

U. S. Catholics Over 33 Million

THE CATHOLIC
Courier Journal
OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE

LAST WEEK'S
PAID CIRCULATION
54,476

**139,333
Converts
Reported**



Feast of Corpus Christi, Thursday, May 31, calls Catholics to honor Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

'Corpus Christi' Day Centers Devotion In 'Real Presence'

By REV. HENRY A. ATWELL
Corpus Christi. These two Latin words summarize Catholic belief in the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

Corpus Christi means Body of Christ. Catholics believe that Christ dwells actually and truly in the Eucharist—under the appearance of the fragile host.

TO FOCUS devotion on this Sacrament, the Church annually observes the feast of Corpus Christi. This year it will be celebrated on May 31, Thursday after Trinity Sunday.

Catholics take Christ's words at the Last Supper at their face value. "This is My Body. This is My Blood." He had once promised, "The bread that I will give is My flesh for the life of the world."

Corpus Christi commemorates Christ's instituting the Eucharist at the Last Supper. Tests for the Mass and Office of the feast were composed by St. Thomas Aquinas in 1264.

AGUA ANNIVERSARY of the Last Supper is Holy Thursday just before Easter. Thoughts of Christ's sufferings are so dominant during Holy Week, however, that little time is given to the Eucharist itself.

Evening Mass Permitted On Corpus Christi

His Excellency Bishop Kearney has granted permission to all churches of the Rochester Diocese to celebrate an evening Mass on the following days:

- 1) Thursday, May 31st, the Feast of Corpus Christi.
- 2) Friday, June 1st, the Feast of Our Lady, Queen.

Catholics Vote Tax Aid To Protestants

Schwytz, Switzerland (NC)—Voters in this predominantly Catholic canton have approved a popular referendum which will grant Protestant parishes a subsidy of public funds.

Church Construction Holds Up In April

Washington, D. C. (RNS)—New construction by churches held steady during April after five consecutive months of decline, the Department of Commerce and Labor reported here.

Indian Parents Vote For Catholic School

Tucson, Ariz. (UPI)—Tucson Indian parents voted, 54-3, to retain the Catholic St. Xavier Mission School rather than construction of a public Sunnyside public school.

Seven Priests To Mark Silver Jubilees

Seven priests of the Rochester Diocese will complete 25 years in the priesthood on next June 6th.

Clergy Schedule Anniversary Rites

Seven jubiliarians, all members of the 193 Ordination Class of St. Bernard's Seminary, were ordained on June 6th of the same year in the old St. Patrick's Cathedral, Rochester, by the late Bishop John Francis O'Hern.

Students Win Scholarships From State

Twenty-five students of Rochester Diocesan Catholic high schools were awarded New York State Regents Scholarships. It was announced this week by the State Education Department.

Holders of scholarships will be entitled to \$500 per year for the four years of their college course while attending any college in the State of New York approved by the Regents for this purpose.



BISHOP'S GIFT TO COLLEGE — Gift of a beautiful altar crucifix to St. John Fisher College is here presented by His Excellency Bishop Kearney to the Very Rev. John F. Murphy, C.S.B., president of the college. Given to the college on the Feast of St. John Fisher, the Bishop's crucifix is designed of ornamental wood with gold etching.

Apparitions Of Infant, Our Lady Reported

Assoro, Sicily (NC)—Four children in a small town near here say they have seen the Infant Jesus and His Blessed Mother.

Sicilian Children Claim Visions In Cave

AS SOON AS he entered, he said, he was blinded by a strong light. Scudiero, he said, he could see a barefoot child and beside him a woman in white carrying a rosary.

See Inside

Letters Seek Release of Palmyn's Kin ... Page 4
Book Shelf ...
Joseph Berg ...
Magg DeMatteo ...
Mary Daly ...
On her birthday send your ...
On her birthday send your ...

New York (NC)—Catholics in the United States, Alaska and the Hawaiian Islands now number 33,574,017 according to the Official Catholic Directory for 1956, just issued by P. J. Kennedy & Sons here.

The new total represents an increase of \$98,315 over last year. There are now 33,596,641 Catholics in the 48 States and 1,777,370 in Alaska and Hawaii. The new total represents a ten-year increase of \$1,818,822, or 5.75 per cent over the 24,402,124 Catholics reported in 1946.

Rochester Diocese Among Nation's Top 10 In Growth

The Diocese of Rochester is among the top ten dioceses of the nation making the greatest gains in Catholic population during 1956, according to the 1956 Catholic Directory.

A gain of 23,873 Catholics and a total Catholic population of 407,494 are reported for the Diocese in the Directory for 1956. Total population for the Diocese is given as 1,041,141.

During the past year in the Diocese there were 11,792 baptisms and 10,000 conversions reported into the Church, the Directory also reports.

For the fourth year in succession, the number of converts entering the Catholic fold in each year exceeded 10,000. During 1956, total baptisms numbered 11,792, an increase of 248 over the preceding year. This figure brings the total conversions during the past decade to 111,977.

An increase of 1,239 in the number of the clergy during the year is reported. The total of 13,849 includes 1,239 new priests, an increase of 861, and 12,610 religious in community life, an increase of 518. There are 2,108 newly ordained priests listed for the year.



MONSIGNOR VOIGT



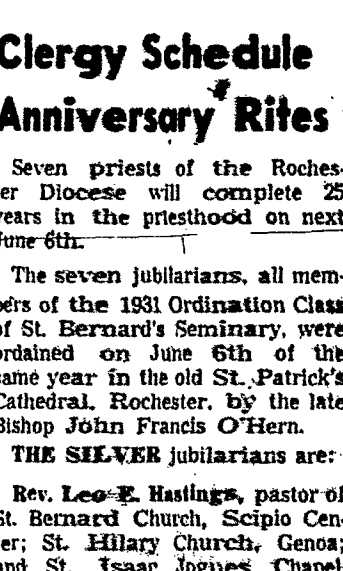
MONSIGNOR RANDALL



MONSIGNOR MAHOONEY



FATHER NEAGLE



FATHER MALONEY



FATHER HEALY



FATHER HASTINGS

Inspect our large selection of Father's Day and Graduation Gifts. Your assurance of quality merchandise is in the fact that we are a member of the National Wholesale Gift Association, Inc., 1100 Broadway, New York 19, N.Y.

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