Cold In Stranger (NA)

Father O'Conzor

ng is the text of the subtry preached by Monaigran John y at the funeral of Rey, Thomas M. O'Connor Sept., 11 Sphenses Church, Auburn, Father O'Connor died Sept.

The maid therefore to them again: Tence be to you. As the in main sent me, I also send you." (Jno. 20, 21)

Cas the minth of June, fiftyan years ago, Father O'Con. r was ordained to the Holy resthood in St. Patrick's Cadral, Rechester, by the Most Reversed Bernard J. McQuaid, the first bishop of the Diocese of Rechester. It was a blessed and eventful day in the life of Father O'Connor-that day in June, 1900. It was a day to which he had looked forward for many a year.

On that memorable day the shop, the ordaining prelate, was there, and the students of Bi Bernard's Seminary were present, and many priests of the city and diocese were there, and the relatives and friends of the ordination class, and the Maly Ghost was present. Yes, it was another Pentecost when the heavens were opened, and intrach the imposition of hands the Hely Spirit came, net in visible form; but noneme He came and took up de in a special manner in the soule of the new priests. Attack Median McQuaid im-track heads on Thomas O'Con-track he became another Christ. net of the Most High. At amont the Holy Spirit of and imparted to him the powand of the privatiood.

A little later in the ordinaion commony the bishop gave to the young man the challce and paten, and said to him, "Receive the power to offer macrifice to God, and to celeheate Mant both for the living and the dead, in the name of the Lord." And then near the ind of the Mass the bishop laid both hands on the head of the mewly ordained priest and said film, "Receive the Holly Ghost whose sins thou shalt orgive, they are forgiven wit, and whose sins thou mult what, they are retained."

On the evening of the Resur-inter Jerus sold to the spos-id, "As the Father hath pent I also soud you." In other ton of the apos was the same as, that of r Willie Lord. And the misof the period is the sa that of the spectles: to

tered upon the duties of his priesthood with earnestriess and zeal, his station and his lot were by no means one of comfort. Neither ease and has expersenced it, should he have expected ease or comfort, when Christ said, "If any man will come after me let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me."

stead in this orisis,

It must be remembered that Father O'Connor lived at a time and in a locality where material comforts were "Lew

and hardships were many. His was a missionary life. Transportation was difficult, distances seemed long, for roads were poor, the automobile was not yet common, the winters were long and the mow was deep. This was the life of country priest in those days

Yet in spite of all dificulties he injoyed the reputation and rightly so-of visiting his people, over scattered 'areas, even though at times he had 10 walk long distances to do so. His pastoral labors demanded many of the sacrifices of missignary life, and with few of its consolations.

to be then faithful peaker and hope one day to share in His the good shepherd of his flock, Glory. feeding them with the Word of

SURFERING in itself has no God. and the Bread of Life. merit, any more than good and the joy that comes with works by themselves have any the Chrisstian Faith. merit: But when our suffering But long before Eather O. is united by faith and love to Cornor's active ministry was Our Lord and we consent to over, pain and suffering he carry our cross, then our sufcame his portion. The afflicfering takes on new merit, betions of Holy Job fell upon ing united with the Passion of him, and perhaps one of the Christ in the work of redempmost hitter was blindness. tions A person who offers his

suffering in union with Our For nearly twenty years he Lord as Christ on the Cross lived in contigual darkness; offered His to His Father, and, 1 suppose, that no one dan often does more good for souls appreciate such an affliction than those who are engaged in bit he where in some measure, the active apostolate.

Father O'Connor's blindness IN ORDER to celebrate the may have been instrumental in Holy Sacallee he memorized the Mass, word by word from beginning to end His retenbringing the light of faith to many a soul sitting in the shadow of death. His pain may live memory stood him in good have delivered many souls from the pains of Purgatory and saved others from the fires Why Goes God permit so mich undering?" one 'might of Hell. His spiritual anguish may have wrought from the reverently ask, "and especially great Heart of Christ the grace in those who endeavor to serve Him?" Without the light of of conversion for many a poor sinner, Like St. Paul, Father faith suffering remains a great O'Connor may have filled up mystery, but with the light of those things wanting of the the Gospel we can see at least sufferings of Christ. "in part." St. Paul says, I "fill

up those thangs that are warnt-NO DOUBT Father O'Connor ing of the sufferings of Christ received many consolations in hemy flesh for His (Mystical) Body which is the Church his afflictions as Chris' did which is the Church, after His agony in Gethsemani. (Col. 1, 24)" Strictly speaking, Our Saviour experienced sorthere 'is mothing wanting of row and grief and desolation. the sufferings of Christ for He was "despised, and the most, the salvation of men, for His abject of men, a man of sorredemption was most coplous. rows, and acquainted with infirmity, (Is. 53, 3)" In Gethse-However, since it behooveth mani He prayed, "My Father, Christ to sue fler and so to enter if it be possible, let this chalice into His glory, it is indeed fit. pass from me (Matt. 26, 39)", ting that we, the members of

Our Lord, therefore, can have compassion on those who suffer. Our great High-Priest has gone before us bearing His Cross, and He beckons us on, "Come, follow me." What comfort and strength Father O'-Connor must have found in the thought that, "we have not a high priest who cannot have compassion on our infirmities. but one tempted in all things like as we are; without sin. (Heb. 5, 15)*

forsaken me? (Matt. 27, 46)"

Without a sacrifice there is: no reward. Without a battle there is no victory. Without Good Friday there is no Easter Sunday. For a Christian suffering has a meaning and purpose: First the Cross and then, the Crown.

For St. Paul suffering meant the gateway to eternal life. " reckon." he said. "that the sufferings of this time are not worthy to be compared with the glory to come, that shall be revealed in us. (Rom. 8, 18)"

MAY I PAUSE to pay tribute to those who gave to Father O'Connor such kind and loving care during his long illness. If I may be so bold, I would thank in the name of God, first of all, his own sister who cared for him during many years, and then the Sisters and nurses of St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira, who watched over him during the trying and declining

May the God of all consolation reward and bless them all in this life and in eternity.

We pray that the soul of Faand in His depth of desolation Lyther O'Connor is with the Blessed in heaven where "they

years of his life.

(Continued from Page-1) of the Divine Word Mission bearers to the grave. House.

health.

He cared for the parishes of Cato and Red Creek until 1913 George Jones who served as maswhen he was transferred to Ludmond Wahl, assistant master. lowville with missions at Northville and Kings Ferry. After ten Cleary attended in the sanctuary. vears there, he was named pastor of St. Anthony's Church, Groton, the post he held until 1931 end Fathers John Guy, Edward J.

when he resigned due to failing Waters, Elmer McNamara, William Reed, Philip McGhan, Ralph Meyer, Edward Kurdziel, O.F.M. Priests of the Diocese chanted Conv

office of the dead in St. Alphon-Fathers Frederick Walz, Wilsus Church, Auburn, Tuesday evening and the Funeral Mass liam Tobin, Robert Kress, Wil-Wednesday was at 10:30 a.m. liam O'Brien, James Lane, William Davie, John Norris, John Father O'Connor is survived by Kleintjes, Paul Cuddy, Robert his brother, Joseph L. O'Connor Meng, William Thomas.

Very Rev. Msgr. Donald M.

Also present were the Rever-

of Port Ryron: four sisters. Ars. Fathers Joseph Gaynor, Wil-Katherine Flanagan of Auburn. Miss Margaret O'Connor and liam Hayes, Raymond Nolar, Ar-Mrs. Mary O'Connell of Roches thur Hack, Gerard Guli, Henry ter, and Mrs. Richard Harmon of Adamski, Frederick Eisemann and Robert Kreckel. Weeds port.

Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery where students of St.

thirst, neither shall the sun fall upon them, nor any heat, For the Lamb, who is in the midst of the throne, shall rule them, and shall lead them to the fountains of the waters of life, and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes. (Apoc. 7, 17)"

May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace

Fr. O'Connor Funeral Held If The Door (Bernard's Seminary served as Is Open PRIESTS ATTENDING Father O'Connor's funeral were: Rev. ter of ceremonies, and Rev. Ray-

Mie Ken. Japan---- If the door is open and you can walk right in, you can he sure it's 🕷 Catholic Church,

You Can Be Sure

The small Maryknoll Mission here had two distinguished visitors recently, the Italian Ambassador to Japan and his wife.

The couple had been on'a sight-seeing tour of the city and had dropped into the church for a visit.

"We were wondering, from a distance, if this was a Catholic Church," explained the Ambassador, to the pastor, Father Joseph J. Mooney, M.M., of Arlington, Mass., "but when we saw the door open, we knew it was!"

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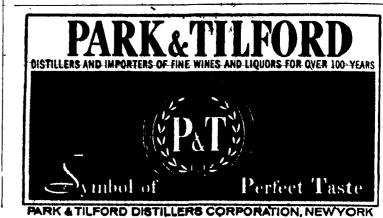
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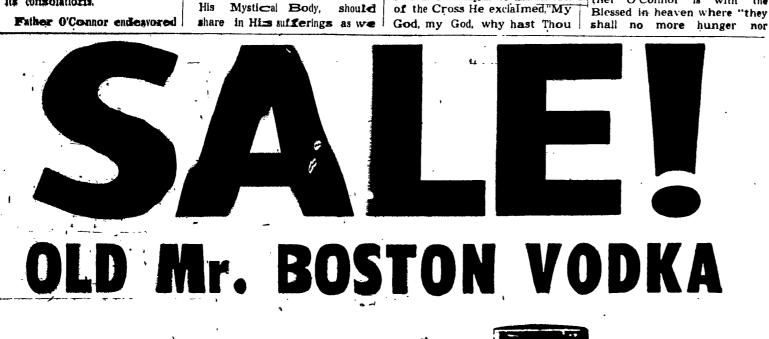


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braive ains; lie a

Father O'Connor had red and sometant for some ne in Corpus Christi Church Rationter and in a few othand ments in or near the me dty, he was sent by his ishop to be the pastor of Moravia, and the rest of his priestly ministry was destined to be in the County of Cayuga.

'FATHER O'CONNOR brought to his priesthood many gifts which he used to advantage in reaching the hearts and souls

No had a rich mind, a great realth of information, and a while internet in the affairs of He could converse with signal case and interest with the hwyer, the doctor, the beacher, the laborer, the priest Wr The peasant. He seemed to nave a sympathetic understanding of the problems of people.

He could say with the Latin poet, "Whatever is human is not foreign to my interests."

While Father O'Connor en-

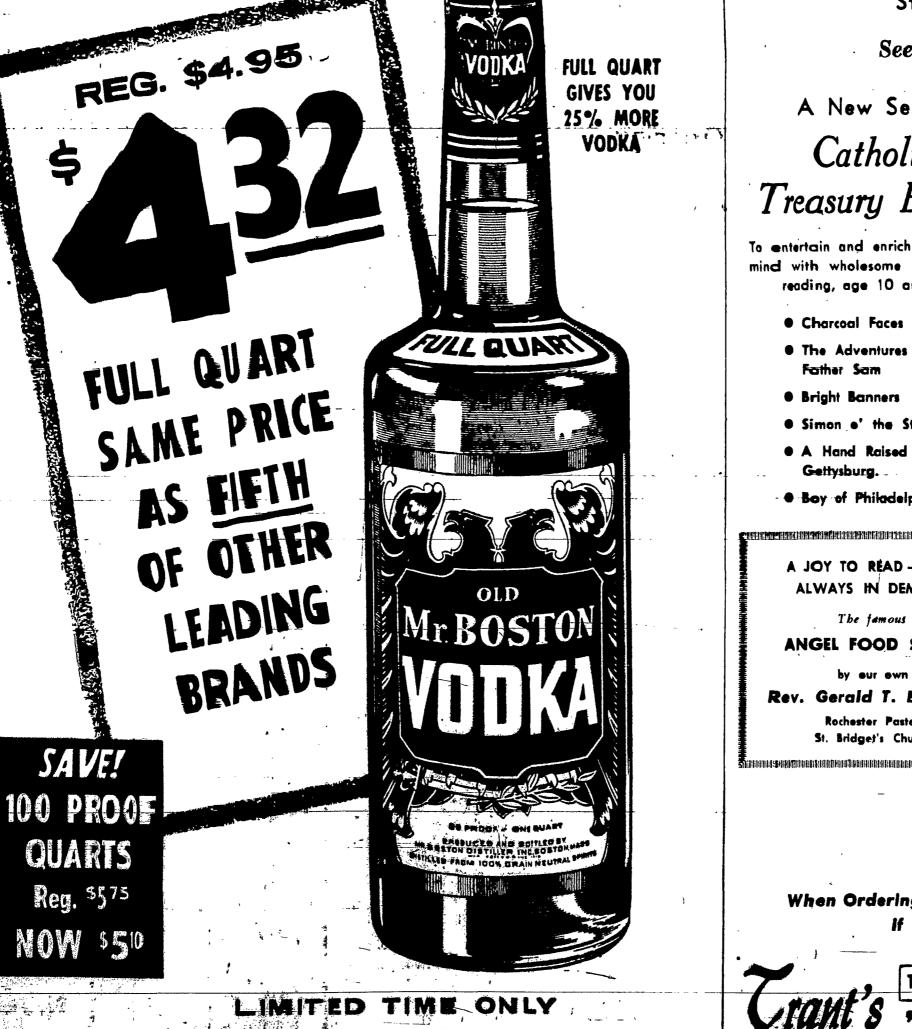


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