BY MONSIGNOR PATRICK J. FLYNN

I - "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they are doing." (Luke 23:34)

HESE FIRST WORDS of the dying Christ from the cross reveal the immeasurable love of His Sacred Heart. What boundless charity is exposed in this prayer. Christ has come into the world to save sinners—even His enemies, even those now crucifying Him!

Forgive, Christ asks, also the

rank-and-file - the mob which

this day has cried for His

blood. These are only the mis-

led victims of their spiritual

Forgive, Christ prays, even

the chief priests and the lead-

ers who have conspired against

Him. These criminal leaders

bear the main blame for

Christ's death. In their hatred

they have blinded themselves

to all recognition of Christ's

divinity as the Son of God. In

their hatred they have blinded

themselves to acceptance of

His divine mission as Redeem-

Inclusion of these chief crimi-

nals in Christ's prayer for His

enemies has been a shock and

a scandal to many. This is why

some early Christian scholars

completely supressed from the

gospeis Christ's plea for His

persecutors. This is why others

have insisted that the dying

Christ's prayer for His enemies

does not apply to the cold-

blooded planners of His des-

Christ is intercession for all

His enemies — the criminal

rulers as well as the blind

Here on the cross Christ

lives His own gospel - the

gospel He had preached to

others. "Love your enemies, do

good to those, who hate you,

cute and calumniate you."

(Matthew 5:44). This is the

doctrine Christ preached on the

hillside of Galilee. Now on the

height of the Cross, He

In this supreme charity of

martyr, St. Stephen will find

his inspiration. Bleeding and

dying under a hall of stones.

Stephen will remember Christ

and cry out: "Lord, do not lay

this sin against them." (Acts

The example of Christ also

will prompt Paul to tell the

Romans: "Bless those who per-

secute you. Bless and do not

HEY KNOW NOT WHAT

THEY ARE DOING. The

dying Christ seeks some ex-

cuse for His persecutors. They

are not as guilty as they seem.

what they do. Thus does Chins

His Father in Heaven.

criminals of Calvary.

merciful Heart of Jesus.

did your rulers." (Acts 3:17).

And Paul will tell the Corin-

thians, "Had they (the Jews)

known it, they would never

have crucified the Lord of

The first words of Christ

from the cross are a revelation

of the mystery of God's love

"Father, forgive them."

As we hear these words fall

from the lips of the dying

Christ, we discover the secret

of Divine Love. Through Christ

the world discovers that God's

love can pardon the unpardon-

Our service includes flowers-

by-wire anywiters. And a special

for busy, hospitals. Flowers al-

ready arranged in appropriate

Giory." (i Cor. 7:60).

They do not fully understand

Here the mystery of God's

love stands revealed in a new

light, The defenseless Christ on

the cross becomes the sole de-

fender of these who destroy

curse." (Romans 12:15).

pray for those who perse

er of the world.

truction.

them.

Centuries before the propinet Isaias (53:12) foretold this moment: "He hath borne the sins of many and prayed for the transgressor" that is, for those crucifying Him.

This dramatic scene on Calvary - when Christ harngs nailed to a cross and dying marks the

hour of tri-

umph for Elis

enemies.

Here before

the High

Priest Cal-

phas. He is

LENTEN READING

This article is the first of a series on Our Lord's Seven Last Words from the Cross.

the master mind of the plot to rid the world of Christ. Standing with Caiphas are the Sanhedrin leaders who had joined the High Priest in voting to send Christ to death.

These dignitaries, all enemies of Christ, did not usually grace public executions with thack presence. But today is different. Today these co-conspirat ors come to Calvary expecting to hear the Victim of the cross cry out curses upon their heads. Instead all they hear from the cross and its Victim is a prayer for their pardon.

This Friday -- the blackest Friday in all history - began with Christ's enemies demanding His death. "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" they cried. And in reply come those first words from the swollen lips of the "rucified: "Forgive them!

EAR THE DYING Charlet as He prays on the cross _ . . "Father . . ." Sorrowfally but in accents of love Jesus turns in prayer to His Father in Heaven. Many times Charist had told His followers to pray with confidence to His Fatzher.

Now in His own hour of trial. Christ prays to His Etemnal Father with filial trust. He masks pardon for His enemies, His persecutors. This is the prayer of supreme charity

This first prayer of the dying Christ to His Father is very significant. By crucify Eng Christ, Israel rejects not only the Son of God, it rejects also the Father who sent His Son into the world.

How many times Jesus had warned the Jews against the blunder of this day and this hour. "If God were your Father." He told them. "you would surely love me. For from God I came forth and have come. (John 8:42).

Once the Pharisees had challenged Him in the Temple, "Where is thy Father?" In reply Jesus warned them: "You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would then know my Father also." (John 8:19).

This same blunt warming Jesus had given to the unre pentant towns of Galilee winere His words were ignored: "He who rejects me, rejects Him who sent me." (Luke 10 = 16). Now on Calvary has come the hour of final rejection. Israel has rejected Christ and His Father who sent Him into the world.

In the face of this supreme injustice, this cruel rejection, Christ does not turn His back on the world. He does not retect even His enemies, those who have rejected Him.

The outraged, innocent Victim of the cross turns to His Father and pleads that not ing be held against His energies, His persecutors. Even as His blood flows from the cross Jesus asks forgiveness from His Father for the chief plotters of this day.

ORGIVE THEM - - For give those crucifying Him, Christ asks. Forgive the soldiers who scouraged Him and nailed Him to the cross. Forgive the soldiers who only act blinding in carrying out their orders and are really ignorant of what they are doing.

Watch & Jewelry Repairing containers in water, pretreated Fine Workmanship! Low Parker! to prolong their beauty. At Blan-William S. Thorne, Jewelt, 318 chard, Florist, 58 Lake Avenue. Main St, East, HA: 6-5081,—Adv. BAker 5-9194.—Adv.

LAST WEEK'S PAID CIRCULATION

54.307

ourier Journal

Merrice

ROCHESTER, N. Y., FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 1957

Cathedral Altar Ready For Solemn Consecration Rites

Altar Consecration Explained (See Page 6)

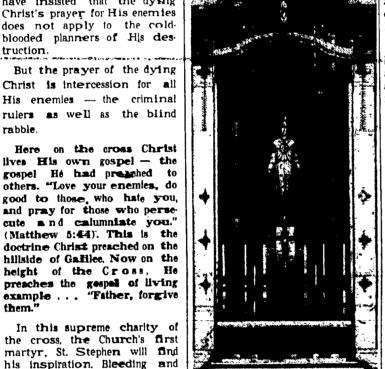
The newly constructed altar in Sacred Heart Cathedral will be consecrated next Tuesday morning when Auxiliary Bishop Lawrence B. Casey conducts the solemn rites permanently dedicating the \$70,000 marble structure to the service of divine worship.

Bishop James E. Kearney will preside at the Mass.

This will be Bishop Kearney's first appearance at a church function since his recent illness.

Installation of the new altar is the first step in an overall redect this week and is scheduled to oration program for the Cathedral, located on Flower City Park, Rochester

The church interior will be redecorated this June and new



Sacred Heart statue, shown in sketch, will highlight new Cathedral altar.

THE NEW ALTAR rises 31 rear wall of the Cathedral.

tons. Special pillars were erected tons. in the Cathedral basement to in Spain and Italy.

A majestic bronze repousse Scheduled to begin at 9 am. statue of the Sacred Heart, pathe consecration rite will be followed by solemn pontifical Mass Rochester Diocese, will dominate the center portion of the reredos above the altar

> Bishop Casey stated that the Sacred Heart statue will not be installed in time for the altar's consecration next Tuesday. The statue, handwrought in Italy, was shipped from there be in place by April.

DEDICATION of the new Cathedral altar will fulfill Bishop Kearney's wish that the Cathedral have an outstanding altar with a majestic statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to inspire devotion throughout the entire Diocese of Rochester.

Bishop Kearney personally seected-the-design-lon-the-answ altar and the Sacred Heart statue above it. He followed the progress of the new altar's construction from his sick bed while convalescing at St. Mary's Hospi-

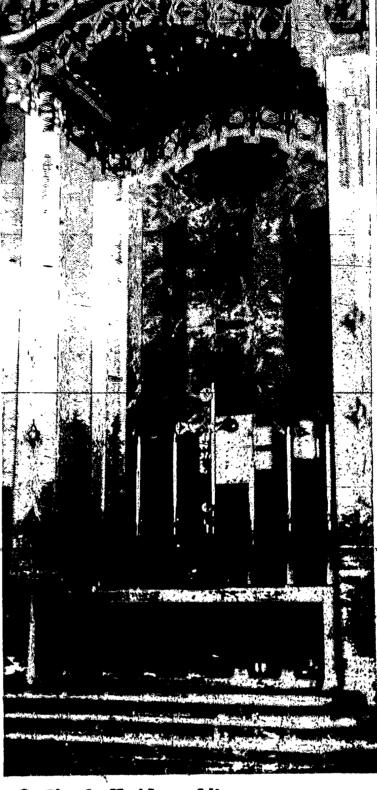
Skilled craftsmen of Daprato Studios of Chicago, church decorators and architects, have spent four months assembling the specially designed new altar.

Funds for the new altar were rmised by Cathedral parishioners in a two hour drive Oct. 7, 1956. They pledged \$143,265 to soar 51 percent over the drive's \$95,000 goal.

The new altar replaces an historic white altar originally used in old St. Patrick's Cathedral at Plymouth and Platt Streets in lowntown Rochester. The old Cathedral was dismantled in 1937. Its altar was moved to the Sacred Heart sanctuary. The white marble altar is now scheduled to be moved to Corpus Christi mosaic Stations of the Cross set Church, Main St. East, Roches altar) is red marble with white

Table portion of the new altar feet from the sanctuary floor and is built of Rojo Alicante (red-ing titles of our Lord in the John J. Foley and the 600 Cathis crowned by a bronze canopy dish) marble. The "mensa" or Litany of the Sacred Heart dec-edral men who worked during extending eleven feet from the flat top section of the altar is orate the new altar's pilasters Botticino (white) marble. This and side panels. mensa section is a single piece The whole structure weighs 65 of marble weighing almost three

used in the altar was quarried section are bronze repousse symbols of the seven sacraments.



Cathedral's New Alter starsds in smarble majesty im Sacred Heart sanctuary awaiting sollenn consecration rites to be conducted Tuesday, March 12, dedicating the 65 ton structure for divine worship. Red marble table is capped by

bromze carropy supported on white marble pallars.

port the bronze canopy.

The reredos (backdrop of the

Ten bronze symbols represent-

IN A STATEMENT issued this Studios. week to the Cathedral parishioners, Bishop Casey expressed support the huge mass. Marble At the foot of the altar's front thanks to Bishop Kearney who day, March 10, will contain a eva church of 1,002 subscribers, inspired the project.

new altar. He also extended his attending his Norton Street thanks to the Rev. Francis J. church. This total represents an supervised the campaign, and Mr. Annunciation subscription re-, the drive and finality, to officials and craftsmen of the Daprato their first time.

Bishop Casey also paid special altar and the consecration ritual.

Pope Raps Lust In Field Of Entertainment

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope. Pius XII, at his traditional audience to Rome's Lenten preachers, condemned immoral film advertising in Rome as a violation of the Italy-Vatican concordat of 1929.

He made the protest during a lengthy talk to 230 preachers in which he declared that Rome is "far from being a city according to God's desire" because many of its people continue to violate the divine commandments.

The Pontiff also condemed pornographic magazines and immoral films and television shows. The Pope's reference to film advertising was apparentyl prompted by posters announcing the showing of the film, "Zarak" featuring the Swedish actress, Anita Ekberg, and others advertising "Trapeze," in which the Italian actress, Gina Lollobrigida, is

C-J To Mark New Record In Circulation the High Pontiff, center of the

new all time high when final fig. that may be contrary to that ures are tallied following Febru- character!" campaign, Elmer Grapenstetter, circulation manager, forecast to such is Rome's present condi-

100, parishes show a significant increase over last year's totals, he stated.

Annunciation parish, Rochester, will adopt the "total family coverage" plan of the Courier Journal for the first time this year, according to Rev. Albert L. Si-Two white marble pillars sup-, tribute to the parisinioners of the monetti, pastor. He announced Cathedral who comtributed the this week that the diocesan pafunds needed to construct the per will be sent to 522 families Taylor, Cathedral assistant, who increase of 500 over last year's

> Two parishes also made circulation history this week by souring over the thousand mark for

St. Stephen's parish counts an The Cathedral bulletin for Sun- all time record high in that Gendetailed description of the new an increase of 50 over last year.

(Continued on Page 3)

"As you well know" he told the preachers, "the concordat be ween the Holy See and Italy states that 'in consideration of the sacred character of the Eternal City, the bishop's seat of Catholic world, and the goal of Subscription records will hit a pligrimages, the Italian govern-

ASKING, "CAN one may that tion?" Pope Pius declared, "We are sorry We must sesswer no!" Reports already in from nearly 1000, parishes show a significant nerease over last year's totals, and subject ally newspaper give a two huge Boentleus posters our rently neen on the walks of Rome . . . Who can bell what /rmin in souls; espécially those of youngavers, with images may provoke, how many dirty thoughts and feelings they may produce, what great contribution to the corruption of Romans, resulting in serious projudice and harm to the Italian Nation, which is in need of a sane, healthy and strong

> aspirations of virtue?" THE PONTIFF went on to condemn "pornographic reviews exposed in bookstalls" as well as immoral films and selevision shows.

youth, educated to the highest

He said objectionable TV shows (Continued on Page 1)

plead for His enemies before Expansion Cost Set At \$2,000,000

Mercy Nuns Plan Novitiate, Teacher College Building

Him. Christ alone raises His A \$2,000,000 expansion of the side of the present Motherhouse voice to plead mercy for the Soon Peter and Paul will carry the story of the cross to the world. And the love of Christ for . His enemies will teacher training of novice mem- cese. keynote their preaching. Like bers of the community. Christ, Peter and Paul will

blame the tragedy of the cross on ignorance and appeal to the for elementary pupils. This school private fund-raising efforts. will provide practice training for Jerusalem, the deicide city, Sister Novices enrolled in the will hear Peter say: "I know Junior College. that you acted in ignorance, as

> THE SISTERS revealed their plans along with announcement of their centenary celebration marking 100 years of service in the Rochester Diocese.

Ground breaking for the new construction on June 9 will herald the diocesan celebration of the arrival of the Sisters of M my in Rochester on June 9,

A Pontifical Mass on June 15 at Old St. Mary's Church where the Sisters were first located, and a Pontifical Requtem Mass on June 1 at the Motherhouse for the deceased Sisters will mark the religious celebration.

A pageant scheduled for May 26, 27 and 28 at Our Lady of Mercy High School Auditorium will depict the work of the Sisters in the diocese for the past

Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse on Blossom Road, will entail ventures for the new buildings, college facilities for a 3-year Junior College also presently to included in present plants. facilities on Blossom Road, Roch heavy financial burdens for the the Mother General indicated, is course of teacher training. ester, will provide a Novitiate Community, according to Mother expected from the Mercy Guild and Junior College building for Mary Magdalene, Mother General and graduates of the parochial the religious and professional of the Mercy Sisters in the dio and high schools staffed by Sisters of Mercy.

"We hope," she explained, "to Construction plans also call for finance the undertaking through pared by architect Walter M. Nu- young Sisters. Overcrowded conthe erection of a "Campus School" long term notes and from small, gent, a new four story building ditions in the Motherhouse re a practice teaching program of meets the full approval of the will provide Novitiate quarters quire this expansion.

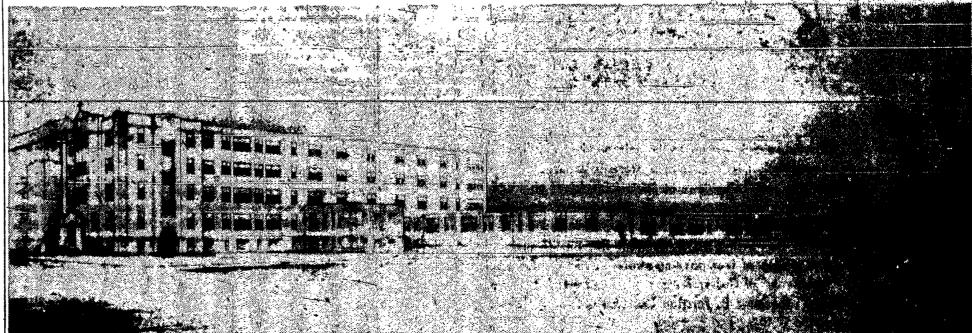
The present Novitiate, occupying the 4th floor of the Motherhouse, will be completely moved and seminar rooms will be to the new wing with sleeping housed. ACCORDING TO plans, pre- and recreational facilities for the

cated in the Motherhouse, will occupy the main floor of the proposed extension where offices.

the Novitiate Sisters in a modern

Assistance in fund raising for the young Sisters and junior, THE CATHERINE MCAULEY one story "Campus School" also

The Junior College, opened in 1951 under the University of the classrooms, library, laboratory State of New York and was chartered in 1954 as a thiree year junior college to take care of the teacher education of the young Facilities will be available for Sisters. Its courses of study (Continued on Page 5)



MERCY NUNS PLAN NOVITIATE, COL-LEGE WING - This architect's sketch

Rochester, Four-story building, left in sketch, will be erected to provide Novitiate and Junior Teachers' College For Novice-Sisters in training, One story building in right fore-

shows Sisters of Mercy plans for \$2000,000 Construction of the new faciliexpansion of their Motherhouse Facilities in ground will include a reading clinic and ties which will adjoin the west