

Widow - Mother Becomes Nun Monsignor Luddy Requiem Today

PARABLES FOR TODAY

(Continued from Page 1)

be joy in heaven." He said, "over one sinner who repents, more than over ninety-nine just who need not penance." (Luke 15:7) Or as Christ also said: "I say to you, there will be joy among the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (Luke 15:10)

OUR LORD was always eager to see sinners make a spiritual comeback, to have them return to God's grace. His affection for repentant sinners brought upon Christ the world's censure.

"This man, our Lord's critics charged, welcomes sinners and eats with them." (Luke 15:2)

In defense of the sinner as well as himself, Christ told the Parable of the Prodigal Son. This is the classic story of "The Man Who Came Back."

The Prodigal Son, as our Lord describes him, was the younger of two sons. He was eager to be free of all family restraint. He wanted to enjoy the freedom of being on his own and away from his father's house.

To make his dream come true, the youth asked his father to hand over to him a share of the family estate. The father, perhaps a too indulgent father, agreed to his young son's demand.

Once he had his hands on his inheritance, the Prodigal lost no time going out on his own. With his newly found wealth burning a hole in his pocket, he was soon on his way (nobody could stop him) to find the elusive pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. His mad quest for the new freedom carried him into a far off country.

Money always buys friends and the Prodigal had no trouble finding friends to help him spend his wealth. The young man, as our modern pleasure seekers put it, "really lived it up." He squandered his fortune in loose living.

A CAREER of sin has a way of ending suddenly. The Prodigal's new found life of gay freedom did not last very long. The money which he obtained so easily slipped through his fingers just as easily. And once his money was gone so were his fair-weather friends.

With his world of false dreams crashing around him, the Prodigal headed for the last refuge of all derelicts — "Sick Row." In the face of a famine which swept the land, he could find only a job caring for swine. In his desperation to get enough food to keep alive he was ready to share the swine's swill.

Tribulation often brings sinners to their senses. At least it opened the Prodigal's eyes to his sad plight and forced him to recognize his foolishness. In his misery, the young man remembered his father's house, its comfort and happiness. Even his father's servants were better off than he was.

The Prodigal came to a decision promptly. He decided to return home. He would ask his father's forgiveness and say to him:

"Father, I have sinned against heaven and before thee. I am no longer worthy to be called thy son. Make me one of thy hired men."

ONCE THE Prodigal made his decision, he started for his home. And here comes the best part of this story. . . . When the Prodigal neared home, his father (who apparently was watching for him each day) saw him from afar. The father raced to his shamed-faced son, embraced him and kissed him.

The repentant youth tried to

confess his guilt — "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before thee . . . but his father interrupted to give orders to his servants:

"Fetch quickly, the said, 'the best robe and put it on him, and give him a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. Bring out the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry.'" (Luke 15:21-24)

Why this generous reception of the wastrel son?

"Because, said the father, 'this my son was dead and has come back to life again. He was lost and is found.'" (Luke 15:24)

This dissolute youth who abandoned his father's house and wasted his inheritance is the true picture of every sinner. Like the Prodigal, who sinner wastes his God-given graces and turns his back on God.

THE HIGHLIGHT, however, of the story of the Prodigal is the generous welcome home which he received from his father. The merciful father had no time or thought for reprimand or rebuke. He had only joy because his son, who was lost, came back.

In the same way, Christ means to show us, God has joy and mercy when a sinner who is sorry comes back to Him. The story of the Prodigal is a very good story only because the sinner returns to God there is no joy, no story worth telling.

HERE IN THIS story of the Prodigal, Christ outlines the steps a sinner must take in order to come back to God. The steps are these:

• The sinner must make up his mind to return to God. Like the Prodigal, the sinner must say: "I will get up and go to my father." The sinner must have a sincere desire to make a comeback.

• Act promptly. The key to spiritual conversion lies in prompt response to God's inspiration of grace. His invitation to the sinner to come back. Procrastination and delay are fatal for the sinner. All the good intentions in the world, unless they are acted upon, road home to God. He must go to God immediately, once he realizes his plight as the Prodigal did. "And he arose and went to his father."

• Honest Confession — The Prodigal Son did not try to excuse himself. He admitted his mistakes humbly and honestly. "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before thee." Even as the Prodigal's confession won his father's pardon, so the Catholic, once he has confessed his sins in the Sacrament of Penance, wins the pardon of Christ.

Any sinner can delude himself into finding a thousand excuses for defending his mistakes. But as long as the sinner tries to excuse or defend himself he will not come back to God. When the sinner is ready to admit his folly he is ready to take the last step on the road back to God and God's love.

Christ's story of the Prodigal Son is the story of the man who came back — the story of the man who returned not only to God but to his own senses.

\$3 Million Goal Set For Charities

New York — (NC) — A goal of \$3,000,000, the largest in its 39-year history, will be sought by New York Catholic Charities in its 1938 fund appeal.

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'Rosary' Priest

Madrid, Spain — (NC) — America's Father Patrick Peyton blesses new series of films depicting the Mysteries of the Rosary. The films were made here under the direction of Father Peyton, director of Family Rosary Crusade.

State Trooper Quits To Become Priest

Randolph, Vt. — (NC) — Resigned as a state trooper, John Heffernan has entered the novitiate of the Parolote Fathers here to begin studies for the priesthood.

While stationed at state police headquarters here, Trooper Heffernan made a list of friends. When he made his decision to study for the priesthood, his friends didn't forget him. With his relatives they staged a farewell party in his honor.

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — A widowed mother of ten children became a Catholic nun here.

Mrs. Gertrude Burns, 62, took the vows that made her sister Gertrude, a cloistered Franciscan nun. In so doing she followed the name of her children into religious orders.

One of her sons, the Rev. John Burns, O.M.I., 26, of Oblate College, Washington, D.C., celebrated the ceremony that made his mother a nun at Adoration Convent, near the campus of the Catholic University of America.

A SPECIAL dispensation was given by Pope Pius-XII so that Mrs. Burns could become a nun.

Sister Gertrude said she had not thought about making religious vows until her husband James A. Burns, a Columbus, O. plastering contractor, died two years ago. She has been preparing for religious life during the past year at Adoration Convent, after learning that the Vatican was disposed to grant her unusual request.

Present at the ceremony at which Sister Gertrude took her vows were her daughters Sister Veronica, 32, teacher at the College of Saint Francis, Joliet, Ill.; Sister Agnes, 29, a cloistered Franciscan nun at the Adoration Convent; Sister Elicia, 25, a teacher at St. Francis Xavier School, Chicago, Ill.; and Sister Julia, 22, a teacher at St. Pascal in Chicago.

Also present was her sister, Sister Maurine, who teaches at Alleman high school, Rock Island, Ill.

Unable to attend because of their duties were her daughters Sister Kathleen, 22-year-old twin of Sister Julia, who teaches at Our Lady of Sacred Heart, Cincinnati; and Sister Mary Leo, 20, a teacher at St. George's School in Cincinnati; as well as a son, James A. Burns, Jr., 30, now completing his studies for the Jesuit Order at a seminary in West Baden, Ind.

HER SON FRANCIS, 31, of Columbus, the only one of her children who did not enter religious life, remained home because of business. He succeeded his father as head of the plastering firm. Francis is the father of six children.

Another son, Leo, died six years ago at the age of 25 while studying to be a Jesuit priest. Sister Gertrude said she did



Mrs. Gertrude Burns, 62, a widow, becomes Sister Gertrude of the Franciscan Sisters at the Blessed Sacrament Monastery in Washington, D.C. Here her priest-son, Father John Burns officiates at ceremony in which his mother makes her religious vows. In becoming a nun, the widowed mother followed her six grandchildren into religious life.

not encourage her children to take up religious vocations and that it came as a surprise to her when nearly all of them did.

Spanish City To Renew Vow

Barcelona, Spain — (NC) — The Barcelona city government has voted to renew the city's vow to honor the Immaculate Conception every July 19 with special services in the local cathedral.

(Continued from Page 1)
later as rector of St. Andrew's Seminary, then located on Plymouth Ave. North.

Approximately half the priests of the Diocese today were once pupils of Monsignor Luddy.

He was professor of Latin at the preparatory seminary from 1919 until 1929 when he was named rector there.

During his eight years as rector at St. Andrew's, he reorganized the curriculum of studies and introduced New York State Regents examinations to assure students the opportunity of attending prominent colleges and universities.

BORN IN Rochester in 1890 he was orphaned at the age of eight and he was placed in St. Mary's Boys' Home.

He attended Rochester Mechanical Institute after winning a scholarship to that school of engineering. He later decided to be a priest and made his studies at St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's Seminaries.

He was ordained by Bishop Thomas F. Hickey, second bishop of Rochester, June 9, 1917, to St. Patrick's Cathedral, Rochester.

His first assignment gave him double duties as teacher at Gibbons High School and assistant pastor of St. Augustine Church, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

In 1918, he was named assistant at Sacred Heart Church, the Cathedral, Rochester, and a year later assigned to the staff of St. Andrew's Seminary.

During his eighteen years at the seminary and over twenty

years as Our Lady of Lourdes pastor, Monsignor Luddy was in frequent demand as a speaker, especially at teachers meetings and at educational conferences.

Parishioners describe his sermons as clear and logical and rooted in the phraseology of the Holy Scriptures. His years as a seminary professor showed itself in his fine command of the English language.

IN RECENT years his health failed notably yet he continued his duties as pastor.

Last year in separate events, men and women of the parish came in hundreds to pay tribute to their ailing but active pastor.

Since his appointment as pastor at Our Lady of Lourdes twenty years ago, Monsignor Luddy witnessed the rapid growth of suburban Rochester in the English city and provided for the Catholic population which has more than doubled in that time.

Last night priests of the Diocese chanted office of the dead for Monsignor Luddy at the church.

His body was at the rectory Wednesday and was brought to church at 4 p.m. yesterday to lie in state until the funeral rites this morning.

Funeral will be in the priests' plot at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Naples Archbishop
Vatican City (NC) — Coadjutor Archbishop Alfonso Cardinal of Naples has been appointed Archbishop of Naples by Pope Pius XII. He succeeds Cardinal Mimmi, now head of the Sacred Consistorial Congregation here.

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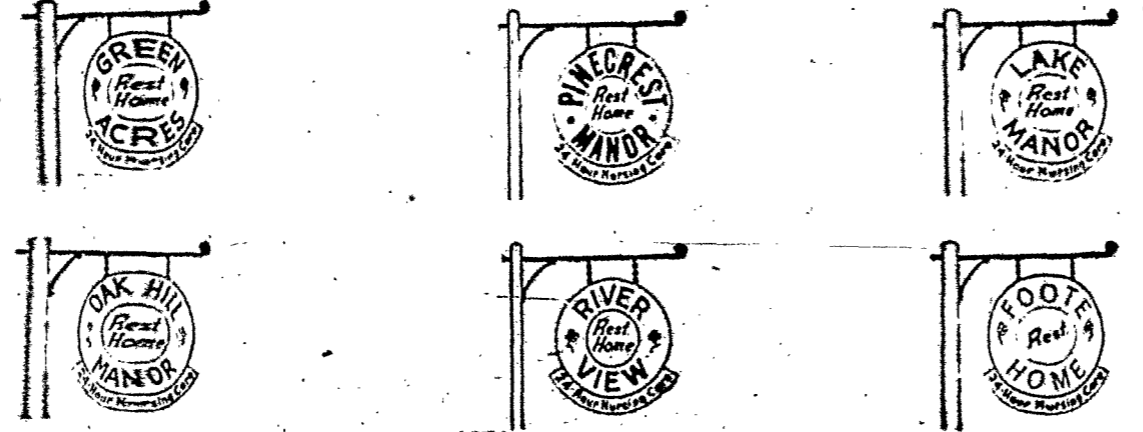


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