



# Let Us Dedicate Lent To Our Lady Of Lourdes

My Dear People:

With the Eleventh of February of this year, by decree of His Holiness, Pope Pius XII, a year of special devotion in honor of Our Lady of Lourdes has begun. For all it should mean a year of renewed enthusiasm for the Immaculate Mother of God. Just what shape this enthusiasm should take in terms of practical devotion is clearly outlined by His Holiness. After alluding to the fact that many will undoubtedly go on pilgrimage to Lourdes, the Holy Father turns his attention to the world-wide celebration.

"To this end also (the obtaining of the most certain protection of the Immaculate Virgin) will be the solemn ceremonies and devout supplications to God and the Mother of the Divine Redeemer that will be raised up in all parts of the world.

"In fact, we strongly wish, as we have already mentioned in our encyclical letter 'The Lourdes Pilgrimage,' that jubilee celebrations be held not only at Lourdes near the venerated image of the Immaculate Virgin, but also wherever there are temples dedicated to Almighty God in her honor.

"In the same manner that 25 years ago on the occasion of solemnities of the same kind, our Predecessor, Pius XI of happy memory, asserted . . . that the faithful could not celebrate these ceremonies in a manner better suited and more worthy than by receiving the divine Eucharist with piety and by assisting fruitfully at the sacrifice of Calvary which is renewed every day in an unbloody manner, so do we with paternal affection also address to them the same exhortation.

"The Eucharist is, in fact, the center and greatest expression of the Christian life, for our souls draw from it the supernatural force of divine grace with the help of which more than anything else we can overcome the dangers of the present world and attain the happiness of the future life.

"We can furthermore do nothing that is more agreeable to our most sweet Mother Mary during the solemnities of this centenary year than profit by these treasures of the divine Redemption, uniting ourselves more closely to her only-begotten Son, Who for all mortal men is 'the way and the truth and the life.'

"Furthermore, since the Blessed Virgin Mary, when she appeared in the grotto of Lourdes to the most innocent and unspoiled child, exhorted her, and through her all men, not only to pray but also to perform voluntary acts of penance, we therefore desire that all Christians will strive not only to check and control their passions, but also to perform, whenever possible, various voluntary acts of mortification and penance during the centenary year.

"All must remember, however, that the foremost and necessary acts of penance they must perform are the work, pains and sufferings that are an inseparable part of every man's life. These toils, these anxieties and sufferings must be borne by Christians in such a manner that like the Hosts of the mystical Sacrifice they will become an offering in the sight of God."

This message from the Vicar of Christ is a most timely challenge to all of us at the opening of the Lenten Season.

For the special purpose of encouraging daily Communion during the Holy Season we have granted permission for an evening Mass in all our churches. Let us make Lent of 1958 worthy of its dedication to our Lady of Lourdes in this centenary year of her apparition.

God bless you.

Your devoted Shepherd in Christ,

*James J. Kearney*  
Bishop of Rochester.

P.S. 1) This letter is to be read at all Masses on Quinquagesima Sunday, February 16, 1958.

2) The annual collection for the Negro and Indian Missions will be taken up on the first Sunday of Lent, February 23, 1958.

3) Pastors are authorized to have an evening Mass on all week days of Lent (Sundays excluded). On Wednesday the Mass must be of the Liturgy of the day and the Lenten sermon must be preached at it.

4) A general dispensation from fast and/or abstinence will be granted on Saturday, February 22nd; Monday, March 17th; and Friday, May 30th.

## Helicopters To Lourdes

Vatican City — (RNS) — French authorities have arranged for a permanent helicopter station at the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes to help in transporting seriously ill pilgrims, the Vatican Radio reported.

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## Reds Invent New Godless 'Baptism' Rite

Vatican City — (NC) — Communists in East Germany have devised a form of atheistic baptism as a means of absorbing the people in "a false mystical materialism," according to Radio Vatican.

The broadcast reported that parents of 33 infants in Weimar, East Germany, have accepted the imposition of an "oath of atheism for life," which is intended to recruit young people for the communist cause and supplant Christian baptism in East Germany.

RADIO VATICAN said the parents made the following statement:

"Our children are the hope, the springtime and the pride of our new people. The constitution and the laws of the republican democracy are the guarantee of our children's happiness."

At the end of the ceremony, representatives of the Weimar municipality gave the parents a document in which was recorded the "atheistic baptism" of their children and presented them with flowers. It was reported.

THE BROADCAST added:

"A curious phenomenon, this communism, that in the frenzy of its invasions yet it remains anchored to religious concepts of exclusively Christian origin, such as baptism and confirmation.

## Trappists Report 40 Applicants

Snowmass, Colo. — (NC) — Forty applications for admission to the community have been received at St. Benedict's Trappist monastery here, founded less than two years ago.

## Mother Seton's Story

By EDWARD STEIMER

In old New York City on Aug. 28, 1774, the Feast of St. Augustine, there was born in a prominent Episcopal family a child who was to become foundress of the American Sisters of Charity, aunt of a pioneer Catholic Bishop, and perhaps in time the first native-born American citizen to be canonized a saint.

Elizabeth Ann Bayley was the second of three children, all girls, of Dr. Richard Bayley and Catherine Charlotte Bayley. Her father, health officer of the Port of New York, was the first professor of anatomy at King's College (Columbia University). Her mother was the daughter of an Episcopal minister, rector of St. Andrew's Church, Staten Island.

### Historic Times

The times were historic. The Boston Tea Party had already taken place, and that year the first Continental Congress convened. The American Revolutionary War officially began a few months later, and Elizabeth was two years old when the Declaration of Independence was signed.

She was almost three years old when her mother died, too young to realize the fullness of her loss, but her father determined to himself undertake the education of the little girls. Elizabeth's sisters were Catherine, who died at the age of two, and Mary, who later married a physician.

Dr. Bayley married again. The children's stepmother was Charlotte Barclay, daughter of Andrew and Helen Roosevelt Barclay. This event made Elizabeth a collateral ancestor of U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Seven children were born of this second marriage.

### Private School

During the war the father was also a staff surgeon under Sir Guy Carleton, the British commander. He was very busy, yet took much time and care in the education and training of his children, who were sent to a small private school. At the age of six Elizabeth was teaching her younger sisters her prayers.

With these children she read daily in the Bible and the "Imitation of Christ." She was gay and vivacious, and took delight in the simplest works of nature, which turned her thoughts to God. She was later to write: "The first point of religion is cheerfulness and harmony."



SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS — U.S. Airman Donald G. Farrell, sits out weeklong vigil in sealed cabinet here as part of experiment to test human endurance in future plans for "moon travel." A graduate of New York Catholic schools, the young airman received a spiritual briefing and a blessing from the Catholic Chaplain before "shoving off into space" early this week. Farrell's goal is to stay in the sealed cabinet until Saturday.

## Chaplain Blessed Spaceman

San Antonio — (NC) — A youthful airman here on a make believe trip to the moon got some spiritual counsel from a chaplain before his simulated space rocket "blasted off."

The night before Donald G. Farrell, 23, of the Bronx was sealed into an experimental space cabinet at Randolph Air Force Base near here, he had a long talk with Father (Maj.) Raymond F. Coleman, chaplain at the base who is from the

Baltimore archdiocese. Father Coleman pronounced him spiritually prepared and sent him into "space" with a blessing.

SCIENTISTS HERE hope that on February 15 the six-foot airman will be able to step from his three-by-five foot steel shell and report that the human body is ready for the hazards of space travel.

For seven days Airman Farrell is scheduled to experience condi-

tions similar to those a human being would meet in a satellite circling the globe 1,000 miles in space, or on a trip to the moon.

If the Air Force accounting clerk can withstand the ordeal, his name will be added to those of other space pioneers. Other volunteers thus far have been able to spend only 24 hours at a stretch in the space cabinet.

Airman Farrell is a member of Holy Cross parish in the Bronx. He attended Holy Cross Grammar School and also Cardinal Hayes High School in the Bronx.

In commenting on his experimental trip, his mother, Mrs. James A. Farrell, said in New York: "At first I was not too concerned. Having read about it however, I realize it is quite hazardous. We'll all be happy when it's over."

Airman Farrell is just as alone in his space cabinet as a traveler making a solo flight to the moon. The motion of a speeding rocket is the only condition that he does not experience.

Scientists observe him by looking at a television camera mounted in a cubicle. They can also see his reactions through a porthole panel of one-way glass, without Airman Farrell knowing it.

CARBON MONOXIDE from the airman's breath is removed from the air and oxygen is supplied. Excess moisture from his lungs and sweat glands is purified by chemicals and converted into drinking water. Specially prepared food reaches him through an air lock.

But the airman has no newspapers, radio or television. He does not know what the weather is, and unless he can calculate from his watch he will not know if it is day or night until his space journey is ended.

According to scientists, the main purpose of the experiment is to see if the volunteer can endure complete isolation for seven days without cracking.

### INSIDE

Lenten Rules On Fast, Abstinence (Page 4)

'Our Sacrifice' (Page 4)

'Our Lady Built Lourdes' (Page 2)

Face Facts On Marital Problem (Page 6)

Orange Blossom Diamond Rings, Terms, William S. Thorne Jewelry, 218 Main St. East — Adv.

# 60,000 Attend Rites Opening Lourdes Centenary

Lourdes, France — (RNS) — Over 60,000 pilgrims, among them great numbers of prelates, priests and nuns, gathered here on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes for the formal opening of the jubilee year marking the centenary of the world's most famous Marian shrine.

The opening was solemnized at a noonday Pontifical High Mass celebrated by Pierre Cardinal Gerlier, Archbishop of Lyons and Primate of Gaul, in the basilica atop the grotto where the Blessed Virgin appeared 18 times in 1858.

Overhead were skies as blue as the Virgin's sash. In the distance the snow-covered peaks of the Pyrenees gleamed as white as the robe in which "the Lady" appeared to St. Bernadette Soubirous, then a peasant girl of 14.

Prior to the beginning of the Mass, the voice of Pope Pius XII reciting the Angelus—prayers recalling the Archangel Gabriel's message to Mary announcing that she was to be the Mother of Christ — was transmitted by radio directly from Vatican City.

Bishop Pierre Marie Theas of Lourdes and Tardieu then read a message from the Pope at the dressed to "Our dear pilgrims of Lourdes" gathered in a city that "is full of joy" and offers a "supernatural message of hope."

THE PONTIFF appealed to all Christians to respond to the appeal of Mary Immaculate for prayer, charity and penance. He asked especially for prayers for the freedom of the Church in lands "where oppression rages."

A spontaneous burst of singing from the assembled pilgrims filled the basilica as the bishop concluded the reading of the papal message. Meanwhile, the strains of the Ave Maria mingled with the carillons of all the churches of Lourdes.

After the Mass, a procession headed by 15,000 children dressed in blue and white and 6,000 young men and women in Basque costumes made its way to the grotto where, day and night, a thousand candles burn.

"The true miracle of Lourdes," Cardinal Gerlier told the pilgrims, "is not the fact that there are miraculous cures in the city, but that 100 years after a little girl saw the Virgin, 8,000,000 pilgrims are planning to kneel on the spot where she appeared."

Throughout the previous day and night, while other pilgrims kept a nocturnal watch of prayer, pilgrims poured into the Marian city. The basilica was illuminated all night and as its silhouette appeared on the horizon the thousands of pilgrims started to sing the Magnificat

the great canticle uttered by the Virgin after she was greeted by her cousin Elizabeth on the occasion of the Visitation.

AMONG THE pilgrims were ten little girls who, only two days before, had had no idea that they were going to take part in the centenary celebrations.

On the previous Sunday night, a contestant on a radio program revealed that her dream was to send ten little girls to Lourdes. She won. Immediately Secours Catholique, French Catholic welfare organization, went to work to make the winner's dream come true.

Chosen to be sent to Lourdes in luxury coaches were two blind girls, two polio victims, two orphans, two cripples and two twelve-year-olds who have been taking the place at home of their dead mothers. All came wearing clothes exactly like those of Bernadette Soubirous.

On the previous day, also, bare-footed pilgrims followed the outdoor Stations of the Cross in spite of the cold and mud.

THE OPENING of the centenary year was marked, too, by a Mass at Nevers celebrated by Archbishop Paul Marella, Apostolic Nuncio to France. St. Bernadette belonged in her later years to a Nevers convent and it is there that her relics are preserved.

At Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, a huge congregation gathered at noon to recite the Angelus in unison with the recorded voice of the Pope.

In Lourdes, itself, the opening day of the jubilee year concluded with a torchlight procession of the Blessed Sacrament.

## Parishes List C-J Circulation Gains

St. Ann's parish, Palmyra, started the Courier Journal's February circulation campaign off in high gear by enrolling all its families there as subscribers to the diocesan paper.

Father John J. Healy, administrator of St. Ann's this week submitted 281 names from the Palmyra parish, an increase of 175 over last year's total.

This will be the first time St. Ann's has adopted the Courier Journal's "total coverage" plan of sending the paper to every Catholic family in Palmyra.

FOURTEEN PARISHES reported this week they will repeat the "total coverage" plan previously adopted in these parishes. They also reported increased subscriptions over last year's totals:

— Biggest gain came in St. John the Evangelist parish, Greece. Rev. Donald E. Lux, pastor, renewing the 100 per cent plan there, reported 1,269 subscribers, an increase of 76.

Annunciation, Rochester, Rev. Albert L. Simonetti, pastor, reported 572 subscriptions, 52 more than last year.

St. Charles Borromeo, Elmira Heights, Rev. Joseph G. Merkel, pastor, 342 total, a gain of 35.

St. Stephen, Geneva, Rev. Raymond P. Nolan, pastor, 967 subscribers, 22 of them new this year.

Also reporting increased totals: St. James, Rochester, Rev. Francis M. Feeney, pastor, 900 total (increase of 4); St. Pius X, Rochester, Rev. Donald J. Murphy, pastor, 326 (4); St. Patrick, Cato, 54 (6); and St. Thomas, Red Creek, 45 (6). Rev. William Tobin, pastor.

St. John the Baptist, Elmira, Rev. Joseph O. Gorman, pastor, 168 (2). St. Thomas, Leicester, St. Raphael, Piffard, and St. Lucy, Betsel, Rev. Charles R.

Reynolds, pastor, 165 (increase 4); St. Michael, Lyons, Rev. John F. Neary, pastor, 282 (6); Holy Angels, Nunda, 64 (6); and Holy Name, Groveland, 35, Rev. Raymond G. Hesel, pastor.

St. Michael, Penn Yan, 397 (8); and St. Andrew, Dundee, 55 (2). Rev. Francis G. Waterstrait, pastor.

St. Pius X, Van Allen, Rev. Michael Reider, O.F.M. Cap., administrator, 45 (1), and Chapel of the Divine Compassion, Sonoma, Rev. John A. Murphy, chaplain, 61, a gain of 2.

ANOTHER FIVE parishes also announced renewal of the "total coverage" plan at totals the same as last year:

Holy Rosary, Rochester, Rt. Rev. Msgr. Charles F. Shay, pastor, 1,032 subscribers; St. Patrick, Aurora, and St. Michael, Union Springs, Rev. Ralph J. Meyer, pastor, 95; St. Pius V, Cohocton, Rev. Herbert L. Sturmer, pastor, 84; St. Ann, Hornell, Rt. Rev. Msgr. Laurence W. Gannon, V.F., pastor, 618; and St. James, Waverly, Rev. G. Stuart Hogan, pastor, 468.

Elmer Grapenstetter, Courier-Journal circulation manager, said early returns in the current month long subscription campaign, indicate the diocesan paper will "boost its subscription totals again this year to a new record high figure."

## Vatican Radio Hits Use Of Profanity

Vatican City — (RNS) — The Vatican Radio broadcast a lengthy exhortation against swearing and cursing. It said the practice is "very sinful" and "harmful to children."