

## Father O'Brien

Following is the text of the eulogy preached by the Rev. George S. Wood at the funeral Mass of Rev. Michael P. O'Brien in Sacred Heart Cathedral, Wednesday, March 26, 1958.

"And I say to thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church."—(Matthew XVI-18)

When God created the world He gave many gifts, but the greatest gift which God has given to the world is the gift of Himself, when He became man on Christmas day, and still remained God. He wished to offer Himself for the salvation of the world upon the Cross of Calvary.

Faithful to the humanity which He assumed, Christ subjected Himself to the hardships and pains and struggles and sufferings of life. Faithful to the divinity which He possessed, Christ continued to bestow the gifts of God upon mankind. He gave us the power of salvation. He gave us the grace of God in the Sacraments. He gave us the gift of the Sacrifice of the Mass. He finally gave us the gift of His Mystical Body, the Church.

CHRIST DID NOT intend to have these gifts die with His death. They were to be renewed for every individual and for every generation until the end of time. That is why Christ said: "Thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church." That is why Christ said: "And behold I am with you all days even to the consummation of the world." That is why Christ arranged the perpetuation of these gifts by the continuation of His priesthood throughout the world.

It is through the priest that the truths of Christ are still taught and the sacraments of Christ still administered. It is through the priest that the Sacrifice of Christ is still repeated. The priest is another Christ.

That is why the priesthood is honored. That is why evil tyrants seek to destroy the priesthood when they wish to destroy the Church. That is why the priesthood is the most dynamic and fruitful gift that Christ can bestow upon the priest himself or upon the people whom he serves.

That is why the death of a priest is the greatest of tragedies to his family, to his friends, to his parishioners, to his Diocese and to the Church.

For these reasons we pause today before the stilled form of a priest to do him honor.

It was on May the 18th, 1940 we saw him kneeling in this Church receiving the command of his bishop to go forth and teach and baptize and offer sacrifice.

The years that followed are well known. His appointment to Holy Apostles Church, then to St. Mary's. His active service in the Army as a chaplain, his years at St. Thomas and St. Monica's and finally last June he received another command from his bishop—to establish the newest Church in the diocese of Rochester—Our Lady of Mercy.

He entered into this work with his whole body and soul—calling on every family personally in the parish, making a complete census. His heart was filled with joy when on St. Patrick's day he entered his new rectory to work in the midst of his flock—bearing the words of Christ "Upon this rock I will build my Church." He was still strong and active in his priestly duties when he was stricken on Sunday while taking the registration for his new school.

The mind of God is infinite. Therefore our finite minds cannot penetrate the reason why God called him. One might be tempted to say: "how sad that one so young should die, should he taken in the very maturity of his priesthood." Such a speaker would reveal no understanding of what a privilege it is to be worn out in the service of Christ and His Church.

The time of a good priest's death is always in the hands of God and we must never speak of it as "premature," however young, however gifted, the priest may be.

FATHER O'BRIEN'S personal gifts were rich and rare. He possessed a fine priestly mind. His humor, his smile and his humanity made his humility warm and attractive. He was sincere and steadfast and sacrificial.

He was never too busy to busy himself with outside activities, such as the men in his Army outfit, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the pilgrims who journeyed with him three times to Our Lady's Shrine at Knock in Ireland. He had an intense devotion to duty as well as to his fellow-priests and to his family.

The sorrow which we, his fellow-priests, feel today is only secondary to the sorrow imposed upon his good mother, brother and sisters. To them, in the name of Bishop Keane and Bishop Casey and of the entire Diocese, we extend our deepest sympathy and our prayerful hope that God will

sustain them in their sorrow.

One who had given his all in 18 years in the priesthood is once again in the Church of his ordination—not to hear the words "Upon this rock I will build my Church." His Church is being built—but to hear the words "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

The voice heard from the pulpit and at the altar and in the confessional is forever still. For the last time in this earth he will wear the priestly vestment and in heaven he will forever walk with the Great High Priest.

Mary shall be his companion for she is "Our Lady of Mercy." St. Michael the archangel will be his associate.

The Mass he said for so many others was this morning said for him. The holy water so often sprinkled on the coffins of others by him will now be sprinkled on his own. He will go out of this Cathedral, his home parish, for the last time to be laid to rest next to his classmate Father Joseph McCarthy, whom we buried on Monday.

We who have loved him in life, let us not be unmindful of him in death and now may we say in the words of the Church a solemn farewell: "Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and may perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen."

## St. Pius X School Drive Tops \$100,000

Pledges totaling \$102,711 were reported Tuesday in the campaign among parishioners of St. Pius X Church, Chili, for funds toward construction of a new school building.

No official goal was set in the campaign but it was hoped to attain \$75,000 or \$80,000. The amount of \$102,711 was acclaimed because of the number of families, 320, in the parish.

The Rev. Donald J. Murphy, pastor, said construction will begin soon for the proposed one-story building, to be attached to the rear of the new St. Pius X Church building, 3000 Chili Ave. Completion is expected next fall.

Commending the committee and parishioners "for their tremendous sacrifices," Father Murphy termed the \$100,146 school pledge "all the more remarkable because during the last two years these same persons have contributed generously toward erection of our new church building."

THE NEW SCHOOL will replace two 100-year-old frame structures on Chestnut Ridge Road where five-grades now are conducted by the Sisters of St. Joseph. There are no facilities there, Father Murphy pointed out, to take care of the additional grade to be added next fall. Nearly 180 children now are enrolled in the five grades.

The new building will conform with the church in exterior con-



SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN for St. Pius X Parish School was spurred by His Excellency Auxiliary Bishop Casey, center, with Rev. Dr. Frederick J. Zwierlein (left) and Rev. Donald J. Murphy, pastor. Campaigners were led by (standing) Clifford Schallmo, vice chairman; Robert Cridde, chairman, and Richard O'Marra, vice chairman.

struction. Eventually it will form a unit of a 18-classroom school, plus a cafeteria and a health room, administration rooms, etc.

Sisters now living in a frame dwelling, at the west end of the Chili Avenue property will transfer residence to the new building, making the present convent available for a rectory. Overall future planning envisions the present church as a school auditorium and gymnasium.

Heading campaign committees were Robert L. Cridde, Richard T. O'Marra, Clifford Schallmo, Anthony Semler and Raymond Deverell.

## Committee Heads Named For Dance

Augustus Falcone and William Reeves, co-chairmen, have announced the committees for the Notre Dame Club of Rochester's Universal-Notre Dame Night Dinner Dance, to be held at the Starlight Roof of the Sheraton Hotel on April 11.

Committee heads are John Heagney, reservations; William Dempsey, entertainment; John Burke, publicity; Jack Nye Duffy, kitchen; Thomas O'Connor,

man of the year; Victor DeSimon and Arnold Morrison, arrangements; Charles O'Brien, finance and Joseph Geraghty, program.

The women's auxiliary of the club will handle decorations and in addition have organized a telephone committee. Mrs. John Burke, of the auxiliary, is being assisted by Mesdames John Heagney, Donald Booth, Arthur Curran and Thomas Higgins.

Greetings from Ethel Perry!

## EASTER FLOWERS

Lilies, cut flower bouquets, gift novelties, and planters galore!



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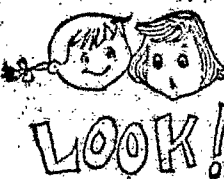
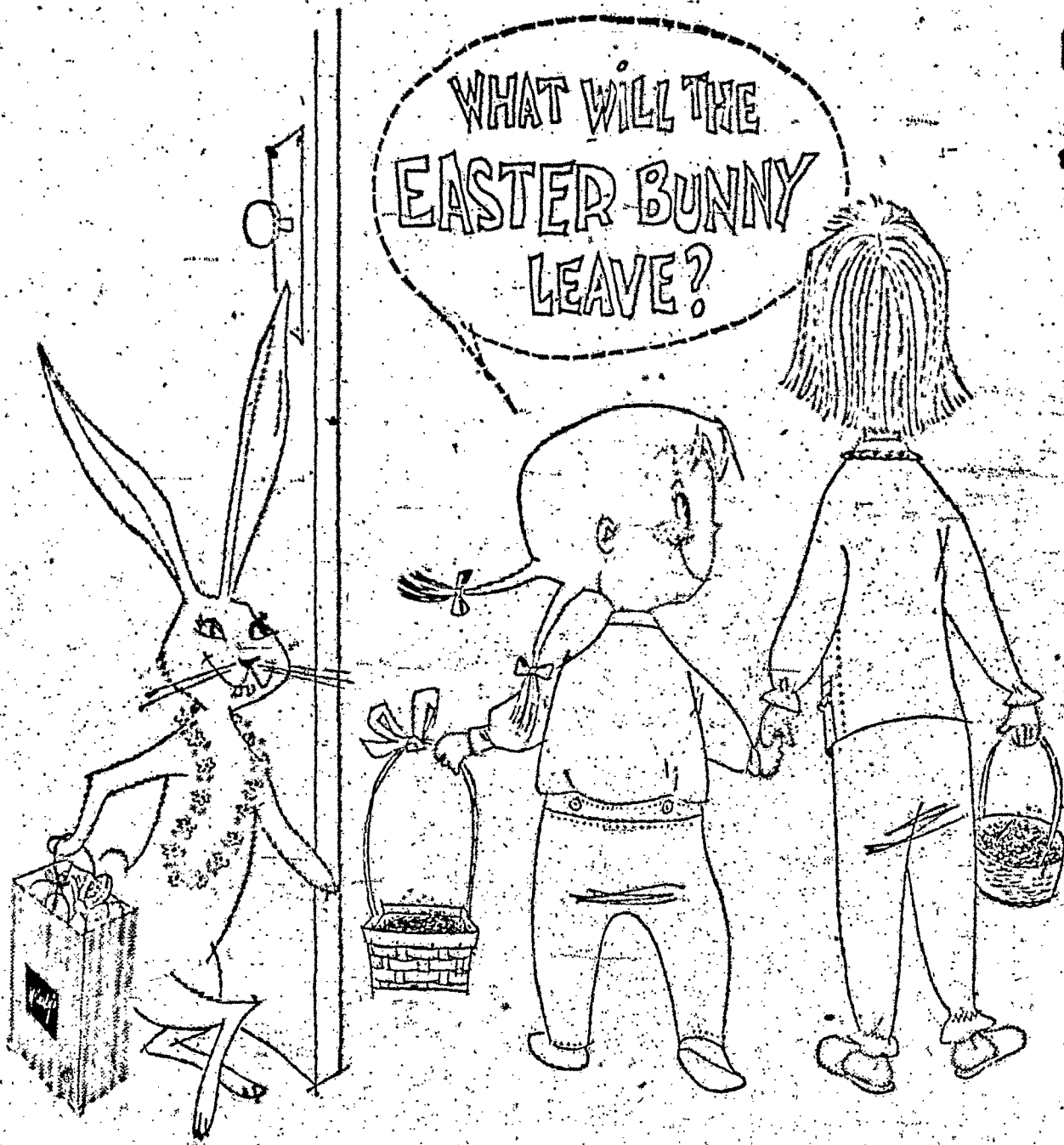
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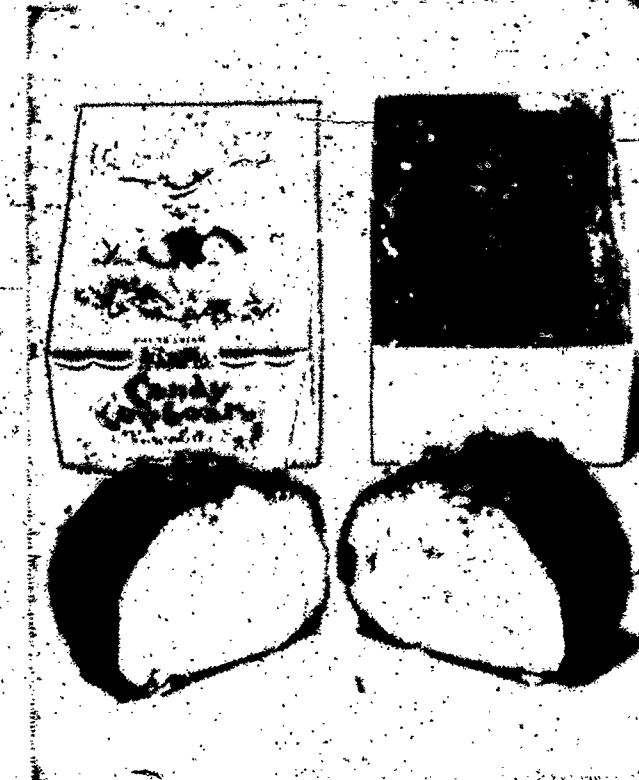
## What Wonderful Easter Gifts!

candy from McCurdie's, of course!

wholesome, pure candy that's nourishing... and so-o-o-o delicious!



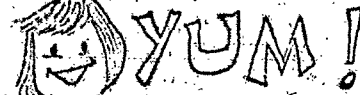
Chocolate Bunnies and Easter Friends, All at McCurdie's, All at Barton's, 19c to 1.98



### Dream-Filled Chocolate Eggs

the treasure of the hunt!  
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Candy Cupboard certainly knows how to make a cream-filled, chocolate egg taste good! There are three kinds, and they're all extra-special for Easter! Chocolate nut fudge... butter cream... coconut butter cream! 1/2 lb. size, 45¢; 1/2 lb. size, 69¢; 1 lb. size, 1.19



### Eggs by the Dozens!

Barton's Swiss milk chocolates made in Switzerland for McCurdie's

Each little egg is carefully wrapped in colorful, Easter-print foil. When you eat them, let them melt in your mouth. That's the way to get the full flavor of Barton's incomparable, smooth-as-velvet Swiss milk chocolate! 1/2 lb. box, 99¢; 1 lb. box, 1.98