

Legion of Mary Aids Parish Priests, Reports of Elmira Curia Units Revealed

By FATHER BARTHOLOMEW J. O'BRIEN

"One of the six children is not baptized," states a member of the Legion of Mary in a typical report during the weekly meeting in Elmira. "But I assured the mother that we would not only make arrangements with the parish priest for the Baptism, but would also provide godparents if she so wished."

"The mother was very grateful. Having just moved into the parish, she knew very few Catholics—if any. In brief, I wish to report that we welcomed the family to the parish in the name of the pastor, we obtained the parish census at his request, and finally, we made arrangements for the Baptism this Sunday afternoon."

"Our mission was to solicit the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in the homes of the seminarians of our parish," reports another member. "The parents of each seminarian warmly welcomed us, congratulated us on the fine work of the Legion of Mary here in the parish, and most graciously expressed their desire to have the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in their home."

"I returned again this week to give special instructions to our little cerebral palsy victim," a X, "is to have in each parish

third member, states after being called by the president to give his weekly report. "Unfortunately, he is steadily growing worse. If it is agreeable to our pastor, I wish to suggest that the boy make his First Holy Communion as soon as possible."

These are typical reports, reasons why the Legion of Mary has been found to be so valuable recently to many busy parish priests. Today when most churches have no room for all the people and most schools have not desks for all the students, in like manner most priests have no time for all the problems, activities, and parish works which these same crowds of people and mobs of students bring about.

To help the priest in the work of a special group of people, carefully trained and wisely directed, known as the active members of the Legion of Mary.

"What is most necessary at the present time," stressed St. Pius little cerebral palsy victim, "is to have in each parish

a group of laymen at the same time virtuous, enlightened, determined, and really apostolic." This could clearly be the definition of the Legion of Mary.

A PRIEST once said that the secret of the rapid worldwide growth of the Legion of Mary is this: It has never failed Our Lady. Every meeting is like a service in honor of God's Mother. The members always gather around a table in the center of which is a special shrine to Our Lady of Grace with fresh flowers and burning candles.

They open every meeting with Mary's Rosary. They interrupt the meeting and stand at attention for the recitation of the Magnificat of the Virgin Mother. "The Legion's trust in Mary is limitless," states the Legion Handbook, "knowing that by the ordinance of God, her power is without limit."

With this limitless trust in Our Lady and with a supernatural obedience to the priest, the Legionaries go forth, two by two, week after week, to carry out their spiritual works of mercy in the parish.

THE LEGION differs from other organizations directed to social work in that it may not carry out the corporal works of mercy. "Material relief must not be given," the Handbook insists, "even in the smallest ways. . . . Material relief may be to other societies a key which opens it. It is the key with which the Legion locks itself out."

Yet the member or Legionary must work. "An army which refuses to engage in battle, what a misnomer!" Every week at every meeting, the president (after receiving the assistance and advice of the spiritual director) gives to each set of two Legionnaires an assignment or mission on which they will report the following week.

For at least two hours during the week, the Legionaries will work together as a team in the spirit of brotherliness and charity on the work assigned. For example:

1. Brother White and Brother Green will visit Mr. and Mrs. John Brown, 215 Western Street, and encourage them to attend the Cana Conference.

Carolyn E. Vogt Rites Conducted

Solemn Requiem Mass was held Wednesday, Aug. 7 in Rochester's Holy Rosary Church for Mrs. Carolyn E. Vogt. Mass followed a prayer service at the N. J. Miller's Son Funeral Home, Mt. Hope Ave.

Mrs. Vogt, 66 died Aug. 4, 1957 in St. Mary's Hospital.

Father E. Leo McManus was celebrant of the Mass. He was assisted by Father James Doyle, deacon and Father Clarence Gardner, subdeacon. Father Bernard Dolan was present in the sanctuary.

Mrs. Vogt, who had been blind for the past eight years, was an amateur composer and is estimated to have written words and music to some 500 songs. She had a weekly radio program over Rochester Radio Station WSAJ on, which she entertained about 150.

Besides her husband, Chester E. Vogt, Mrs. Vogt leaves two sons, Chester of Kenmore, N.Y., and Robert of Rochester.

Funeral Mass Sung For Neil L. Loan

Funeral services for Neil L. Loan of 77 Devonshire Court were held Wednesday, August 7. Mr. Loan sales representative for Maritime Milling Co. of Buffalo for the past 15 years died August 4, 1957 after a long illness.

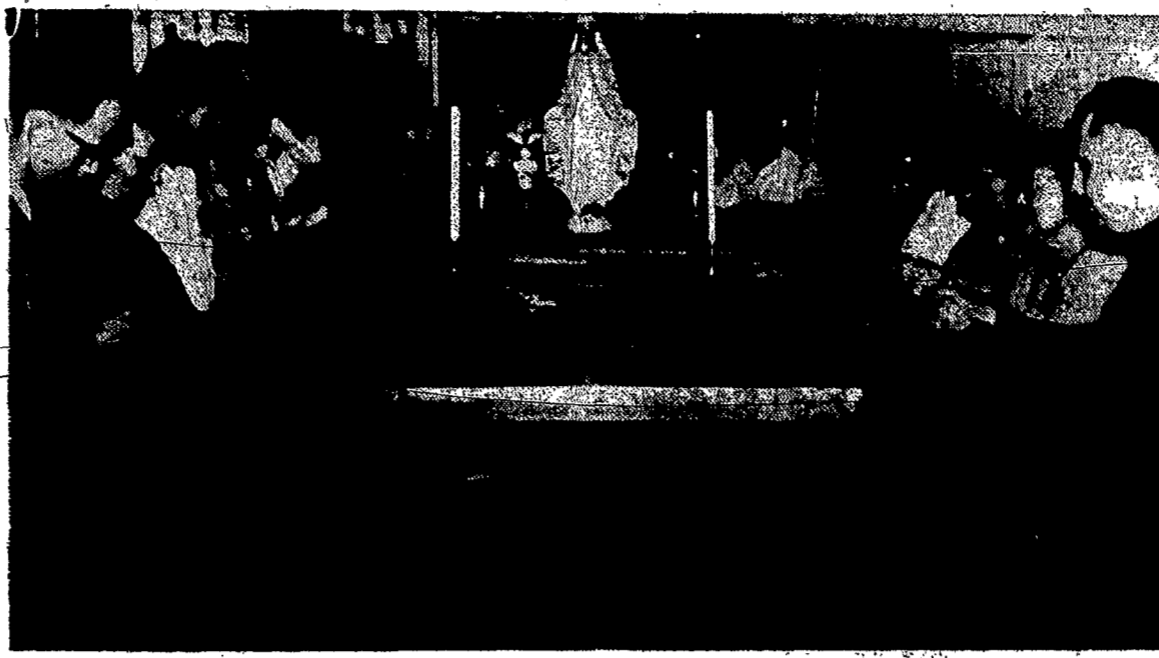
Requiem High Mass was celebrated in St. Augustine Church by Monsignor John M. Duffy following services in Joseph A. Murphy Funeral Home.

Bearers were Rubin Wahl, Edward Lennon, Clarence Hook, Huling Chaffee, Joseph McGinnis and Carl Maier.

Surviving are his wife Laura McLoon Loan; four brothers Daniel, Ottawa, Canada; Henry, Elmira; Mark, Rochester; Warren, Horseheads; three sisters, Mrs. Agnes Andrew, Mrs. Mayme Halden and Miss Nellie Loan, all of Elmira, several nieces and nephews.

Interment was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Named Pastor The Rev. Arthur J. Marchese, sealt who made part of his studies for the Holy Priesthood at St. Bernard Seminary and a priest of the Norwich diocese is the new pastor of Holy Trinity Church, Pomfret, Conn.



FIRST ACT of Mary's Legionaries at their weekly meeting is to kneel and recite the Rosary of Our Lady.

2. Brother Red and Brother Black will visit the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Blue and invite them to the first session of the new Inquiry Class. It has been reported that they have expressed a desire to become Catholics.

3. Sister Elm and Sister Pine will visit the Eastside Nursing Home and make arrangements with all Catholics to receive Holy Communion Thursday morning at eight o'clock.

4. Brother Maple and Brother Oak will visit the Beechwood Home and encourage the parents to send their children to the release time classes in the Catholic Religion, held each Monday at three o'clock.

To carry out such spiritual works of missions, formerly assigned only to a priest, demands a strong faith, a sound training, perfect obedience and direction, a heart full of charity, and a military adherence to the rules and regulations of "The Official Handbook of the Legion of Mary." Because of this last quality, the whole Legion system is built around a military terminology.

The meeting is called a praesidium; the instruction of the spiritual director is called an allocutio.

In this military spirit, the Handbook states firmly that at the first meeting of each month, as a constant reminder of the Legionary discipline, the following Standing Instruction is to be read by the president, whose duty it is not only to conduct

the meeting but also to maintain the discipline of the system. It contains a summary or epitome of the Legionary system and Marian spirituality.

"Legionary duty requires from each Legionary:

"First, the punctual and regular attendance at the weekly meetings of the Praesidium, and the furnishing there of an adequate and audible report on the work done;

"Second, the daily recitation of the Catena (Magnificat);

"Third, the performance of a substantial active Legionary work in the spirit of faith, and in union with Mary, in such fashion that in those worked for and in one's fellow-members, the Person of Our Lord is once again seen and served by Mary, His Mother.

"Fourth, the preservation of an absolute secrecy in regard to any matter discussed at the office of the Legion of Mary, or learned in connection with the Legionary work."

This Standing Instruction, dinned into the ears of the members month after month, should bring home to them the all-important place of SECRECY in the Legion's discipline. Inviolable confidence and great charity must be preserved by the Legionaries in regard to what they hear at their meetings or in the course of their visitations. This knowledge comes to them because they are Legionaries, and it would be an intolerable treachery to the Legion and to the virtue of charity for them to divulge it.

Reports must, of course, be made at the Praesidium meeting; these reports are to be regarded as being in the same category as a family's discussion of its secrets. But even in these reports there must be circumspection and great charity. The record of secrecy in the members of the Legion of Mary is one of the noble monuments to its system.

Since the origin of the Legion of Mary in Ireland, Sept. 7, 1921, the object of the Legion has been primarily to bring each member closer to the Heart of Jesus through the Heart of Mary.

The Handbook defines the object precisely by saying: "The object of the Legion of Mary is

the sanctification of its members by prayer and active cooperation, under ecclesiastical guidance, in Mary's and the Church's work of crushing the head of the serpent and advancing the reign of Christ."

BECAUSE THE active members seek ever to crush the head of the serpent and to advance the reign of Christ, they are always seeking auxiliary members who, for reasons of their own, cannot attend the weekly meetings or spend two hours weekly in the active apostolate, but who can pray—who cannot be Marthas but who can be Marys. These auxiliary members by their prayers bring many souls back to the Church and save many souls from going astray—a glorious work, the results of which will be revealed to them only in heaven.

How can the Legion of Mary be started in a parish? It can be started merely by calling the headquarters or Curia; in Rochester, the Curia of Curia or learned in connection with the Legionary work."

Once the pastor has manifested interest and the Curia has been notified, a representative from the headquarters will contact the pastor or his assistant, talk things over with him, explain the Handbook, answer questions, and willingly undertake to set up the entire organization, if the pastor wishes. In other words, he is at the disposal of the pastor or his assistant in matters pertaining to the Legion.

If the Legion of Mary receives the approval of the pastor, then the Curia will send to the parish two capable officers who, with Legion of Mary during a six-week formation period. These two officers will conduct the meeting, set up the organization, and train the new members under the direction of the spiritual director.

By the end of the six week period, the new Legion will have its own officers, and the Curia representatives will retire from the scene—and a new praesidium will have been added to the thousands that now help to renew the face of the earth for the glory of God and the honor of Our Lady, Mother of the Legion of Mary.

Alhambrians To Mark First Catholic Church In Buffalo

Rochester's Musa Caravan, Order of the Alhambra will send a delegation to the 27th biennial international convention slated in Buffalo, August 11 to 14 according to Grand Commander James E. Marcellie.

The local Alhambrians will be represented in the business sessions by Supreme Advocate Norman A. O'Brien.

DEDICATION of a memorial marking the first Catholic church in Buffalo will highlight the convention's opening day, Sunday, August 11 at 3 p.m.

This Church, a log cabin, was built on the site of the present St. Louis Church at Main and Edward Streets. A parade at 2:30 p.m. of conventioneer delegates will precede the ceremony. Bishop Joseph A. Burke of Buffalo will conduct the dedication ceremony.

A Solemn Mass in St. Louis Church, Buffalo, is scheduled to follow the ceremony with the Rev. James V. Ennis of North Evans, supreme chaplain as celebrant.

At the Sheraton Hotel, convention headquarters, Rochester's Sir Nobel will have open house in charge of Master of the Oasis

L.C.B.A. To Meet In East Rochester

Ladies Catholic Benevolent Association 1174 will meet Aug. 8 at 7:30 p.m. in St. Jerome Church hall, East Rochester. Julia Bieler will preside.

Leo V. Davis.

A bus trip to the Basilica of Our Lady of Victory, Lackawanna, the convention hall, dinner at Glen Casino and other activities for both members and the ladies are planned.

COURIER-JOURNAL 13 Friday, August 9, 1957

HOW

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R. G. Lewis Rites Held In California

Funeral services for Raymond G. Lewis, formerly of Rochester were conducted in Los Angeles, Tuesday, August 6.

Mr. Lewis, 59, who died in Los Angeles, August 3, 1957, was a nephew of the late Archbishop Thomas F. Hickey and of Jeremiah J. Hickey, president of Hickey Freeman Co.

A native of Rochester, Mr. Lewis was a graduate of Cathedral High School, now Aquinas Institute. He had operated the Lewis Clothing and Haberdashery Shop for many years in Monroe Ave. He moved to Los Angeles and became associated with the Desmond Clothing Co. in 1941 after selling the business here.

While in Rochester he was active in the Holy Name Society of Blessed Sacrament Church.

Mr. Lewis was a brother of Leo A. Lewis, operator of Valley Echo, 2328 Browncroft Blvd. Also surviving are his wife, Mrs. Irene Rhodes Lewis; a daughter, Mrs. Carl Carlson; a son, Donald, and a grandson.

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