

To Teach A Oxford  
Late, Ill. (INC) — Father Leo  
Vancura, O.S.B., of St. Procopius  
College here, will become the  
first American and first Catho-  
lic to occupy the Nuffield Chair  
(lectureship) of Literature at Ox-  
ford University.

### EULOGY Monsignor Conway

Following is the text of the  
sermon delivered at the funeral  
Mass for the Rt. Rev. Msgr.  
John A. Conway on Monday,  
November 15, 1934 in Holy  
Family Church, Auburn. This  
funeral eulogy was delivered  
by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. John M.  
Duffy, pastor of St. Augustine's  
Church, Rochester.

"Blessed are the dead who  
die in the Lord. From hence-  
forth now, saith the Spirit,  
that they may rest from their  
labors; for their works follow  
them." (Apoc. 14, 13)

We extend our deepest sym-  
pathy to the sisters of Monsignor  
Conway to whom he was so de-  
voted; to the people of Holy  
Family Parish of whom he was  
so fond and so proud; and also  
to the parishioners of St. Vin-  
cent's, Corning, his first love.  
Monsignor Conway's death was  
indeed sudden, but we hope, not  
unprepared, for he was comfort-  
ed and fortified by the last rites  
of the Church.

Death gives us all reason to  
reflect. For it is something which

must come to all alike — the  
rich and the poor, the learned  
and the unlettered. "It is ap-  
pointed unto all men once to die"  
(Heb. 9, 27). It is so cer-  
tain that it is strange that think-  
ing men do not keep in mind  
Cardinal Newman said: "We  
begin to die from the moment  
we begin to live." And how brief  
and fleeting are man's years  
here below! They pass quickly  
and men ask where they have  
gone. Death marks the end of  
our period of probation. It also  
marks the end of our time of  
merit.

It may have been reflections  
like these that prompted Mon-  
signor Conway, over fifty years  
ago to weigh well the importance  
of life and to decide how he  
would spend the years that God  
might give him. And he decided.  
When a young man, he received  
a vocation to serve God in His  
holy priesthood, no less certain  
— though in a different way —  
than the vocation of Peter and  
Andrew.

After years of preparation Fa-  
ther Conway was ordained on a  
June morning, 1904, in St. Pat-  
rick's Cathedral, Rochester, and  
on the next day he celebrated  
his first Mass in St. Bridget's  
Church which was then cele-  
brating its thirtieth anniversary.  
On that June morning of or-  
dination Monsignor Conway was  
vested with the greatest dignity  
and power that can come to mortal  
man. He was made a priest of  
Christ, and was given powers  
above those of the highest angel  
in heaven. No one can fully ap-  
preciate the powers of the priest-  
hood.

OUR DIVINE LORD came on  
earth to offer sacrifice — not of  
incense, nor the first fruits of  
the harvest, nor the unspiced  
lamb of the flock — but the sacri-  
fice of His own life. "I have  
the power," said Jesus, "to lay  
it (My life) down, and I have  
the power to take it up again."  
(John 10, 18) Jesus was a priest  
forever. From the first moment  
of the Incarnation He offered  
the sacrifice of perfect obedi-  
ence to His Heavenly Father, and  
this sacrifice reached its zenith  
when He became obedient unto  
death — even to the death of the  
cross. (Phil. 2, 8)

In the plan of God the Sacri-  
fice of Calvary was to be per-  
petuated in a mystical manner  
to the end of time in fulfillment  
of the prophecy: "For from the  
rising of the sun even to the  
going down, my name is great  
among the gentiles, and in every  
place there is sacrifice, and there  
is offered to my name a clean  
oblation." (Mal. 1, 11) To renew  
the sacrifice of Calvary Christ  
instituted at the Last Supper the  
Holy Eucharist, and to His ap-  
ples He gave the divine com-  
mand: "Do this in commemora-  
tion of Me."

When Monsignor Conway was  
ordained a priest, he received  
the power to offer sacrifice to  
God, and to celebrate Mass for  
the living as well as for the  
dead. "What a breath-taking di-  
vine act to whisper words of con-  
secration over bread and wine  
and evoke God and Christ obeya  
and come upon the altar to be  
our Host and Sacrifice!"

When Monsignor Conway ap-  
proached the altar to offer Mass,  
he seemed to enter another  
world, as indeed he did, for he  
entered the world of the super-  
natural, the world of grace.  
When Moses approached the  
burning bush, he was told to re-  
move his shoes, "for the ground  
whereon thou walk is holy." Mon-  
signor Conway was so deeply  
conscious of the sublime grandeur  
of the Holy Sacrifice that he of-  
fered Mass with a noble dignity  
and a profound reverence.

WHEN OUR Divine Saviour  
walked the hills of Galilee and  
the shores of Genesareth, He was  
often heard to say, "Thy sins are  
forgiven thee," or "Go, and sin  
no more." Christ hated sin with  
an eternal hatred, for sin is an

offense — we might even say,  
an attack on the majesty of God.  
He had come to reconcile sinners  
with God, bearing our sins in His  
body upon the tree. It is impos-  
sible that He who hated sin so  
fiercely and loved men so di-  
vinely should depart from this  
world without giving to His ap-  
ples power over sin.

On the evening of the day of  
the Resurrection, Christ ap-  
peared to the apostles, and "He  
breathed on them, and He said  
to them: 'Receive ye the Holy  
Ghost. Whose sins you shall  
forgive, they are forgiven them;  
and whose sins you shall retain,  
they are retained.'" (John XX, 22, 23)

Now this was the power  
which Monsignor Conway re-  
ceived on that June morning,  
fifty years ago. And Oh! how  
powerfully he exercised this  
power of divine mercy and  
love! What took place in his  
confessional is hidden in eter-  
nal oblivion. But we do know  
how people waited in long  
lines to go to confession to  
"Father Conway."

No one but a priest can know  
the patience, the endurance re-  
quired during long hours in  
the confessional — the sweet-  
ness, the tenderness, the sister-  
hood, that all this has been  
not only willing but glad in  
order to unlock to the children  
of men the treasures of divine  
mercy, the unsearchable riches  
of Christ hidden from eternity  
in God.

Jesus Christ was the world's  
greatest teacher — His message,  
His motives, His methods, "The  
greatest philosophers and  
scholars since His time have  
bowed in humble submission to  
His Gospel. He came to teach  
the children of men a body of  
divine truth by which they must  
live if they are to attain their  
eternal destiny. He said, "I am  
the way, the truth and the life."  
He is the only way. As St. Au-  
gustine said, "To turn away from  
Whom is to fall; to turn toward  
Whom is to rise again; to re-  
main with Whom is to stand  
firm; to return to Whom is to  
come to life again; to abide in  
Whom is to live."

CHRIST ENTRUSTED His  
divine message to the apostles,  
the foundation stones of His  
Church. "Going therefore teach  
ye all nations . . . Teaching them  
to observe all things whatsoever  
I have commanded you." (Matt.  
28, 19-20) With this mandate the  
priest has no choice but to preach  
Christ and Him crucified.

Oh! with what divine fire and  
earnest eloquence Monsignor  
Conway used to present the  
truths of Christ's Church! He  
knew well their supreme import-

ance. He knew that "there is no  
other name under heaven given  
to men by which we must be  
saved." (Acts 4, 12) He knew  
that the teaching of Christ is  
the only hope of humanity for  
peace in this world, and for sal-  
vation in the next.

He knew that without religion  
there is no morality. But he  
also knew the waywardness of  
men, their fickleness, their in-  
constancy, their ambition, their  
idle dreams, their weakness,  
their powerlessness to persevere.

Conscious of all this, of men's  
need of divine grace, "he preach-  
ed the word of God, was instant  
in season, out of season; he re-  
proved, entreated, rebuked in all  
patience and doctrine." Yet his  
preaching was always filled with  
encouragement, hope and joy.

Much might be said of Mon-  
signor Conway's achievements  
in the administration of par-  
ishes; laying the foundation of  
a thriving parish in Corning,  
St. Vincent's, where he spent  
ten years as pastor; and his  
pastoral the facilities of his  
Holy Family parish by con-  
struction of new buildings as  
the needs were felt, establish-  
ing a parish high school about  
twenty-five years ago. These  
projects made demands on his  
time and energy; and they are  
quite secondary and incidental  
to the life of Monsignor Con-  
way, the priest and man.

Monsignor Conway was a man  
of great faith; a strong, apostolic  
faith; a practical faith, a faith  
that could see God's good and  
gracious purpose working in all  
the trials which come upon us;  
a faith that gives praise to God  
and peace to the one who posses-  
es it. Because of his deep faith  
he was a man of prayer. There  
was nothing ostentatious about  
his piety; but they who knew  
him well, were aware that pray-  
er was the daily bread of his  
soul, and that he tried to live  
close to God.

And Monsignor Conway was a  
kind man. I think everyone  
recognized this. He was kind  
with priests and people. He was  
always approachable; always had  
time to listen to people's trou-  
bles and problems; was consid-  
erate of the people's burdens; never  
pressed them rudely; but was  
ever the kind and gentle priest  
who never crushed the broken-  
hearted, nor quenched the burning  
sigh.

They will miss Monsignor  
Conway. They will miss his  
warm heart, his noble presence.  
They will miss him at the altar,  
in the confessional, and in the  
rectory. But they should not  
grieve as those who have no  
hope.



(From previous page) Monsignor Conway at his funeral Mass in Holy Family Church, Auburn.

the throne, shall rule them, and  
shall lead them to the fountains  
of the waters of life, and God  
will wipe away all tears from  
their eyes." (Apoc. 7, 17)

Little wonder that St. Paul,  
who had had a fleeting glimpse  
of the glory of paradise, declar-  
ed that "the sufferings of this  
time are not worthy to be com-  
pared with the glory to come,  
that shall be revealed in us."  
(Rom. 8, 18)

We hope that this is the re-  
ward of Monsignor Conway's  
priestly labors. But lest perhaps  
any debt of temporal punishment  
should remain uncanceled, or  
any stain due to the frailty of  
our nature, let us remember him  
daily in our prayers, and espe-  
cially at the altar of God, the  
throne of divine mercy.

"Eternal rest grant unto him,  
O Lord; and let perpetual light  
shine upon him!"

### Chapel Dedicated On Historic Site

Port Tobacco, Md. — (RNS) —  
Archbishop Patrick A. O'Boyle of  
Washington, D.C., dedicated the  
Chapel of Our Lady of Mount  
Carmel here on the site of the  
first Catholic convent in the origi-  
nal 13 colonies.

In dedicating the chapel, Arch-  
bishop O'Boyle suggested that it  
might be a good idea to have  
Carmelite nuns return to the his-  
toric site where in 1780 four  
members of the order established  
the original convent. They came  
from Antwerp, Belgium, at the  
invitation of the Rev. Ignatius  
Matthew, S.J.

The Carmelite community was  
transferred to Baltimore, Md., in  
1831, and the abandoned center  
here was left just of for more  
than a century. Remains of two  
of its buildings were discovered  
and identified by the Maryland  
Pilgrims Society which has a his-  
torical shrine of its own, Haw-  
thorne, only a few miles away.

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