

## Bishop To Lead Families In Rosary On Radio Network

Catholic families of the Rochester Diocese will join Bishop Kearney next Tuesday evening (March 25) in a 45 minute radio broadcast rite honoring Our Lady of Lourdes.

The 7 p.m. broadcast will be carried to all corners of the twelve county Diocese by a network of four radio stations, WSAY in Rochester, WELM in Elmira, WMBO in Auburn, and WCLM in Corning.

Bishop Kearney will lead the recitation of the Rosary. He invites Catholic families to kneel in their homes as family groups before a specially built shrine to the Blessed Virgin Mary and say the Rosary with him.

The program will originate in St. Francis of Assisi Church, Rochester. Nazareth College students will make the responses to the Rosary there and sing traditional hymns honoring our Lady.

THE TUESDAY evening broadcast will mark the Church's feast of the Annunciation and the 100th anniversary of the apparition of our Lady at Lourdes when she identified herself to St. Bernadette, saying, "I am the Immaculate Conception."

The meditations Bishop Kearney will read for each mystery

of the Rosary will be prize winning sonnets composed by Nazareth College students. The Bishop will also give a talk on the Lourdes centenary following recitation of the Rosary.

CHILDREN IN all parochial schools of the Diocese have received a holy card picturing the 1858 apparitions of the Blessed Virgin to St. Bernadette at Lourdes.

The card bears a special invitation from the Bishop to join him in Tuesday night's anniversary broadcast.



Delegate  
25 Years

Washington, D.C. — (NC) — Archbishop Amleto Giovanni Cicognani has marked here his 25th anniversary as Apostolic Delegate to the United States. Archbishop Cicognani is shown here in recent photo.

## What's Behind 'House Of Mystery'?

### 'Noisy Ghosts' In Seaford?

The author of this article recently completed studies for a doctorate in mystical and occultic theology at the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

By FATHER PASCHAL BOLAND, O.S.B.  
(N.C.W.C. NEWS SERVICE)

A New York family has now gone through about seven weeks of on-again, off-again harassment by a "noisy, unknown force" whose actions reportedly have included unscrewing bottle caps and knocking household articles from their resting places.

None of the four members of the James M. Herrmann family in Seaford, N.Y., has been injured by any of these mysterious happenings, but some household objects have been damaged.

The family says it has no explanation and police and other investigators also have admitted failure in positively identifying the cause.

Some explanations have attributed the mischief to poltergeists, a term first used by medieval Germans to describe the cause of apparently inexplicable noises and movements of objects.

THIS ARTICLE is in no way intended to draw a conclusion on the events in Seaford, but the episode here does prompt a brief discussion of poltergeists and exorcism.

The modern definition of poltergeists (German for noisy ghosts) is a technical one meaning troublesome spirits which constitute the principal type of spontaneous physical phenomena.

Such instances have been recorded for hundreds of years in both civilized and uncivilized countries. Trickery and deceit can be detected in some of these, and in others happenings are so



James Herrmann family of Seaford, N. Y., sit in their living room, puzzled by events turning their home into a "haunted house."

well attested that fraud is ruled out.

No absolute conclusions as to the cause or explanation of poltergeist activity have been reached by scientists or Catholic theologians. The more general opinion is that they are not necessarily manifestations of evil spirits — for they are more mischievous than evil — and although they can do great violence to property, they do not inflict bodily harm on persons.

Another point to be considered is that they do not always yield to the Church's ritual of exor-

cism, although this has often brought about a temporary cessation of their activities.

EXORCISM IS a special act used to expel spirits from persons, places of things which are thought to be possessed or infested by them or liable to become instruments of their malice.

Exorcism is essentially a religious act and does not connote any superstition or magic. As a matter of fact, the rite is incorporated in the ceremony of Baptism. This does not mean that diabolic possession is im-

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## Dawn Of New Day Rising, Says Pope

Vatican City — Pope Pius XII sounded here a note of hope that "all the world is reawakening" and that humanity is on the threshold of a "New Spring of history."

Speaking to a crowd of more than 100,000 in St. Peter's Square, he declared that mankind is emerging from the "dark winter" of errors, dishonesty and war. Occasion for the Pope's speech was the 80th anniversary of the Italian Catholic Action's Youth Section.

The Pope said that not only this year's Spring, but the Spring of history is not far off and that beyond that there lies a "brilliant Summer" for mankind.

FREQUENTLY interrupted by cheers, the Pope traced the passage of "dark winter" made dark because of "errors which have disturbed so many minds; dark because of mud which has contaminated so many hearts;

more widely distributed warfare. He who considers the ascending curve of scientific progress notes that it follows almost a type of chain reaction . . .

"Also in the life and the activity of the spirit there are evident signs of reawakening," the Pope said. "Man will be ever more free from material labor and from servile work. Automation is transforming the greater part of human labor into an intellectual activity, while extraordinary technical progress is rendering diffusion of culture among men always more possible and easier.

"We also note evident signs of reawakening in social life . . ." the Holy Father added.

"FOR THE FIRST time men are aware not only of their increasing interdependence, but also of their marvelous unity. That means that humanity will become always more ready to feel itself part of the mystical body of Christ.

"Consequently, the necessity of the Christian solution for so many problems, which hold the world in anguish, will be and will appear always more evident to eyes of honest men," the Pontiff concluded.



POPE PIUS XII  
'Spring of History'

dark because of dishonesty . . . because of badly oriented people and broken families; because of the devastated nations; because of a world torn apart by horrors of war."

"But God," he continued, "who has permitted dark the winter and has readied brilliant Summer, obliges us all to live and work in a climate of reawakening and a time of Spring . . .

"All in world is reawakening," the Pope said. "Material life, even in the midst of so many sadnesses and miseries, is moving always toward better and . . .

BIRTHDAYS are HAPPIER days with flowers. Mark each joyous occasion with a bouquet of fresh, bright flowers and a Hallmark Card from Blanchard Florida, 58 Lake Ave., BA 59494.

## 'Silent March' Recalls Miracle Of Host

Amsterdam, The Netherlands — (NC) — More than 50,000 men will participate in the "Silent March," held on three successive Sundays, to commemorate a miracle of the Blessed Sacrament which occurred here in 1345.

The march commemorates the occasion when a Sacred Host was seen hovering untouched amid the flames of a household fireplace. The Host had been cast into the fire by a nurse after a sick man was unable to retain the Host.

After the miracle, the Host was taken back to the parish church in procession. Neither the site of the miracle nor the chapel, where the Host was kept is any longer in existence.

## Court Action Hits School 'Xmas' Crib

White Plains, N. Y. — (RNS) — State Supreme Court Justice Frank H. Coyne ordered defendants in a suit to restrain the erection of a Nativity creche on the lawn of the Junior-Senior High School in Ossining, N. Y., to answer an amended complaint.

THE DEFENDANTS are members of the board of education of Union Free School District No. 1 and a 15-member creche committee. The amended complaint was filed by 28 persons, 18 more filed the original suit.

Justice Coyne denied a temporary injunction sought by the original ten Ossining residents last December. The new complaint seeks a permanent injunction against the erection of a creche at the school.

Defendants claimed the new complaint was not valid as it was filed after the date had expired in which such an amended suit may be served.

The original suit contended that erection of the Nativity scene on public school property was "a use of tax-established and tax-supported public school system to aid religious groups to propagate their faith."

LEO PFEFFER of New York, attorney for the plaintiffs, contended at that time that erection of the creche would violate federal and state constitutions. He is counsel for the American Jewish Congress.

Similar creches had been erected for 17 years at the Hartsdale public school in Ossining, the attorney for the board of education has declared.

## Judge Backs Girl's Bid To Be Nun

Hillsboro, Ore. — (NC) — Circuit Judge Glen Hieber ruled here that Alice Miller, 19, may remain a postulant at the Beaverton, Ore., convent of the Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon, despite the objections of her non-Catholic parents.

Judge Hieber held that the Portland girl entered the convent freely, and is free to leave at any time.

Ivan R. Miller, the girl's father, brought a writ of habeas corpus action against the Sisters of St. Mary and Mother Celeste, the Mother Superior of the community.

He charged that Alice had entered the convent because of undue influence and coercion, and was being restrained from leaving. Mrs. Miller reportedly supports her husband's position. But Judge Hieber ruled that there was no evidence of undue influence, coercion or restraint.

IN HIS decision the Circuit Judge said the girl, a convert, joined the Catholic Church as a result of her own desire and the teaching she had received. Alice and her sister Lois, also a convert, were educated in Catholic schools.

Judge Hieber found Alice to be a "stable, intelligent, mature" girl. He ruled she had been emancipated from parental control when her father gave her a choice between staying home or giving up her Catholic faith.

As a general rule, the judge said, the law gives parents custody of a child until the age of 21.

"The law, however, provides exceptions to the rule," the opinion added, "one of which is emancipation from legal custody under certain conditions and circumstances. Emancipation leaves the child, so far as the parent is concerned, free to act on its own responsibility . . . as though it had attained majority."

JUDGE HIEBER explained that generally the parent has the right to control the religion of the child.

"But this court knows of no law under the circumstances of this case, and the inconsistency practiced by these parents, which permits parents to require a child growing into mature years to give up its faith as a prerequisite to remaining in the household, and as a result causing the child to leave and forage for itself," he stated.

The court has concluded that plaintiff's suit and con-



ALICE MILLER

duct, as disclosed by the evidence in issuing repeated ultimatums to his daughter to renounce her faith and leave home, or forfeit her inheritance, were tantamount to forcing her to go elsewhere to live."

Because Alice Miller acted on such ultimatums, she is emancipated from parental control, the judge held, adding: "It necessarily follows that Alice Miller may pursue her course in life consonant with her own conscience and dictates."

IN HIS OPINION dismissing the writ Judge Hieber took note of the fact that the parents had placed Alice and Lois in St. Agatha's parochial school, Portland, Ore., at the ages of five and six "for the purpose of re-

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## Protestant Council

# Opposes Extending Bus Rides For Catholic Students

Albany, N. Y. — (RNS) — Bills to extend present provisions for bus transportation of children to "other than public schools" were opposed by the State Council of Churches.

The Protestant group said: "We believe that when parents reject the equal opportunity offered by the public school system and send their children to 'other than public schools,' they renounce any further claim upon the public school system for any expenses connected with the education of their children or for any supportive services."

The council also opposed, for the same reasons a bill to provide driver training instruction and all necessary facilities to other than public schools.

Another bill opposed by the church group would reduce penalties for drunken driving and grade penalties according to the amount of damage resulting from an accident.

## Parochial School Bus Bill Advances

Albany, N. Y. — (RNS) — The state Senate passed a bill permitting parents of parochial school students to appeal directly to the state education commissioner regarding public school bus transportation for their children.

Sen. Julian B. Erway, Albany Democrat who sponsored the bill, said such appeals could now be made only at meetings called by the local board of education. If parents did not know about the meeting or were unable to attend, he noted, their children would be denied free bus service.

The bill also directs the education commissioner to reply to an appeal within 20 days. Senator Erway is sponsoring another measure granting parochial school students free transportation up to 20 miles, rather than the eight-mile limit now in force.

## Church-State Issue Seen Over-Stressed

Washington — (NC) — A Protestant educator charged here that over-emphasis on separation of Church and state "tends to defeat the deeper interests of Protestants in combatting the secularization of American culture."

Dr. E. Clinton Gardner, professor of ethics at Emory University, Atlanta, Ga., also told a conference of the Methodist Board of Temperance that "the founding fathers did not seek to separate the State from religion."

"Indeed," he said, "they believed that the vitality of our democratic government and the welfare of the country depended to a large extent upon the strength and support which were made available through religious faith."

DR. GARDNER pointed out that "a great deal of our discussion of the issue of church and state is focused on the threat which Protestants see in Roman Catholicism."

"When attention is centered exclusively on the separation of church and state," he said, "the impression is often left that the predominant relation of the church and religion to the state and the political life is one of separation.

"And in the long run this negative approach tends to de-

## Methodist Colleges

### Ask Federal Loans

Raleigh, N. C. — (RNS) — Changes in federal legislation which would permit new colleges to obtain federal loans for construction before they are in full operation have been sought by a group of Methodist leaders.

Bishop Paul N. Garber of Richmond, Va., chairman of the Board of Higher Education of The Methodist Church, headed a delegation which conferred in Washington, D.C., with Sen. John Sparkman of Alabama, chairman of the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee.

Of particular concern to the group are construction needs of two Methodist colleges to be built at Fayetteville and Rocky Mount, N.C.

For the deeper interests of Protestants in combatting the secularization of American culture and in achieving justice at home and peace abroad."

## CJ 'Total Coverage' Plan Now In 118 Parishes

St. Joseph's Church, Penfield, reported this week that this parish will adopt the "total subscription plan" of the Catholic Courier Journal for the first time this year.

Father John D. Malley, pastor of St. Joseph's, told circulation manager Elmer Grapenstetter that all 300 families in his parish had subscribed.

This makes a total of 118 parishes that will receive the Diocesan paper on a total-coverage basis for the coming year.

In reports from other parishes throughout the diocese, nine additional parishes have again subscribed to the "total-coverage plan," with five reporting gains over last year's total.

St. John the Evangelist, Humboldt St., Rochester, Rt. Rev. Msgr. John B. Sullivan, pastor, reported the largest gain, 44, and a total subscription of 901.

The other parish totals are as follows:

St. Francis De Sales, Geneva, Rt. Rev. Msgr. Edward K. Ball, pastor, 693 total (gain, 17); St. Mary, Rochester, Rev. Genaro J. Ventura, pastor, 142 total (gain, 11); Our Lady of Lourdes, Rochester, Very Rev. Msgr. John S. Whalen, pastor, 600 total (gain, 6); St. Theresa, Stanley, and St. Mary, Rushville, Rev. Francis W. Harding, pastor, 71 total (gain, 3).

St. Anthony, Groton, Rev. William E. Hayes, pastor, 179 total; St. Patrick, Rochester, Rev. Leo C. Moorey, pastor, 781 total; St. Mary, Elmira, Rev. Thomas J. Toole, pastor, 567 total; St. Anthony of Padua, Rochester, Rev. Michael J. Tydings, pastor, 245 total.

A total report on the Courier Journal's annual circulation drive will be issued within a few weeks, according to Grapenstetter. New subscriptions begin with the April 4 issue, he said.