

# Mass Offered for Father Winterroth In St. John the Baptist Church

A Requiem High Mass for the Rev. Theodore Winterroth, pastor of St. John the Baptist Church, Elmira for the past 14 years was offered in his church on Friday, Feb. 11.

Father Winterroth died Jan. 8, 1957 after an extended illness. His funeral Mass, a Pontifical Requiem offered by His Excellency, Auxiliary Bishop Casey took place in St. Michael Church, Rochester. (Story on Page 1).

A large number of parishioners and friends gathered in St. John the Baptist Church for the highly esteemed pastor's Requiem celebrated by the Rev. Thomas J. Manley, pastor of St. Cecilia Church, Elmira.

Assisting were the Rev. Ladislau J. Srepcanski, deacon and the Rev. Michael Reder, O.F.M. Cap., subdeacon.

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. William J. Brien, V.F., dean of the Channing Schuyler Deane was in the Sanctuary. The Rev. Joseph G. Merkel, pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Church, Elmira, delivered the eulogy. (Complete text is in adjoining columns).

**FATHER WINTERROTH'S** personal love for our Lady was cited in the eulogy. "He never failed to make much of her feastdays," Father Merkel said. Father Winterroth, he said, "spoke frequently of her even in his ordinary conversation; it was a practice of his about ten in the evening to drop into the church to recite the rosary at her altar, and only recently he composed for the church bulletin a series of verse in memory of the mysteries of the rosary."

Father Winterroth's devotion to the Holy Mass and his attention to the sick were emphasized by the speaker. "Less than two weeks ago, as he was making his rounds among the sick in the hospital, he showed his joy at having been able to say the three Christmas Masses and that, despite the major surgery not too long before."

"One last point was his sense of family loyalty. He never forgot the ones at home who had helped him to the altar, neither did he ever seem to tire of speaking of them, nor did he ever seem to be able to do

enough for them. Despite the exhaustion at Christmas, he made the long trip home to spend the holy season with them."

**ALSO ATTENDING** the Requiem Mass in St. John the Baptist Church were the Reverend Fathers Thomas J. Toole, Alfred J. Horr, Nicholas P. Alletto, John S. Maloney, John T. Walsh, Michael L. Hynes, Frederick L. Walz, William A. Burns, Harold P. Mulrooney, David B. Singerhoff.

Also the Reverend Fathers Bartholomew J. O'Brien, Francis H. Turner, Thomas F. Brennan, Francis J. Erb, James G. Mulley, Hugh F. Brady, Leonard P. Kujawski, Francis J. Reilly, Joseph M. McNamara, Joseph F. Hogan and John F. Duffy.

Also the Reverend Fathers Winifred Guenther, C.P.; DeSales Standewick, S.A.; Boniface Riedmann, S.A.; Peter Ruden, S.A.; Ralph Thomas, S.A. and Placid Cormey, O.S.B.

Delegations attended from the Sisters of St. Joseph, the Sisters of Mercy and Elmira Council, Knights of Columbus.

## Father Winterroth

Here is the text of the sermon preached by Rev. Joseph G. Merkel at the Requiem Mass for Rev. Theodore J. Winterroth at St. John the Baptist Church, Elmira, Friday, January 11, 1957. Father Winterroth had been pastor there for the past 14 years.

"By the sign of the holy cross may God enlighten the light of His holy countenance to shine upon thee, have mercy on thee and bless thee."

These words, taken from the opening lines of prayers for the dying and ultimately from Psalm 66 of the Old Testament, may be said to carry with them a picture of the priest and his work.

About five years ago a priest in a small country parish found on a rectory closet shelf a flat, slate-colored piece of stone. It measured perhaps five by eight inches, and was about half an inch thick. It might have been an old paperweight, or a slab that had fallen out of a fireplace long ago. Wondering, he turned the stone in his hands, and there on the other side he found cut into the surface the five crosses, one at each corner and one in the center. In an instant he knew: it was an altar stone.

HE HAD come upon the altar stone of the first church, built in that community nearly 150 years before. Not even the oldest parishioners could tell the size or shape of the building; outside of the faded records not even the names of early priests or people could be given. But none of the accidental details mattered; he had found what did: the place of sacrifice.

Consecrated by a bishop, now long dead around it the early settlers had gathered as their priest had offered upon it the most precious gift that man can give to God, the Body and Blood of His own Son made Man. This was a link, too, with all the altars in Christendom, not only in that day but throughout all time back to the days of our Lord. Yes, this was a link with Calvary itself.

SO IT IS with a man. Once you become aware of the cross of Christ's priesthood engraved on his soul, the whole meaning of his purpose in life becomes luminously clear.

Thirty five years ago the engraving of that cross on the soul of Father Winterroth was dramatically symbolized as the deacon stole worn by the young candidate and crossed it before his breast. Ever after it was worn in that fashion at his main post, God's altar; and as a sign of his essential purpose in life it is crossed on his breast today.

Also, showing the powers given the priest to carry the message and the fruits of the cross to man, the ordaining bishop that day traced the cross on the palms of Father's hands. "You are a priest forever."

From that day on, like the altar stone, he too became a link, a link with every priest throughout the world, a link with every priest back through the centuries, a link with Boniface and Patrick, Gregory

and Peter and James and John. More than that, he became a link with Christ, the High Priest. He became, as it were, Christ once more in our midst.

In fact, the altar stone were a dead thing in itself, were it not for the priest who breathes over it the words consecrating the bread and the wine, and thus gives it life and meaning.

That is what a vocation means to the priest. By the sign of the holy cross God has caused the light of His holy countenance to shine upon him, has had mercy on him and has blessed him.

IN THE LAST century, the poet Robert Browning tells of picking up an old volume at a bookstall in front of the church of San Lorenzo in Florence. It was a mystery story, the story of a murder many years before. In one of the masterpieces of our literature, Browning then developed the story from the viewpoint of the ten principal characters involved.

May we not say that nearly half a century ago Father Winterroth, then just a lad in grammar school, found an old book and became intrigued with its story? Not only that, he fell in love with the story and determined to give his life to its retelling.

It too was a mystery story — the story of the mystery of the cross. It too was a murder story — the story of the death of the Son of God for the sins of men. And the retelling, the making known, the perpetuating of that story is the priest's work; with St. Paul he says, "I preach Christ crucified."

BUT THIS story is a greater mystery still, for here the Victim Christ appears again, in the person of the priest, ready to forgive and bless and give life; as the priest, Christ in our midst, washes in baptism, absolves, offers the Holy Sacrifice and feeds us with the Bread of Life. You see, the priest is another Christ, and in his greatest role he says, "This is my Body; this is my Blood."

That story, retold at the hands of Father Winterroth, rests today in the library of heaven, a story where you and the many he served make up the chapters, a story filled with pages of his teaching and counseling, encouragement, reproof, blessing and giving — where the connecting link in the entire narrative is the mystery of Christ's cross as carried to each of you by him, the priest.

That is the priestly vocation, the bringing to reality in the souls under his care those words: "By the sign of the holy cross may God cause the light of His holy countenance to shine upon thee, have mercy on thee and bless thee."

Not that in the final analysis God needed Father Winterroth or any priest. But neither did God, in the final analysis, need Father's good mother and father to bring him into existence. In the final analysis God needs none of us; He freely chooses to work as He does, using men as His various instruments.

When we go down to death, what trumpets calling Shall strike an echo down from the world's rock face? We shall go down to death like white stars falling. In some far, desert place. No deep-tongued bronze perpetuates our story. Yet with a fair hope we relinquish breath; This is the birth, the bursting opening of glory. When we go down to death. Indeed — all that this priest ever did is now safe with God. Nevertheless, we do not presume to say that the ordinary man, priest or lay, is so perfect and so ready that he may immediately walk into the glory of God. Now it is our turn: "By the sign of the holy cross may God cause the light of His holy countenance to shine upon thee, have mercy on thee and bless thee." Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.

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## Elmira Curia, Legion Of Mary To Be Formed To Guide 7 Praesidia

A preliminary meeting, for the formation of an Elmira Curia of the Legion of Mary, was held Sunday at St. Peter and Paul hall. The meeting was conducted by Dr. Raymond Hensler, president of the Rochester Curia, and his officers.



REV. HENRY A. ATWELL

## European Tour From Diocese Slated In June

Rev. Henry Atwell, assistant editor of the Courier-Journal, will be spiritual director of a European pilgrimage now being organized to visit Lourdes and Rome this summer.

Departure date has been set for June 12 aboard the British ship "Queen Elizabeth."

The 49-day pilgrimage will visit seven countries — France, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Holland and England, with a seven day extension tour to Ireland for those desiring it.

FOCAL POINT of the pilgrimage will be five days in Rome with the Pope.

In the Eternal City visits will also be made to Vatican City, the Vatican Museums, the Sixtine Chapel, the four major basilicas — St. Peter's, St. Paul's, St. Mary's, and St. John Lateran — and other points of historic and religious significance.

Reservations and inquiries are being received by three Rochester travel agencies: Deppes Travel Bureau, Powers Hotel Lobby, Locust 24633; Malbfelsch Travel Agency, 17 Clinton Ave. S. Baker 5-5410; and Wylder Travel Services, 313 East Main St., Baker 5-4170.

Members of the tour will take part in special devotions at the famed shrines of the Blessed Virgin at Lourdes, the Miraculous Medal in Paris, Montserrat near Madrid, Einsiedeln in Switzerland, Marie Lauech near Cologne, the Scapular Shrine in England, and Knock in Ireland.

The tour will include a visit to Lileux and the Basilica there of St. Therese, the Little Flower. Also on the itinerary are stops at Assisi, burial place and shrine of St. Francis, and Lucerne, world famous for its picturesque setting in the heart of the Swiss Alps.

A full day in Cologne, and then in Amsterdam, and finally five days in London and surrounding English area climax the tour.

The optional extension to Ireland includes visits to Killybegs and the legendary Blarney Stone Castle — Galway and Dublin.

Other highlights of the trip feature motoring along the French and Italian Riviera with leisure time to stop at Monte Carlo in Monaco.

The pilgrimage is being organized in cooperation with the Courier-Journal.

# Widely Known Jesuit Listed At Family Service Dinner

A record attendance at the Twenty-seventh Annual Dinner of Elmira Catholic Family Service will hear the principal speaker, the Rev. Robert I. Gannon, S.J., formerly President of Fordham University.

Father Gannon, who spoke at the annual meeting of the Agency in 1942, is internationally known as an eloquent and inspiring orator.

HIS WAR SERVICE includes an appointment to the Advisory Committees of the A.S.T.R. in the Pentagon, of the U.M.T. and the Cultural Division of the State Department of "The Voice of America."

Father Gannon holds academic degrees from Georgetown University, Gregorian University and Cambridge University. He holds Honorary Doctorates from twenty other institutions and decorations and awards from many universities, colleges, educational and historical societies.

## Amendments Studied By Unit Of St. Peter and Paul's

After attending Benediction in church on last Monday night (Jan. 7) members of the Immaculate Heart Society of St. Peter and Paul Church, Elmira proceeded to the Church Hall for the first business meeting of the new year.

A feature of the meeting was the explanation by Rev. Hubert A. Bisky, moderator of the society, of several proposed amendments to the constitution and bylaws. Members of the society were furnished copies of the proposed amendments and will be expected to vote upon them at the February meeting.

After the business meeting, President Mrs. Paul Reidy Jr. introduced the guest speaker Miss Catherine S. Connelly who gave book reviews of several of the currently popular books available at the St. Christopher Library.

MISS CONNELLY also presented a brief history of the library and urged members of the society to take advantage of the facilities and the convenient location in the center of the city on East Church Street. She announced that a membership drive in February has been planned by officials of the library.

Following the announcement that the next project of the parish society will be a Bake Sale on Jan. 20 in the Church Hall, the meeting was closed and refreshments were served.

## Scholarship Exam Date Set At Nazareth College

Announcement of Feb. 23 as the date of the Nazareth College annual scholarship examination was made by Sister Rose Angela, dean of the college, today.

The examination is open to all senior high school girls in the diocese of Rochester and surrounding dioceses who meet requirements.

Notices have been sent to all public and Catholic high schools in Rochester and the surrounding area, as well as to schools in western and central New York.

FURTHER information may be obtained from the Scholarship Committee or from the counselors in the high schools.

All applicants must take the college Entrance Examination Board tests, either in February or March, if they have not already taken them.

Scholarships are available in all departments to those who make high scores on the Nazareth college examination, and the college Board tests.

Trinity College, Washington — (NC) — Trinity College here will offer tuition to one or more Hungarian refugee girls who are settled in the Washington metropolitan area by Catholic Relief Services — National Catholic Welfare Conference. Sister Mary Patrick, college president, announced.

## Forty Hours

Devotions of the Forty Hours will be conducted in the following churches of the Diocese of Rochester:

Sunday, Jan. 20 — St. Mary's Hospital, Rochester.

Tuesday, Jan. 22 — Holy Angels, Rome, Rochester.

Friday, Jan. 25 — Nazareth Convent, Nazareth Academy Convent, Rochester.

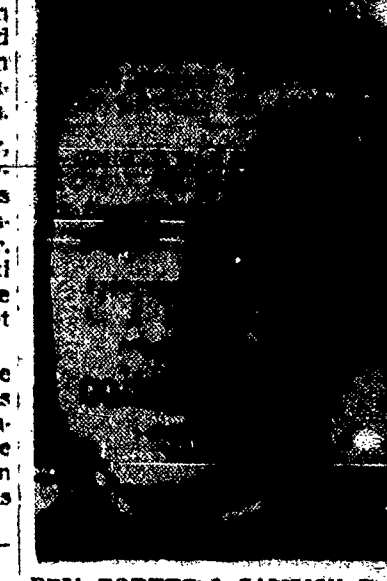
## CDAs Plans Card Party In Watkins Hotel

Watkins Glen — Plans were completed for the annual card party to be held on Wednesday evening Feb. 13 at the Watkins Hotel at the January meeting of Court-Lourdes, Catholic Daughters of America.

Mrs. Harold Schultz is chairman and will be assisted by Mesdames Walter Overhiser, Frank Cole, Walter Spivack, Arthur Roberts, Harvey Horner, Frank Rooney and the Mesdames Margaret Sarak, Mary Sullivan, Emma Eaton and Alice Quirk.

## No Decision On Cathedral

Gary, Ind. — (NC) — The Bishop-designate Andrew Garbin of the new Diocese of Gary had here that no church has yet been designated as the diocesan Cathedral, but that, in all likelihood, the honor will go to towering Gothic Holy Angels Church in downtown Gary, dedicated in 1860.



REV. ROBERT I. GANNON, S.J.

## New Catholic Books Listed

Washington — (NC) — This list of Catholic books released within the past week is prepared by the Library of the Catholic University of America, continuing a service begun in April, 1955.

**New Catholic Books**

BOLAND, Peg. Valliant Women. (The Grail, \$2.50). Case histories of women who conquered unusual obstacles.

DEMPSEY, JAMES. Mission On the Nile. (Philosophical Library, \$6). An account of adventures covering more than a decade among the Shilluk people of the upper African Sudan.

LAPOUCHE, EMILE. The Vision of La Salette. The Children Speak. (Vantage Press, \$3). A translation of a contemporary manuscript by Abbe Bossan.

LAUDER GENEVIEVE. Sister Plays For Grade And High School Children. (Exposition Press, \$3). Three one act historical plays about Margaret of Scotland, Desdemona Galloway and Mother Evelyn.

SACPARLANE, CLAUDE. Prayer For Modern. (Man Publishers, 100 Bowers Street, Jersey City, N. J. \$1.75). Paper, 60. Brief definitions of prayer.

MILLIKEN, K. L. California Dons. (Academy Library Guild, Fresno, California, \$3). An historical novel set in the California of a century ago.

## Ladies of Woods Circle of St. Charles Church, Elmira will meet

The Ladies of Woods Circle of St. Charles Church, Elmira will meet on Thursday, Jan. 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the school hall.

Members having birthdays in January will be honored.

Committee in charge composed of Mrs. Florence Pappas and Mrs. Victoria De Lanza assisted by Mesdames Margaret Overhiser, Mary Winterroth, Virginia Sawicki, Doris Anderson, Agnes Huback, Miss Birkner and Mesdames Clara Gandy, Theresa Conklick, Misses Christa and Catherine Givens.

Officers elected for 1957 are: Mrs. Tillie Metos, president; Mrs. Helen Cloke, vice president; Mrs. Leon Lepkowski, secretary; treasurer.

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