

# Parents Told 'Get Out Of God's Way!'

By JOHN O'CONNOR  
(N.C.W.C. News Service)

"Somebody's goofing — and it's not God!" That is the pithy observation of a sandalled Carmelite monk who considers with some alarm the religious vocation shortage in the United States.

Father Richard Madden, O.C.D., author, lecturer and retreat master, doesn't believe the shortage of vocations can be laid at any one doorstep. But of this much he is quite certain:

"WE CAN'T BLAME GOD; it's not His fault — He wants laborers for the vineyard, and He must be supplying the grace. But studies of the situation reveal that 74 per cent of all sisters in the U.S. faced some form of parental objection to their entering the religious life. And 52

per cent of all priests surveyed encountered some form of parental objection to their following their vocation.

"I say parents should get out of God's way and let grace do its work," Father Madden declares.

He points to the distorted sense of values of too many Catholics as responsible for an attitude that puts money, worldly position and comfort ahead of a call to God's service in the religious life.

"A LOT OF parents think it's all great if the boy down the street enters the seminary. 'But not my boy'... and when a girl comes home from school and announces that she wants to become a Sister what happens — howls from the parents," he said.

Father Madden says that the biggest enemy to a flowering Catholicism today is the indifferentism of far too

many Catholics — of which the attitude toward vocations to the religious life is but one aspect.

The man who wrote the book, "Men in Sandals," the story of life in a Carmelite monastery has some positive ideas about how to help promote vocations to the priesthood and Sisterhood:

"You can't push a youngster," Father Madden warns: "Of course that is hardly a problem today—it's usually the other way around."

"Parents keep pulling kids away from a vocation. But you've got to begin with an understanding of how great the religious vocation really is. It's the greatest, without doubt — the highest calling, and parents should keep before their children, what it really is to be a priest or a Sister."



## What Holy Communion Does For You

Many people receive Holy Communion infrequently because they do not "feel" its results in their souls.

They do not realize what great things take place in them as often as they unite themselves to Christ in Holy Communion, that are distinct from feeling, yet as real as God.

The following are effects that result from every worthy reception of Holy Communion.

● There is an immediate increase of sanctifying grace in the soul. Sanctifying grace is the life of the soul, and the degree of this life to which we attain while on earth will be the measure of our happiness and glory in heaven.

Each reception of Holy Communion increases our grace, our life, and our happiness hereafter.

● There is an immediate strengthening of the union between the soul and Christ, a strengthening which means that the mind will more readily think with Christ and the will more easily act like Christ — until after frequent Holy Communion the soul will gradually grow virtually identical in thought and love with Christ.

Added to this, there is a strengthening of the union between the soul who receives Christ and all other loyal Christians, so that it may be said that each single reception of Holy Communion makes more perfect the union that Christ desires among all his followers as members of His mystical Body.

● There is an immediate remission of venial sins for which there is sorrow in the soul, and sometimes even the remission of mortal sins such as those of which the person is at the time unconscious, but for which there is contrition in the soul.

Besides that, temporal punishment still due for sins forgiven is remitted by every reception of Holy Communion, and strength is given against future falls.

● There is a new sanctification given to the body by every reception of Holy Communion. The body becomes a hallowed place, the temple of God.

Such a sanctification always means a lessening of concupiscent and of all the passions, because God never approaches a soul without making it easier for that soul to be good.

● There is given to the body, in the moment of Holy Communion, a new claim to a glorious resurrection on the last day, because that which Christ has honored by His presence in this life, is by that fact made undeserving of perpetual death.

To think seriously about these things, which, as has been said, result immediately in the soul upon every worthy reception of Holy Communion, whether one "feels" them or not, is enough to make a frequent and even daily communicant out of any sincere Christian.

All that is needed is freedom from mortal sin, and a good, holy intention in approaching the altar railing.

### Quite Easy

● Ike: "My wife is reducing. This morning she touched her toes 20 times without bending her knees. Can your wife do that?"

Mike: "This morning my wife touched the floor with her chin, without bending her knees."

● How in the world did she do that?"

Mike: "She fell out of bed."

## Baptism

# Gateway To Heaven

By FATHER ATWELL

Every Sunday afternoon throughout the Rochester Diocese hundreds of proud parents bring their own infants to their parish church for baptism.

From statistics compiled by pastors in the diocese it is estimated that on some Sunday mornings as many as 8,000 infants are baptized. The ceremony is a beautiful and solemn rite, the gateway to heaven.

Candidates for baptism are also children of parents who are already baptized, but who are preparing adult converts for baptism at the Easter vigil rites late Holy Saturday night.

Some candidates are also converts from private institutions from parishes and will be baptized when their course of study is completed.

Following are the chief points of Catholic doctrine on this first of the seven sacraments instituted by Christ:

Baptism is a spiritual bath and a spiritual birth.

The outward visible sign of the sacrament consists in the pouring of water over the candidate's head while saying: "I baptize you in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

Ordinarily, the water used for the ceremony is specially blessed for the purpose at the Easter Vigil service. In emergencies, any natural water may be used. From the sick faces, a lake, a stream, an aerial, water, or even melted ice or snow.

Water aptly symbolizes the spiritual effects of the sacrament. Just as water is normally used for washing, and just as it is absolutely indispensable for life, so baptism cleanses the soul of all sin and gives a new life, the life of sanctifying grace, to the soul.

The sacrament remits not only the inherited stain of original sin but also, in the case of adults, all actual sins as well.

Church theologians also teach that baptism wipes out all punishment due to these sins as well as the sins themselves. Should a person die immediately after baptism, he is promptly admitted to heaven. None of the other sacraments grants such a fullness of pardon as does baptism.

THE SACRAMENT also confers upon the soul a new life, somewhat of a divine transfiguration, lifting the soul to a supernatural level with a capacity to act above and beyond even the keenest natural powers of an unbaptized person.

One of these new powers is the ability to believe divine revelation, to have the virtue or ability of faith.

Another new power is the right to make progress toward heaven and ultimately to attain this eternal reward.

The catechism expresses this by saying the newly baptized becomes "a child to God and an heir of heaven."

One of the permanent results of the sacrament is that a sacramental seal or character is "stamped" on the soul identifying this person as a Christian forever.

THIS PERSON is henceforth a member of Christ's Church and entitled to its privileges and bound by its obligations. Even if the person disgraces his Christian name by a sinful life, he loses the Church's privileges but never ceases to be a Christian even though a poor one.

Theologians point out that baptism is the key to heaven but is definitely no guarantee of salvation. "Baptism opens the gates of paradise for us,

Baptismal rite as done in the fourth century is shown in this drawing. The interior of the baptistry of St. John Lateran (Church, Rome's cathedral, is pictured according to descriptions written by Pope Sylvester and Pope Sixtus III (candidate stands in pool of water as priest assisted by deacon pours water on his head from a small cup or shell).



but we must walk in it," says one author. "This we can do only by cooperating with God's grace for the rest of our life."

Our Lord Jesus Christ emphasized the necessity of this sacrament many times in His preaching.

He told Nicodemus, "Unless a man be born again of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:5). Our Lord's final command to His Apostles was, "Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 28:19).

THE QUESTION naturally comes up, "Are there any substitutes for baptism?"

Again the theologians list two possibilities: baptism of desire and baptism of blood.

Baptism of desire is the case of a person who either does not know about the sacrament or is unable actually to receive it but moves the heart sincerely desiring to do all that God has commanded.

Examples of this are pagans who have never heard about the need for baptism, or a prospective convert preparing for baptism who dies suddenly.

Baptism of blood means martyrdom, a person killed for the faith or some Christian virtue prior to receiving the sacrament.

People also ask: "What about unbaptized babies?"

Our Lord never revealed what happens to these little ones. We know they do not suffer because they have committed no sin. Beyond that fact there is only speculation but we should remember that God's mercy and kindness is far greater than He has ever revealed it to us.

Since baptism is so essential a sacrament, the Catholic Church surrounds its administration with many special laws and ceremonies.

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## Bishop Kearney's Appointments

FEBRUARY

1. Saturday — Nazareth Convent: I. F. C. A. Mass — 8:30 a.m.
2. Sunday — St. Francis of Assisi: Family Rosary — 7:00 p.m.
3. Monday — St. Mary's Hospital: Blessing of Throats — 9:00 a.m.  
St. Mary's Hospital: Low Mass — 5:00 p.m.  
St. Michael's Church: Preside and Preach at Solemnity Mass — 7:45 p.m.
5. Wednesday — Rochester Club: Catholic Women's Club Annual Dinner — 6:30 p.m.
11. Tuesday — Marymount College: Centenary Mass of Our Lady of Lourdes.
16. Sunday — New York City: Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus Banquet — 7:00 p.m.

## Laity's Legacy

The Diocese has lost two outstanding members of the laity in the recent deaths of Charles Tucker and Mary Whalen.

Both were long active in Catholic and civic programs. Characteristic of their truly Christian spirit was their readiness to serve as leaders or in the ranks of the various organizations to which they belonged.

Mr. Tucker and Mrs. Whalen had the stamp of pioneers in their lives.

Mr. Tucker helped establish the laymen's retreat house, first at Geneva and later in Rochester. He was a charter member of the Nocturnal Adoration Society besides holding membership for 37 years in the Knights of Columbus and for many of those years was one of the top members of that organization's speakers bureau.

Mrs. Whalen was "first lady" of the Rochester Diocese Council of the National Council of Catholic Women, the Catholic Women's Club, Sacred Heart Academy's Mothers Club and the Volunteer Aid Service of St. Mary's Hospital — all four organizations still flourishing on the foundations she laid as their first president.

BOTH OF THESE devoted lay people were also blessed in their family life with children now grown to maturity and living lives that have been a joy to their parents.

Both families were especially blessed in God's calling children from each to serve Him in the priesthood and in the religious life.

The greatest monuments to the memory of each of these two people will be the continuing works of faith accomplished to God's honor by the families and organizations they so exemplarily served.

### Sort of Lonesome

● Reporter: "To what do you attribute your success?"  
Business Man: "Well, I'm just trying to make an honest living, and there isn't much competition."

## Strange But True . . .

**The Church of the SHEPHERD FIELDS, BETHLEHEM, is built in the form of a BEDOUIN TENT.**

**SANTA MARIA IN TRASTEVERE, CHURCH, ROME, IS BUILT OVER AN OIL WELL. A TABLET ON THE CHURCH FLOOR INDICATES WHERE OIL GUSHED FORTH THREE YEARS BEFORE CHRIST'S BIRTH BUT WAS STOPPED UP AND HAS REMAINED UNTAPPED.**

**THIS PERSON is henceforth a member of Christ's Church and entitled to its privileges and bound by its obligations. Even if the person disgraces his Christian name by a sinful life, he loses the Church's privileges but never ceases to be a Christian even though a poor one.**

**The BASILICA OVER the TOMB OF ST. FRANCIS IN ASSISI STANDS ON GROUND WHERE WOLFPISTORS WERE EXECUTED. CALLED "THE HILL OF HELL," the POPE RESIGNED "THE HILL OF PARADISE."**

**The shrine of the SACRED CORPORAL, in ST. MARY'S BASILICA, BARCELONA, contains SIX HOSTS which shed blood during a battle between Spaniards & Moors at Valencia in 1259.**