

Family Rosary For Peace

By BISHOP LAWRENCE B. CASEY

On the eve of the 10th anniversary of the Family Rosary for Peace, Bishop Lawrence B. Casey, pastor of St. Joseph's Church, St. Joseph, Pa., marking the anniversary of the Family Rosary for Peace, which was first broadcast on the radio at 7 p.m. over station WKAT from St. Francis of Assisi church, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

A child at the age of seven is generally considered by the church to have reached the age of reason, and therefore, a new phase of its growth. It is at that age usually that the Catholic Church prepares children for their first Holy Communion, and that the youngsters themselves become conscious of having arrived at an important time of life.

The Seventh Anniversary of the Family Rosary for Peace which is being celebrated this week reminds us of this phase in a child's life and inclines us to feel that at least there is a great deal in common between these two significant milestones. One that involves reflection on both the past and the future.

On this Seventh Anniversary, we can see very clearly the path that has been traveled these last seven years. In the past, at least the goals were being set out ahead. But now we are looking back to what lies behind us, and the goals already achieved in the past seven years.

ACHIEVEMENTS: achievements we must put in first place the promotion of a true and sound devotion to the Holy Mother of God.

Using the word "sound" adjectives, we mean we need sound devotion, but what some zealous people might interpret as a person's devotion to Our Lady is no exception, especially in view of the momentous importance of Our Lady's message at Fatima which has had so much to do with the increase of Marian devotion.

It has been a temptation to come to promote Mary's cause along sensational lines rather than being it on a solid foundation. So, it would seem that they were using Our Lady to promote themselves rather than let Our Lady use them to promote devotion to her.

This sensational type of devotion is usually characterized by great but brief bursts of energy. True and sound devotion, on the other hand, is quiet and steady. It perseveres. It rarely makes a commotion.

After seven years on the air—that would be two thousand five hundred and fifty-five consecutive broadcasts—during which an estimated sixty million Rosaries, a staggering figure, have been recited, we are not guilty of rash judgment in claiming that the Family Rosary For Peace has tried to advance Our Lady's cause in a way that would please her and thus do untold good.

It is quite providential that figures just released by a nationally accredited survey serve to confirm the fact that there has been a most astonishing growth in the participating audience of The Family Rosary.

It is now a matter of record that this program has one of the largest audiences of any locally broadcast radio program. And this, in the face of the great popularity of television. Statistics show that this program has not been affected adversely by the advent of TV.

While most radio programs have suffered a decline due to competition from television, The Family Rosary has increased its rating to an all-time high.

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Bishop Casey and Father Joseph Cirrincione at anniversary radio broadcast of the "Family Rosary For Peace"

For a religious program, appealing only to the minority, a small segment of the total population of this area, to rate on a par and even surpass recreational programs with a more general appeal, is a remarkable achievement. We leave it to others to argue the reasons why.

You who regularly take an active part in this program know the reason why. The Hand of God is evident here.

THIS INCREASE of devotion to Our Lady locally has been effected mainly through the daily recitation of her Rosary. This is in itself a worthwhile cause. The Rosary is among the forms of prayer most highly recommended to Catholics. Its value in our own personal spiritual lives can hardly be over-estimated.

IN AN EVEN larger sense, on a wider scale than a city and some few towns in Western New York, your Family Rosary has advanced the cause of world peace.

The reason is this: Long before the world was aware of the menace of Communism, Our Lady, through her revelations made at Fatima, Portugal, urged among other things the daily recitation of the Rosary for the conversion of Russia as a condition for lasting peace.

The people of the world, even unbelievers, can no longer afford to brush aside this prediction of the Mother of God as a fond and pious hope. Stark reality forces us all, believers and unbelievers alike, to face the fact that the danger threatening the Western World today cannot be removed by war.

The conquest of Russia is no longer an alternative to the conversion of Russia. The weapons of war available to nations today are so powerful that armed conflict would mean almost total destruction to all involved.

No less a person than the Civil Defense Administrator of our country, Mr. Val Peterson declared only last week that forty to fifty percent of our population, roughly half of all the people living in the United States, would be killed in an atomic attack even if the best available system of shelters were in place.

In the course of testimony given before a House Government Operations Subcommittee on Civil Defense, Mr. Peterson also made the statement that "in the final analysis there is no such thing as a ration being prepared for a thermo-nuclear war."

That is why I say we cannot look for a lasting peace through the conquest of Russia, if that were possible. The only hope for peace—and indeed, the only hope for the survival of civilization—seems to lie in a change within Russia herself that will remove her—as a threat to the rest of the world.

These are the conclusions forced upon us as we survey the world situation today. They confirm belatedly what Our Lady predicted at Fatima almost forty years ago. May it not be too late still to obtain that peace she promised the world through the amendment of its ways and the recitation of her Rosary.

THESE ARE THE peaks of achievement that stand out as we look back on the seven years of The Family Rosary's ex-

istence. They form, however, but a part of the whole picture.

What about the individuals whose personal lives have been affected by this program? There we have to grope our way, feeling a bit like Columbus must have felt as he began the long voyage west through unknown seas. Divine grace is a mysterious thing and God keeps His own counsel about the miracles of conversion He works in human souls.

Only the Recording Angel could give us tonight a detailed account of all the good that has been done through this program. Some if it is known to us but must be considered a matter of confidence.

Letters, coming daily to the headquarters of The Family Rosary tell their story of grace triumphing over sin through the Rosary, of hearts made clean and homes made happy and peaceful through the Rosary, of painful crosses borne with dignity and patience, of tears of sorrow dried bravely through the Rosary.

Prayer for prayer are always to be found in the mail, too, as well as expressions of gratitude for prayers said, especially for those in the service. It has been a great consolation to many a mother and father all through these seven years to know that thousands of people were united in prayer for their sons.

If I may speak personally for a moment, it has also been a great consolation to your Chief Shepherd, Bishop Kearney, to know that he has had all through his recent illness, the prayers of you men, women and children who daily take part in this program.

The Bishop is making steady progress and will soon leave St. Mary's Hospital. From remarks he has made, I know how deeply he appreciates your thoughtfulness and charity, and I hope you will continue to pray that he will regain the full physical vigor which has characterized the intense activities of his twenty years among us.

From the standpoint of a Bishop, whose interests transcend parochial boundaries and range over the whole Rochester Diocese, it is also a matter of



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Jesuit College Lists 14 Alumni In Congress

Washington—(NC)—Fourteen former students at Georgetown University here have seats in the current 85th Congress. Four are Senators, 10 are Representatives.

The school, conducted by the Jesuits, was founded in 1789 and received a Federal charter from Congress on March 1, 1815. It has had alumni in every Congress but ten since that latter date. In all, 75 former students have served in the Senate and the House of Representatives here.

These interesting facts are some of those set down in the Georgetown University Alumni Magazine, which lists the alumni in the present Congress as follows:

Senators Lyndon B. Johnson, '38 of Texas, Joseph C. O'Mahoney, '30, of Wyoming, Senator Alan H. Bible, '34, of Nevada and Senator Dennis Chavez, '20, of New Mexico.

Also Representatives John D. Dingell, '49, of Michigan, Edmund A. Edmondson, '44, of Oklahoma, Richard M. Simpson, '43, of Pennsylvania, Martin Dies, '17, of Texas, James T. Patterson, '39, of Connecticut, John M. Robison, '27, of Kentucky, Paul J. Kilday, '22, of Texas, Francis E. Walter, '19, of Pennsylvania, Antoni N. Sadlak, '31, of Connecticut and Burr P. Harrison, '26, of Virginia.

satisfaction that by means of radio, so much of the Diocese can be united in prayer and has been, in a way not otherwise possible.

Bishop Kearney and myself are both happy to take part in these programs from time to time and it is heartening to know that we reach so many families of the Diocese of Rochester.

We are aware of the unique bond that unites us to them and them to us through this means. And we are grateful for the blessings of Divine Providence which enable us in this modern age to achieve so great a unity between Russian priests and the faithful.

AND IT IS WITH the hope of still greater unity, that we turn our gaze from the past to the future. It is our unity among the Apostles that Christ prayed at the Last Supper; that the spirit of unity would prevail among them and make them one in the common cause of good. We also know that later when Peter was in prison, the Christians persevering in prayer obtained his miraculous release.

We know, therefore, both by reason of Christ's promise and by the testimony of history, that there is no more powerful force on earth than Christians persevering in prayer. It is to mobilize that force here in the Diocese of Rochester that the Family Rosary For Peace is dedicated.

As you join me tonight in celebrating its devoted Director, Father Cirrincione, a priest who will merit well the reward he will receive at the end from the hands of Mary, we all pray that the future success of The Family Rosary will be such as to merit graces and blessings from God in abundance not only upon the Church—but upon our families, upon our country, and upon the whole world.



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Pope Names Patron Saints For All

By FATHER JAMES I. TUCEK

Vatican City—(NC)—The reign of Pope Plus XII has left no room for doubt that the saints are companions, exemplars and intercessors of men upon earth.

During his pontificate he has written 151 apostolic briefs, naming heavenly patrons for nations, dioceses, cities, professions, sports and many states of life.

The Holy Father also has named the Blessed Virgin as patroness in Central and South America to three nations: Venezuela, Paraguay and Honduras—four cities and 18 dioceses; in Africa to two dioceses and an apostolic vicariate; to a diocese in Australia; to three Asiatic nations—the Philip-

pines, India and Ceylon—and three dioceses; in Europe to a French diocese, two Spanish dioceses, 12 cities in Spain, to the Association of Speleologists (cave study) and to an athletic association in Belgium.

ITALY CLAIMS the Blessed Mother as patroness for such pursuits as skiing, cycling and motorcycleing. The colorful "Carabinieri" of Italy—the Italian Army's sharpshooters—also claim her protection. Be-

sides these the Pope has named the "madonna" as patroness of six cities, three regions and 14 dioceses in Italy.

In 68 apostolic briefs Pope Plus XII has proclaimed the following saints as patrons over a variety of activities:

St. Albert Magnus is patron of students of natural sciences; St. Joseph Calasanzio, patron of special schools for illiterates; St. Alphonsus Elguort, confessors-and-moralists; St. John Baptist de la Salle, educators of youth; St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, emigrants; St. Maria Goretti, Association of the Daughters of Mary; St. Gabriel, Archangel, postoffice and telephone employees, and St. Zita, servants.

Italy and her armed forces have been given patrons for almost every military specialty. St. Gabriel Archangel is patron of the signal corps, St. Christopher of the troop transportation corps, St. Martin of Tours of the infantry, St. George of the cavalry, St. Barbara of the artillery, firemen and machinists.

The entire Republic of Italy is under the protection of St. Francis of Assisi and St. Catherine of Siena.

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