

Tables Plus Cars Means More Churches

New automobiles are changing American church construction. Architects in St. Louis listened to reports which showed a building boom amounting to 2 billion dollars a year.

Architects indicated that more children and young men have craved church facilities and demanded more church construction.

Some families would like to get to Sunday church services in more comfortable—if sometimes not more expensive—vehicles.

The church is attended by "walking" parishioners who are slow-faced with parking problems in already congested areas.

One architect said that the trend to bring babies to church has prompted installing "crying rooms" and infant-stair elevators. "A piece of ecclesiastical equipment absent at the time of our grandparents is now becoming standard," he said, "cribs for the care of infants."

A Baptist church in Alabama has six rooms to accommodate babies under two years old, the architects were told.

Architects were warned that Americans do not want a church "that looks like a gas station or a supermarket." Americans prefer a reverent place for worship—not copied from ancient models necessarily—but with a distinctive religious atmosphere.

Another church designer asked architects to construct churches with as few steps and stairways as possible, for the convenience of older people who find steps a hazard.

New churches in the Rochester Diocese seem to fit this pattern proposed by the experts.

A Sunday ride to construction in progress or newly completed in Pittsford, Weedsport, Auburn, Painted Post, Irondequoit and Chili, show a trend to blend modern efficiency with traditional styles.

A strange formula not found in any algebra book this mid-twentieth century discovery: more babies plus more cars equals more churches!

Airborne Apostles

Father Joseph Natale, priest of the Rochester Diocese currently serving as chaplain to paratroopers stationed in Germany, wrote the *Courier* this week "that one of the reasons there are so many converts is because of the lack of priests."

He was giving his comments on a January *Courier* Journal article which pointed out that the Church is still a long way away from its goal of counting all men as its members.

The annual Choir of Unity Octave each January was inaugurated to awaken Catholics to the need for prayers for the success of the Church's convert-making apostolate.

During his three years chaplain's duty, Father Natale reports that over 300 have asked for instruction in the faith.

Sincere Non-Catholics often make their first contact with the Church when they enter military service, he states. The exemplary conduct in so many cases of Catholic boys in service attract prospective converts to discuss the faith with a chaplain.

Father Natale's personal experience confirms the remarks of priests on the "home front." There is definitely a need for more vocations. March, month of prayers for vocations, is half past... how about Mass, Communion and extra prayer this Sunday asking Christ to send more laborers into His vineyard of souls!

Why Catholics Fast, Abstain

Object: I don't get the point of Catholics not eating meat on Friday. I hear that at certain times they are supposed to half starve themselves by fasting, too. What's the idea of punishing oneself like that? Isn't it just a big show!

Response: If a Catholic or anyone else were to fast and abstain merely as a means of showing off, he would certainly be worthy of condemnation.

It was for this that Christ condemned the Pharisees. "Sound not a trumpet before thee as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and streets that they may be honored by men."

But Our Lord by no means condemned fasting and abstaining in themselves. In fact, before He began His public life, He Himself went out into the desert and fasted for 40 days and 40 nights, as the gospels make plain.

Christ was God, and obviously had no need of such penance for Himself. But He made use of it in order to set us an example.

For we recognize clearly enough our own need of penance for sin, and our sinful tendencies; as human beings, we know the strength of our passions, the waywardness of our emotions and feelings.

Now just as the athlete keeps himself in good condition by rigorous training, during which time he foregoes soft foods and certain luxuries which otherwise he might make use of, so in the spiritual order we must exercise self-denial and self-control if we are to harden the muscles of our soul, if we are to keep ourselves in good condition for the struggles with temptation which daily take place in our lives.

The Church as a wise mother knows well that if she leaves it up to the individual to do penance, very little penance actually will be done.

So she says in effect: Here is a minimum of self-denial which everyone should be able to undertake. Abstain from meat on Friday. Fast according to your ability at the appointed times.

Do this and you will show your willingness to make up for defects and failings of the past, as well as strengthen yourself for future struggles.

Thus speaks the Church to her members—surely anyone who is enlightened will find her reasonable demands to be wise, laudable, and salutary.

Fast, Abstinence Rules for Lent

IF YOU ARE 13 ⁺	between 21 and 59	between 7 and 21 or past 59
AND THE DAY IS	You May Eat	You May Eat
Friday	One full meal No meat	Customary meals and between meals but no meat
Other Saturday	One full meal Meat at full meal	Customary meals and between meals but meat at main meal only
Any other weekday	One full meal Meat at full meal	Customary meals and between meals and meat anytime
Sunday	No Restrictions	

Children under 7 years of age are not required to fast or abstain.

For exceptions to the rules on fasting refer to the Bishop's Lenten Regulations or consult a priest.

Strange But True

St. Edward's Penitentiary
Penitentiary, Germany, consists of four open penitentiaries.

IF YOU WANT TO BE PENITENTIARY, ENQUIRE TO ST. EDWARD'S PENITENTIARY, 1000 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10010. WE WILL SEND YOU A FREE BROCHURE AND ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS.

Lent Calls Divided World To Prayer, Penance Role

In the "moment of prayer, every man is at his best," says Lita's lavish new book, *The World's Great Religions*.

The \$13 volume shows the world as it worships God in its variety of ways ranging from the ridiculous to the awe-inspiring.

The thread of a common theme runs through all the religions of mankind—the fundamental truth that we depend on God for everything we are or have or hope for.

As Catholics we deplore the crude superstitions of the Hindus, regret the divisions demarcating Protestantism, desire the unity of all men in the "one fold and one shepherd" ideal promised by Christ our Savior.

We also admit that our fellow men who worship at other altars strive at least for the common goal—to know the will of God in this life and to attain union with Him in the next.

Our divisions whatever may be their origin are the result of our own mutual failures to keep the full law of God.

LENT is the Church's annual reminder that we are in fact responsible for the world's chaotic religious condition. Christ Himself prayed the night before He died that His Christians "may be one that the world may believe." He told His disciples they should be "perfect," to let their "light shine before men" as the final, compelling evidence of the faith they claim they cherish.

The whole dramatic story of Lent and Holy Week is compelling proof that every human stands in need of the Savior.

CHRIST BORE His bitter agony and crucifixion not merely to be a story for later generations to tell but because as God He knew that without Him "we can do nothing." His truth and grace are necessary for salvation, else why would He have endured what no other man has



Moment of Prayer—A Ghana grandmother in her newly independent African nation prays her daily Rosary. Lent calls Christians throughout the world to imitate Christ in prayer and penance.

ever yet endured with an innocence so complete that even His enemies could not convict Him of a single sin!

Lent's self-denial and self-scrutiny are the elements from which can come the elusive dream of "peace on earth." If enough of us could once and for all learn that our one hope is not in stock-piled atom bombs or strategic air bases but in a total Christian life, that Lent would at last achieve its purpose.

Pope Pius XII expressed this wish in his annual talk to Rome's Lenten preachers.

Facts as they are in a world which gives little heed to "medieval" fast and abstinence, the world will undoubtedly appear little changed come Easter. But to those who have faith, a prayer from a tiny child can, in the eyes of eternity, have greater impact than an army on the march.

God looks to each soul during Lent to find a change there, even if the world itself may not change.

If God can find us during this holy season devout and constant in prayer He confers a "peace which the world cannot give." If it is true that we are at our best when at prayer, it is equally true that we likewise achieve the "best" in that moment too—a union with the Savior we need so totally.

FATHER SHEERIN

Let Me Alone!

In mid-December in this column I discussed the topic: "How Private Is Your Private Life?" I took the dim view that it isn't very private in America... that it's time to do something about the snoopers, private-eyes, kibitzers, wire-tappers and assorted meddlers who pry into our private affairs. Numerous readers wrote in to second the notion.

A California Senate Committee recently tried to curb the private-eyes who "check" the facts dug up by a listening post named Hollywood Research, Inc.

These facts are scandalous tidbits about the private lives of Hollywood stars.

After they are "checked" by the private detectives, the defamatory stories are sent on to New York where they are published by magazines like *Confidential*.

The committee held a three-day hearing. During the course of the hearing, the yellow press had a field day publishing lurid testimony about long-range cameras and Anita Ekberg and possible perjury charges against Frank Sinatra. But the committee apparently failed. The private detectives were found to be working safely within the limits prescribed by California law for their business.

That brings us to the question of law and the right of privacy. Books on Trial (October, 1956) published a penetrating analysis of the legal right of privacy. The article was entitled "Let Me Alone" and was written by Judge Roger J. Kiley of the Illinois Appellate Court. The New York Court of Appeals denied that such a right existed in 1955, but today it is recognized by practically every state in the Union.

According to Judge Kiley, the Courts have spoken eloquently of the right of privacy. They have said the individual is entitled to be left alone and that the State is not to be admitted to his



The Bell Tower

Horse Sense

Driving along a lonely country road, a salesman suddenly encountered engine trouble. Getting out of the car, he lifted the hood and was inspecting the motor when a voice behind him remarked: "The trouble's in the carburetor."

Swinging around, the only thing he could see was an ancient horse regarding him quizzically over a pasture fence. The salesman turned and ran down the road until he came to a small crossroads garage.

When he recovered his breath, he explained the situation to the attendant.

"You say you saw no one but a horse near your car?" the man asked. "That's right," said the salesman.

"Was it an old brown horse with a crooked ear?"

"Yes, I think so."

"Well, pay him no heed," said the attendant. "He doesn't know a thing about engine trouble."

Cash Premium

The two opera stars were having a conversation backstage.

"I inspired my voice for \$100,000," bragged the famous soprano.

"And what," cooed the other, prima donna, "have you done with the money?"

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Making Marriage Click

Punish Children With Love

By MSGR. IRVING A. DeBLANC

(Director, Family Life Bureau, N.C.W.C.)

When parents punish their children it should signify the disapproval of loving parents. It should not be a release for the spleen of an irate father. Punishment should always be in proportion to the offense of the child, never equal to the anger of the parent.

Note the qualification "loving" parent. It is one point of which children must always be sure.

We have all heard of the young boys who were so good in class that the teacher just loved to place them across his lap and applaud them. When children are young and cannot be reasoned with, a spanking can be effective. It may be the last resort but it can be a worthwhile one.

WE HEAR it said that nothing can be accomplished by spanking which could not be accomplished by other means. That may be true if time is no element and children can be reasoned with.

If, however, I were directing a school and the parents of young boys did not trust my judgment and permit me the right to spank, I doubt that I would accept that child. The right to spank goes with parents but as the right to educate is delegated, so should this right to punish be delegated to reasonable authority. This is not to say that a principal of a school should go from class to class, week after week, with a paddle or maybe, these days, with an electric spanker!

As much as it is true that the principal has the right to spank, it is just as firmly true that the

Joseph Breig

Fatima Vision Reveals St. Joseph Role In Church

The Virgin Mary did not have the Christ child in her arms in any of her appearances to the shepherd children at Fatima, Portugal, in 1917.

St. Joseph did.

Joseph appeared only once. He was seen during the Miracle of the Sun. This miracle was visible to 70,000 persons assembled at the scene. It closed the series of supernatural manifestations and, gave evidence to the throng that the children had been telling the truth.

Briefly, what the children had reported was that the Virgin Mary brought both good and bad news for mankind.

She said World War I, then raging, would soon cease. But a more terrible war would follow because people continued to offend God.

Russia would "spread errors through the world," bringing on wars and persecutions of the Church.

The Virgin begged humanity to turn back to God. She asked Catholics to pray the Rosary frequently, to receive Communion on the first Saturday, to renew the Scapular devotion, and to make the sacrifices necessary to carry out the duties of their state in life.

She closed with the consoling promise that "in the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph; Russia will be converted, and an era of peace will be granted to mankind."

THEN GOD placed His seal on His Mother's words by working the Miracle of the Sun.

It was a terrifying and yet comforting miracle.

Three times, the sun seemed to spin like a top, throwing out many-colored lights, and then to plunge earthward.

The 70,000 present feared that the end of the world was at hand. But the sun resumed its normal beneficent function, and the clouds cleared away.

Meanwhile, the shepherd children had seen, in the heavens amid the miraculous solar tumult, St. Joseph standing with the infant in his arms; and the infant was giving His blessing to mankind.

Thus did the fearsome drama of Fatima come to a happy ending.

What other conclusion is possible than that God wanted us to know that the Church, which is Christ still on earth, would weather communism's dread assault safely under the protection of St. Joseph?

ST. JOSEPH dies in the comforting presence of Jesus and Mary. His feast is Tuesday, March 19.

St. Joseph as patron of the Universal Church?

THIS IS THE month of St. Joseph, March 19 is his feast day. He awaits our appeals for his intercession.

He waits. This is the central fact which must be firmly grasped for any deep understanding of the man who on earth stood in the place of God toward God.

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JOSEPH HOLDS that position still with respect to the Church which Christ and Mary brought forth in the agony of Calvary. The Church has confirmed this fact by recognizing Joseph as its universal patron.

As I said, Joseph waits. Always he waits. Always he effaced himself. Of him it is not recorded that he ever uttered a word. He was simply there with the Holy Family. He is simply here to this day with the Holy Family of the Church.

You can hardly ignore Christ or Mary. They are dramatically pressed upon your consciousness. But it is easy to ignore Joseph, because he is always in the background.

You can almost measure your spiritual awareness by the degree to which you are conscious of Joseph. At Fatima, Christ and Mary brought him to our attention. He remained silent as ever, but surely they were saying to us that we should turn to him with confidence to hasten the day of the conversion of Russia and the dawning of a new golden age of Christianity.

Daily Mass Calendar

Sunday, March 17 — Second Sunday in Lent (purple). Creed, Lent Preface.

Monday, March 18 — Lenten Mass (purple), or St. Cyril of Jerusalem, confessor (white), Gloria, 2nd prayer of Lenten Mass, Creed, Lent Preface.

Tuesday, March 19 — St. Joseph (white) Gloria, 2nd prayer of Lenten Mass, Creed, Preface of St. Joseph.

Wednesday, March 20 — Lenten Mass (purple) as in missal; VR. Mass (purple), or St. Benedict, abbot (white), Gloria, 2nd prayer of Lenten Mass.

Friday, March 22 — Lenten Mass (purple), or St. Isidore, farmer (white), Gloria, 2nd prayer of Lenten Mass.

Saturday, March 23 — Lenten Mass (purple) as in missal. VR — Votive or Requiem permitted.

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