. Agnes High School; ANNE JUDGE, Nazareth Academy; and ELLEN WARD, Our Lady of Mercy High School.

'Marian Study, Devotion'

Diocesan Rally Calls Youth

Diocesan high schools, colleges and parish youth groups hope to register close to 600 students for "A Day With Mary," diocesan-wide Marian Year gathering of young people to be held Sunday, March 21, at Nazareth Academy, Rochester, all day Sunday, March 21.

The Registration Committee, headed by Rev. Albert J. Shannon, St. John's Seminary, St. Andrew's Seminary, on "The Greatest Woman Who Ever Lived"; and the Rev. Edward E. Steinkirchner of St. Boniface Church, on "Why A Year for Mary."

State Lawmakers Urged To Check Evil Literature

The New York State Catholic Welfare Committee today urged the Legislature to take immediate and effective action to protect the children of the State from the flood of obscene, indecent and immoral comic books, pocket books and other publications which now engulf the newsstands.

Charles J. Tobin, Secretary, speaking for the Committee, commended the Legislative Committee investigating Comic Books for its complete and frank exposure of the present deplorable situation and urged that the Legislature accept the recommendations of its Committee and implement the present law to prevent the sale and distribution of indecent and immoral publications.

MR. TOBIN said that it was not too late this year for the Legislature to act because there are a number of worthwhile bills pending before it which would help to eliminate the evils which now exist.

He urged the passage of a bill sponsored by Senator DeOptatis and Assemblyman FitzPatrick which would make it a crime to sell such publications to minors, as well as bills by other legislators to protect newsdealers against their sales, to strengthen enforcement and to increase penalties.

The Committee pointed out that many persons experienced in the field of youth work believe that the increase in juvenile delinquency in recent years is directly related to the greatly increased sale to minors of obscene, indecent and immoral publications and publications devoted to crime and violence.

He said that it was the duty of the Legislature to act promptly in an effort to prevent the sale of these obnoxious publications to the youth of the State, but without in any way infringing upon the rights of legitimate publishers of newspapers and magazines.

Fr. Lochren Ontario Pastor, Requiem Slated



REV. THOMAS LOCHREN

Solemn Funeral Mass will be offered Saturday morning (Mar. 13) at 10 o'clock in St. Mary's of the Lake Church, Ontario, N. Y., for the Rev. Thomas Henry Lochren, pastor of the Ontario Church since 1925. The 79-year-old priest died early Wednesday morning, Mar. 10, 1954, in St. Mary's Hospital, Rochester, following a prolonged illness. He had been in the hospital since the second week in January.

HIS EXCELLENCY Auxiliary Bishop Lawrence B. Casey will celebrate the Pontifical Mass of Requiem for Father Lochren on Saturday afternoon will be in the family plot at Holy Cross Cemetery in Ovid, N. Y.

Clergy of the diocese will chant the Office of the Dead this evening (Friday) at 8 o'clock in St. John's Cathedral, Rochester.

Father Lochren had been in parish since May, 1930, when he suffered a fracture of his leg. Rev. Ignatius X. Cameron had served as administrator of the Ontario parish since February, 1951.

On September 24, 1950, the clergy of the Lake parish held a reception in the parish hall to honor Father Lochren on the completion of 25 years of service of the Ontario parish. Tributes were paid on the occasion to his "unfading service of time and devotion to the people of the parish for 25 years." He has cleared himself not only to his parishioners but to all members of the community, a spokesman said.

NATIVE of Interlaken, N. Y., Father Lochren was born October 24, 1875, the son of the late Frank and Ellen Cahill Lochren. He attended Interlaken High School and prepared for the priesthood at the diocesan seminaries of St. Andrew and St. Bernard. He was ordained to the priesthood June 10, 1931, in the former St. Patrick's Cathedral in Rochester.

Following ordination, he was in charge of the Bishop's farm at Henrieville Lake, N. Y., until July 2, 1933, when he was appointed assistant pastor at Holy Family Church, Auburn. He became pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Ovid, on September 15, 1935. On August 1, 1952, he was named pastor of St. Mary's of the Lake where he served until his death this week.

His survivors include three brothers, Frank and Peter Lochren of Willard, N. Y., and Owen Lochren of Rochester; one sister, Miss Ella Teresa Lochren of Ontario; and several nieces and nephews.

Natives Outnumber Foreigners In India Missionary Ranks

Bangalore, India, (NC) — There are more than four times as many native priests and missionaries as foreigners in India, according to statistics released here by the Catholic Bishops' Conference.

Indian priests and missionaries total 16,115. Foreign missionaries total 3,941.

These statistics were released by the Bishops' Conference of India, which was held in Bangalore, India, on March 10. The statistics were gathered mainly by the

Pontiff Sends Blessing To All In Diocese

His Holiness Pope Pius XII expressed gratitude this week for a message of congratulation sent to him on his 78th birthday (Mar. 2) in the name of the Diocese of Rochester.

In a birthday message to the ailing Pontiff, Bishop Kearney assured him of the continued prayers of the Diocese for his health.

The Pope's appreciation was expressed in a cable from Monsignor J. B. Montini, Vatican Prosecretary of State, who also conveyed the Holy Father's blessing to the Bishop, clergy, religious, and faithful of the Diocese.

MONSIGNOR MONTINI'S cable reads:

Bishop Kearney, Rochester, N. Y.

"The Sovereign Pontiff expresses his warm gratitude for your devoted message of congratulations and prayers. He cordially imparts to your Excellency, the clergy, the religious, and the faithful of the Diocese His paternal and Apostolic Blessing."

Montini, Prosecretary.

3,000 Red Spies Work In Canada

Quebec (NC) — There are more than 3,000 communist spies working in various places in Canada, France, Maurice Duplessis charged in the Quebec Legislature. He said he had obtained his information from a former British and Canadian intelligence officer.

"The communist agent has no better friends," the Premier said, "than those who laugh at the danger he is and carries."

Mr. Duplessis said that not only in Canada but also in the United States and Europe there are irrefutable signs of communist spies' activities every day. He expressed pride in the fact that Canada was the first country in North America to outlaw communism and its agents.

'Masterful Monk's' Final Appearance

Milwaukee (NC) — "Last Crusade," last novel written by the British author, Father Owen Francis Dudley, before his death in 1952, is the April selection of the Catholic Literary Foundation.

Subtitled "The Story of Paul Gray," the book marks the final fictional appearance of the "Masterful Monk," the famous character created by Father Dudley. The book illustrates the disastrous results of modern man's denial of God and the impossibility of compromise between atheistic Communism and Christianity.

Eastman School Alumnus

Through his Composers Forums at Columbia University — which he directed for 15 years — Mr. Pettis became known by hundreds of rising young musicians. He himself studied at the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester, and while his career has been mostly in the field of music — as a concert pianist, composer and teacher — he served in the U. S. Marine Corps for 18 months in World War I and was a ship planner during World War II.

Convert Pianist To Be Ordained Priest

Rotte (NC) — An American concert pianist widely known both at home and in Europe will be ordained to the priesthood here at the age of 61. He is Ashley Pettis, California-born founder and former director of the Composers' Forums in New York and San Francisco, and one time dean of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

THE SON of a Presbyterian minister, Mr. Pettis entered the Church in 1948 after taking instructions from the Paulist Fathers in New York. Shortly afterward he was accepted as a candidate for the priesthood by Bishop John King Musso of Steubenville, O., and enrolled in the Pontifical Beda College, the English college for late vocations — in Rome.

After his ordination in the Basilica of St. John Lateran on March 23, Father Pettis plans to offer his first Solemn Mass the following day at the shrine of St. Francis of Assisi.

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Circulation Reports 20 Percent Ahead

Ninety-three out of 143 parishes in the Rochester Diocese have reported in the current Courier Journal subscription drive with results pointing to a gain of 20 per cent over last year's total of 43,000 subscribers. With only 14 parishes yet to report, F. J. Joseph, circulation manager of the Courier Journal, foresees a possible gain of over 4,000 subscriptions bringing this year's total upwards of 47,000 paid subscriptions.

The Rev. J. Joseph O'Connell, pastor of Holy Cross Church, Rochester, who earlier in the drive reported 800 subscriptions, a gain of over 500 new subscriptions, now reports 1,037 or a gain of 78 subscribers over last year's 269. Holy Cross Church is adopting the full family coverage plan for the first time.

Other parishes taking advantage of full coverage for the first time include St. Mary's Church, Canandaigua, where the Rev. Alphonsus P. Crimmins, pastor, reported a total of 771 subscriptions, a gain of 623 over last year.

The Rev. Edward K. Ball, pastor of St. Francis De Sales Church, Geneva, has enrolled his parish for full family coverage with 607 subscribers, a gain of 218 over last year.

St. Mary's Church, Horseheads, taking full coverage for the first time, has reported 212 subscribers, a gain of 116, according to

the pastor, the Rev. Francis J. Joseph.

The Rev. Msgr. William Byrne, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, Ellettsville, has reported 306 subscriptions, a gain over last year of 318.

Pastor of St. Louis Church, Ellettsville, the Rev. John A. Redington, in adopting the full coverage, reported 395 subscriptions, a gain of 262.

Another parish new to the plan, St. Bridget's Church, Rochester, reported 153 subscriptions, a gain of 38 according to the pastor, the Rev. Gerald T. Brennan.

ROCHESTER PASTORS who have made known their intention of continuing full family coverage include: the Rt. Rev. William M. Hart, P.A., V.G., Corpus Christi Church — 250 subscriptions; the Rev. Sebastian Conrath, C.P.P.S., Church of the Most Precious Blood — 124 subscriptions; the Rev. Raymond J. Sprague, St. Thomas's Church — 235 subscriptions; the Rev. Leo C. Mooney, St. Patrick's Church — 606 subscriptions; the Rev. Leo V. Smith, Our Lady of Good Counsel Church — 450 subscriptions.

Other pastors who this week renewed full subscription coverage of their parishes are: The Rev. John J. Crowley, St. Aloysius Parish, Auburn — 315 subscriptions; the Rev. John J. Nacca, St. Francis of Assisi Church, Auburn — 785 subscriptions; the Rev. Hubert A. Biak, St. Peter and Paul Parish, Elmira — 477 subscriptions; the Rev. Dan R. Sullivan, St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Elmira Heights — 144 subscriptions; the Rev. William D. Tobin, St. Bernard Parish, Scotia Center — 52 subscriptions; the Rev. Joannes Chapel, Elmira — 19 subscriptions; and St. Mary's, Geneva — 42 subscriptions.

The Rev. Peter T. Jankowski, St. Mary Parish, Geneseo — 187 subscriptions; the Rev. John L. Maxwell, St. Elizabeth's Church, Geneseo — 200 subscriptions; the Rev. John J. Magerty, St. Joseph Parish, Ellettsville — 128 subscriptions; the Rev. Bernard C. Hanna, St. Elizabeth's Church, Ellettsville — 128 subscriptions; the Rev. Bernard C. Hanna, St. Elizabeth's Church, Ellettsville — 128 subscriptions.

(Continued on Page 5)

Bishop Grants Dispensation On Feast Days

HIS EXCELLENCY Bishop Kearney has granted a dispensation to the Catholics of the Diocese of Rochester from the laws of fasting and abstinence on Wednesday, March 17, the Feast of St. Patrick, and on Friday, March 19, the Feast of St. Joseph.