

Priests have been heard to remark after blessing a St. Christopher car medal, "The blessing doesn't work over 60 miles an hour."

Their humorous theology received a double set back in recent days.

A St. Christopher medal on the Vanguard satellite is currently orbiting around the world at a speed of 18,000 miles an hour, and a Washington Episcopal rector thundered his anathema against this blatant superstition.

Whether or not St. Christopher's powerful prayers actually lifted the Vanguard satellite to its globe girdling course after two previous medal-less attempts had failed is a question we will wait for judgment day to answer.

FOR THE SAKE OF THE RECORD it might be well to remind our readers that the orbiting medal depicts the farmous St. Christopher bearing the Christ Child across a turbulent stream. The name Christopher in its Greek origi nal means "Christ-bearer"

And also for the sake of the record it might be well to remind our friend the rector in Washington that our country was discovered by a man who had the famous saint's name for his own-Christopher Columbus.

The intrepid voyager was also devout and had the cross of Christ raised on the shores of the New World on that eventful October 12th afternoon in 1492.

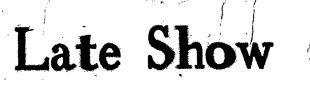
We saw no newspaper reports about the sermon in measure, I detest even the mis-Washington on the Sunday after the Russian's launched representations that are the their dog-hearing sputnik. We doubt, however, that the result of carelessness in getrector voiced any objection to that. ting and writing the news. A newsman has no right to take

IT SEEMS STRANGE, doesn't it, that the reverend gentlemen gives the obvious impression that he prefers a dog-bearer to a Christ-bearer?

We're sure he didn't mean to give that impression but it shows the pickle people get into when this separation of church and state fettish gets into your system.

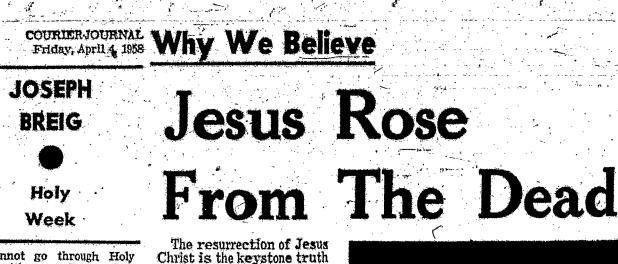
Meantime, despite the rector's pulpit blast, St. Christopher and the Christ Child medal is still in orbit at supersonic'speed.

And the priests' advice is still true for us earth bound creatures, so do drive carefully-and stay out of the rector's way, he might object to your St. Christopher car med-That's union of church and driving you know. hal.



We sympathize with editors of Catholic magazines who must search for interesting material to fill their pages. It is easy to see that some of the brightest copy, not to mention some of the prettiest pictures, lies out in Hollywood or on Broidway or Las Veras.

But playing up the "Catholic angle" in articles and features on the personalities of the entertainment world is tricky business. More than one editor has had his "model Catholic" blow up right in his ink-stained face. Subsequent embarrassment all around.



I cannot go through Holy Week without feeling a deep of Christianity. anger. I am lost in admiration

me also of

Breig

his work lightly.

such nonsense.

ity in expression.

ers of truth.

No more ignorant remark is

possible than to say that the

Bible is not history; that there

is no proof that Christ lived,

taught, worked miracles, suf-

fered and died. Only an appal-

lingly trivial mind can produce

The Gospels are the supreme,

model of accuracy in report-ing, and of restrained objectiv-

lated Judas - used him and

threw him aside ence he had

served their cruel purpose-

power, the deliberate murder-

falsehoods ever uttered.

St. Paul admits this conand adoration because Christ sequence, "If Christ has not went to the risen, vain then is our cross for preaching, vain too is your faith. . . . If with this life truth and for love of His only in view we have had creatures and hone in Christ, we are of all men the most to be pitied." (1 Corinthians 15: fellow. men. But the (1 Corinthians 15: days before 14 and 19.) Easter remind

IF CHRIST staved dead aft the blackest er His crucifixion He would have been the world's most speciacular failure.

I am a newspaperman, and I hate malicious lies with a His claims to divinity. His preaching and miracles, His life grinding hatred. In lesser of virtue would all have been betrayed by His final defeat in death.

> Our Lord Himself staked everything He said or did on the fact that He would return from the grave.

"An evil and adulterous generation domands a sign," Jesus once told the Scribes and Parisees, "and no sign shall be given it but the sign of Jenas the prophet. For even as Jonas was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be three days, and three nights in the heart of the earth." (Matthew 12: 39, 49.1

/If this predicted sign did not take place, the whole Gospel Judas was dieloyal; Judas nessage would collapse. was avaricious; Judas was a traitor. But those who manipu-So Jesus had to rise from

the dead-to prove His claims, as also to continue His work.

these were the cold, calculating self-seekers, the graspers for

What are the facts which convince Christians' that Jesus did come back to life?

Matthew tells us how this On the first Easter Sunday, devil's brood (for the devil is a at the first glimmer of dawn, Nor and the father of lies) asa violent earthquake rocked the mbled in the court of Calphas sepulcher where the dead and "incre plotted to bring Jooms into their power by cun-Christ had been burled. He came from the tomb without ning, and put Him to death. breaking the seals set there at Pilate's order. An angel, daz-Yet they still said, Not on the zling white, rolled the wheelday of the feast, or perhaps



He has risen even as He said. (Matthew 28:6) down to the most recent in-spired seers to explain the role of the Messias.

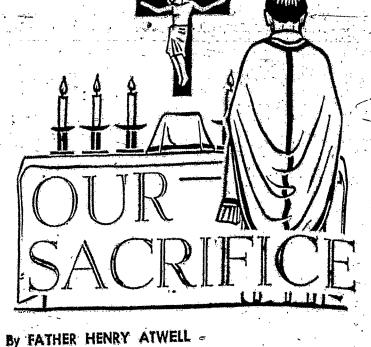
cher, their bewilderment and quite matter of fact coversations with the angols indicate Easter morning was a day

utterly unlike every other day. their hearts stirred with faith All dour Gespel writers resuch as can come only from the clear truth of God and port the fact that formain there before them was Emwomen" were at the tomb but details as to the number of maus, women, the time they came, and who they were are not too the Stranger "for it grows late clear. Even a casual reading of and evening is at hand."

the feur accounts shows that there were several women who came in separate groups at different hours but they all saw one undeniable and unexplainable fact - the tomb was empty.

one of the first to arrive, just

* * MARY MAGDALENE was



VIII-Table And Tomb

The altar of every Catholic Church is a table and . tomb.

It is a table because the coremony of the Mass done at the altar enacts the Last Supper of our Lord.

The altar is also a tomb because it contains the relies of saints.

In the near twenty centuries since Jesus Christ said the first Mass at the Last Supper the size and style of altars have varied but every altar bas retained this double role of table and tomb.

CHURCH LAWS today require that an altar used for Mass must have some essential furnishings. Additional decorations are left to the taste and preference di the priest and people.

First and foremost, every altar must be made of stone.

When the whole altar cannot be stone, at least a small stone slab about a foot square and an inch thick-called the altar stone-is inserted in the wooden table top just in front of the tabernacle. //

Hollowed out in the stone is an inch round cavity in which are placed the relics of saints.

THE TABERNACLE occupies a central position on the altar. It is the House of God where Christ dwells . to welcome His faithful not only at the time of Mass but throughsalem to tell their story to out the other hours of the day as well. Church laws are very

detailed and specific concern-

was wrapped for His burial,

or extending out from the back

The altar is to be elevated

by one or more steps, usually

three. There is no symbolism

meant in this. The steps just

put the altar up higher so the

people can see the Mass ritual

Every altar must also have

Although we today take the

crucifix for granted it is one

of the most recent additions to

the altar's furnishings. Even

In the sixteenth century there

were still altars without cross-

es. And today the law requires

Early Christians, often eye

wlinesses of the horrible tor-

ture of crucifixion, made their

crosses symbols of life rather

than death. Crosses were jewel.

ed. decorated with emblems or

with our Lord's Initials Ino

or XP, Greek letters represent

ing the first letters of the

About the sixth century, fig.

ures of our Lord were added

to these crosses but He was

represented as alive, not dead.

He was shown robed and wear-

When the Crusaders came

An altar must also have

back from their battles in the

Holy Land they brought the

ing a crown as a king.

so well today.

name Jesus Christ.

a cross, not a crucifix.

svall.

better.

LENTEN FEATURE This is the last in a series of articles explain. ing the history and ceremonies of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

the spiritual flame of true devotion.

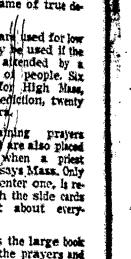
large number of people. Six candles burn for High Mass, twelve for Benediction, twenty

from the missal are also placed on the altar when a priest (not a bishop' says Mass. Only one card, the center one, Is required, although the side cards are used just about every. where,

The Missal is the large book which has all the prayers and ritual directions for the Mass ceremony.

Flowers are permitted and . even encouraged on feast days. bilt they should not turn the altar into a flower show. They

people who serve Christ with Two candles are used for low Mass; four may be used if the low Mass is alkended by a for Forty Hours Cards containing prayers



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The ides that the Church is somehow glorified because it claims the allegiance of a top-ranking bazooka player or a leading mambo dancer is really rather feeble apologetics any way. We doubt if it sells many catechisms.

Let's leave the poor entertainers peacefully in the pews, taking their chances on canonization with the rest of us — after the final curtain.

-Indianapolis Catholic and Record

SERMONETTE

BY MEV. JAMES D. MORIARTY

"Where There Is Despair-Hope"

Despair is a frightening word. Ordinarily we use the word only in the extreme. It doesn't come easily into our conversation. We shy away from it because of its finality.

The word conjures up fatal images in our mind : . . the armoking pistol clustched in the lifeless hand at the side of the slill bleeding corpse, the doctor at



the bediside regretfully shaking his head as he holds the empty sleeping pill bottle in his harid, ... the scene of a crazed traitor swinging from a tree with a halter tight. about his neck. He had betrayed the Son of God for thirty pieces of silver.

Yes, despair is final in its implications. It is syriomous with suicidal.

Hope is the virtue and despair is the vice. As the virtue admits of varying degrees, so the vice. St. Francis was not talking of despair in the extreme.

His insight into human nature warned him the devil would be ever busy driving his wedge of desparation into the pattern of our daily lives. Despair, he knew, could best be cultured by the cross word, the harsh look, the uncharitable immuendo.

A headache or a hangover, ... a ruffled temper allowed to be projected can multiply liself a thousand times in the course of a day. Conversity a smile, a pat on the back, the expressed recognition of a job well done can become con-taglout and ripple itself out in every direction until it meets the hard rock shores of non-acceptance. a second s

All too often do we sit back and wait for the opportunity or doing the big things. St. Francis knew that most of us would never have the opportunity of doing big things. It would be the accumulation of the every day little acts that would add up to the blg things in the average life.

Will you do anything to dispell the desparation sown by the devil? Certainly you have had opportunities. Don't wait for the blg opportunity.

" Say the prayer of St. Francis and mean it: "O, Lord, where there is despair, help me "let me sow a little seed of

-4. tek. 1

Friday, April 4, 1958



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المتوجول أردارك ورايون

MOST REV. JAMES E. KEARNEY, D.D., President

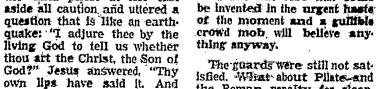
Publishent wate Friday by the Rechester Catbolle Press Association. AUDIN OFFICE IS ALL IS ALL BALLET SALE Rochester 4. N. 1 STATISTICS OFFICE As required anders the Art. or Congress of March & 1879. Mingle copy 10er 1 year multicoliption in U. M., Se.44 Canada: \$1.00) Townlars Countries, 14.56

there will be an uproar among the people."

What a tumult there would have been, had the people understood what was about. But the liars blded their time, like snakes waiting to strike, while they schemed to destroy Christ. and in so doing to betray their own nation and its diving mis. sion—the mission which it was

their chief duty to protect and to prosper. WHEN DARKNESS Tell. they sent soldiers and a rabble to seize their victim and bring Him before the council of chief priests and elders. And "all the council tried to find false testimony against Jesus . . . But they could find none . . . At

last two false accusers came forward who declared. This man said. I have power to destroy the temple of God and raise it again in three days." Infuriated by Christ's silence, the chief priest at last cast



en."

on.

The penalty is death."

isfied. What about Pllate and the Roman penalty for sleepmoreover I tell you this-you ing on duty. The chief priests will see the Son of Man again, had the answer to that probwhen he is seated at the right lem too and it was the same as hand of God's power, and for the guards — cash, cold comes on the clouds of heavcash. Pilate had his price and the priests would make the payment. "At this, the high priest tore

his garments, and said, He has The absurd tale spread but blasphemed . . . What is your backfired. The patent lie is one findings? And they answered, of the best proofs that the dead Christ came back to life.

It is true the guards did not. WHEN PILATE washed hissee Christ Himself. hands of Christ's blood, the de-

ceivers uttered one of the most All they saw was the empty terrible sentences in all literatomb. The risen Saviour did ture: "His blood be upon us not show Himself to eyes unand upon our children." And worthy of the vision. St. Peter they called down the irony of later said, "God who raised Jesus from the dead on the God upon themselves by crying, We have no king but. third day did not give Him to. Caesar." Thus the heart-stopmanifest Himself to all the people, but to witnesses forechosping tragedy moved inexorably en by God." (Acts 10: 40, 41.)

Quite obviously, the Blessed Christ was put to death, and Virgin Mary was first to rethe falsifiers sealed his tomb ceive ihis favor. Scripture, it and set soldiers to watch it. is true, makes no mention of After he had returned to life such an episode but St. Ignatiand emerged in glory, the guards hastened to tell the us, one of the earliest Christian writers, says the Gospels. chief priests. suppose we are endowed with Intelligence.

Then followed the ultimate lle. The deceivers "offered a rich bribe to the soldiers; Letthis, they said, be your tale, His disciples came by night and stole Him away, while we were asleep . . ."

It is no wonder that one cannot, go through Holy Week without feeling deep anger. heart." (Luke 2: 51.) mingled with bottomless sorrow for those whom the deservers deceived.

like stone from the hip high gan to banish the darkning of entrance way leading to the night. She saw the stone rollburial vault of the cave. ed back and the vacant grave.

The trembling earth and re-Guards were gone, and the splendent angel would have angel apparently gone too for been enough to terrily even no mention is made of him. the boldest of Roman soldiers. but when they saw the tomb The Magdalene shot back to was empty they were frozen the city to report to the aposwith fear and became "as dead tles Peler and John. "They men." (Matthew 28:4.) have taken the Lord out of the

tomb and we know not where As they recovered from they have laid Him." (John shock they fled to the city, found the Jewish priests and 20:2). She thus far did not suspect the tremendous fact of . told their incredible story. At the resurrection but suspecta hastily summoned session of ed that the guards or warderthe Council, the chief priests ing thleves had broken into decided to bribe the guards to the tomb to desecrate the dead. say that while they slept-a crime punishable by death ac-* * * cording to Roman law-Jesus'. disciples-stole the body. PETER AND JOHN ran

through the still sleepy city The excuse was a ridientous along the fifteen minute route lie for if the guards were asleep how could they know to the sepulcher. who carried off the body, and Peter was the first to enter, If they were not asleep why followed by John. did they fall to stop the rob-They noted that the shroud bery? Bad as it was, the exand winding bands and the cuse was the best that could be invented in the urgent haste

napkin used to cover the face were neatly folded and placed aside in the corner. They knew Mary Magdalene was mistaken. This was not the work of dese-The guards were still not satcration. This was the work of God. And John, we are told, was the first to believe his

Master was risen. .Then in quick succession come the apparitions to those "forechosen by God." Mary Magdalene back at the tomb sat there weeping still not believing. Through her tears she saw our Lord but did not recognize Him until He spoke her name, "Mary." The familiar voice woke her to the reality that He was alive.

* * * AT APPROXIMATELY this same moment, two disciples of our Lord who were in Jeru-

Certainly the Virgin Mary was closest to the heart of her Son at the Incarnation, nativpromised Saviour. ity, and in the bitter hours of His passion. If Mary did not choose to reveal the apparition on Easter for the Gospel writers to record it is because as at Christmas she kept this mystery to ponder it "in her

an in the second second

The comings and goings of And then He pieced together the holy women at the sepul the prophecies from Moses

* *

little evidence of heroic cour-

age.

The lesson was done and

the end of their journey.

"Stay with us," they invited

There at the table their

Guest blessed and broke the

bread and at last they recog-

nized Him but He vanished

from their sight. (Luke 24:31)

the apostles, but they too had

already seen the Lord.

They raced back to Jeru-

OUR LOED appeared to the apostles that evening while dimensions for the tabernacle the Emmaus disciples were on except it is to be covered on the return trip to the Holy all sides with a vell. City. The apostles had bolted the doors and windows and The allar is to be covered were waiting, just walling. Bewith three linen cloths, a refore the Holy Spirit came to minder that the Mass is a them on Pentecost, we should banquet and also to recall the linen bands in which our Lord remember, the apostles gave

A frontal cloth, called an antependium, Willia required by ritual laws but few American On subsequent days our Lord appeared again to the churches observe the custom. apostles, including the doubt-Ordinarily the frontal should hig"Thomas, and up in Galilee to more than five hundred match the priest's vestments. disciples. There is also the The main altar of a cathecarefully recorded conversadral and all altars where the our Lord held with Peter Blessed Sacrament is reserved when Jesus entrusted His flock must also have a canopy, -to the care of the first Pope. either supported by four posts (John 21:15-17)

The final apparition occurred forty days after Easter, now marked as the feast of the Ascension when our Lord gave His final instructions and farewell blessing.

* * *

It was not just to console His friends nor only lo # cross, either standing on the strengthen their faith that altar or hanging on the wall Jesus talked and walked and behind. This, of course, is a ate with them. He came back constant reminder that the from the grave but He did not sacrifice of the Mass is the come empty handed. same sacrifice our Saviour offered on the Cross.

During the forty days following His resurrection, He came with the gifts and commands to perpetuate His work through the centuries and to launch His Church on its sure course across the troubled sea of history.

Viewing His life today from the vantage point of nearly twenty centuries we can be lieve with the firmest failh that Jesus did indeed rise from . the dead and that in His own unique way He has kept His final promise, "I am with you all days even unto the consummation of the world," (Matthew 28:20)

Sceptics

• One evening the phone rang in the home of John S. Burke, head of B. Altman & Co., and at that time trustee of Catholic Charitles in New York, Mrs. Burke answered,

memory of the sacred places A slightly apologetic voice where our Lord suffered and said, "This is Cardinal Spell-... died. Artists then began ito deman." المجرور والمجرور والمحرور والم sign crosses showing the cru-

cilled and agonizing Christ-Taken momentarily of guard, and that is the style we know Mrs. Burke exclaimed, "I can't believe it!" and was immediately tongue fied with embarcandlesticks with breaway rassment.

candles. The candles represent There was a short pause, and Christ who spld, "I am the then the cardinal said; "Neither light of the world," The candles can I, sometimes." also represent the Christian

A torist

the sale custody of the Blessed Sacrament. are to decorate, not drown, the There are no prescribed

altar. Flowers may not be placed before the tabernacie door where the Blessed Sacrament is kept.

THE HISTORY of the altar through the centuries shows that it has been round, square. oblong, wood, metal, and stone.

For nearly a thousand years the altar stood out from the wall of the church so the prime said Mass facing the people, list as the Pope sill does at St. Peter's in Rome.

The reason for the opposite practice today dates back to the tenth century when shrine churches began. attracting large numbers of pilgrims ---like Canterbury in England, Cologne in Germany.

The bodies of saints were Taken from their burial places and put in ormate reliquiries. above and behind the shrine church's altar. Devotion to the saint swelled into prominence and the relics became the focus of attention-even to the extent that the priest faced the relics instead of the people during Mass.

Other churches which could not boast of some famous relics substituted pictures and statues of the saints in elaborate backdrops-again calling attention away from the altar;

This frend reached its climax during the Renalssance period when the altar was dwarfed by the monumental decorations behind it. Also added to the altar about this time were the gradines or steps on the altar to hold more candleslicks' and sumptious flower altangements.

During the last fifty years there has been a trend back to the simpler altar.

Architects are again designing churches to focus attention on the altar. The Church is whe Mother and does not push in either direction, There is room for those who prefer an ornate altar and room for those. who prefer a plain altar

The important thing to remember is that the Catholic allar is the table of the Lord and the tomb of fils saints.

At every altar at every Mass the people of God accomplish that tremendous mystery of giving worship to God and recelving His grace for their Souls.

The altar is the symbol that God is with His people and they are with Him. The altar is proof that Christians after twenty continies have not forgolten our Loga's most saored command as He said the first Mass, "Do this in memory of

salem for the Passover feast set out on their homeward journey toward Emmaus. They already heard the rumors buzzing through the city that the tomb was empty and they discussed the possibilities on their Many other pilgrims to the Holy City were on the road to their homes too and one traveler joined the pair for compan-

ionship. They did not recognize that the ir companion was Jesus. They told Him of the news, as if He were a total

stranger, and their hopes that this Jesus of Nazareth was the

"O undiscerning spirits and hearts slow to believe what the prophets have spoken!" Jesus said to them. "Was it

gldry?" (Luke 24:25)

trek back home.

not necessary that the Christ should suffer to enter into His