

FUNERAL SERMON

Monsignor William Brien

(This is the text of the eulogy delivered by Father Leo Schwab at the funeral Mass for Monsignor William J. Brien in St. Patrick's Church, Elmira, June 8, 1938.)

"All done, good and faithful servant. Because thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will place thee over many things. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."—Matthew XXV, 21.

Last Sunday, I stood in this pulpit to preach the sermon at the first Mass of a young, newly-ordained priest. Then the general feeling was one of rejoicing and happiness.

Today, just five days later, I stand again in this pulpit to lament the passing of a priest who has served the Lord exceedingly well for forty-two years.

For the joy of last Sunday was suddenly turned to universal sorrow on Monday afternoon, when word spread through the city like wildfire that Monsignor Brien had died.

Everywhere one sees the expressions of grief on people's faces. Everywhere one hears of little incidents that endeared him to his people. Often it takes death to make persons realize how much someone has meant to them.

I NEED NOT recount for you the highlights of Monsignor Brien's life; the local newspapers did a remarkable time piece of work on that Tuesday. As one reads the list of his accomplishments both before coming to Elmira and during his 26 years as pastor of St. Patrick's, one could not but exclaim, "What an extraordinary record. Truly a gift of God and a dedicated man."

But the newspapers told mostly of his material accomplishments, his improvement of all parish property.

I need not tell most of you, at least you who are parishioners of St. Patrick's, of his great spiritual accomplishments in St. Patrick's, of the many missions he has had, the annual novenas, the frequent confessions to check on the spiritual condition of his people with the object of correcting any faults where correction was possible, the strong parish societies, the retreats given by missionary priests in preparation for Christmas and Easter, the great increase in the number of Holy Communions in the parish through all these efforts.

Certainly he neglected nothing in his efforts to give his people the very best benefits of their religion and every opportunity of receiving those blessings.

ONE IS REMINDED of the parable told by our Saviour of the king who entrusted certain amounts of money to his servants before leaving on a long journey; and of the servants who by diligent industry doubled the money entrusted to them.

Twenty-six years ago, Monsignor Brien came to St. Patrick's. He found it already a spiritually rich parish. His predecessor, Monsignor Bloomer, had during over 60 years as pastor, done his work well. But through Monsignor Brien's tireless efforts during these 26 years, the parish became a veritable spiritual power house.

Surely he has merited the reward of the parable, "Well done thou good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of the Lord." He has gone before the

Lord in Judgement not empty-handed, but to present an account of a faithful and efficient stewardship.

We in Elmira have known Monsignor Brien in the ripe days of his priesthood. Most of you know little of the 16 years of apprenticeship, years of teaching in the boys' high school (Aquinas Institute) in Rochester. After five days in the classroom, he would start out on Saturday to some parish office in a distant part of the Diocese to help with the Saturday confessions and Sunday Masses and sermons; then to hurry back to Rochester to be ready for the classroom again on Monday.

During the first of those years, it was usually a journey in the sooty railroad trains that reached out to the outlying villages and cities of the diocese.

At one time he came to Elmira for a few Sundays to assist at St. Mary's Church during the illness of Father Moriarty, and on another occasion to St. Cecilia's.

At one time during his teaching years, he was saying Mass on Sundays for the inmates in the Rochester jail. At another, for patients at Iola Tuberculosis Sanitarium. For some time he was leaving Rochester each Friday after school to journey to St. Bonaventure's to further his studies and earn his Master of Arts degree.

Several years ago, a local radio broadcaster was interviewing prominent Elmira men over the air waves. And among them was the then Father Brien. One of the questions he asked each person interviewed was whether he had some great ambition, some special thing he would like to do.

Sitting in my room listening to the program, I wondered what would be Father Brien's answer. I was delighted when he said: "My ambition is to be a good parish priest." How well he fulfilled that ambition!

To the brothers and sisters of Monsignor Brien I think I may express for His Excellency, the Bishop, and for the priests assembled, as well as for myself, our deepest sympathy. You, as well as we and Elmira, have had a great loss. But you may well be proud of him, he was an unusually gifted and efficient priest. His life has enriched thousands of persons, young and old. His influence for good will go on in an ever-widening circle to the end of time.

BUT, AFTER ALL, he was human. And everyone human has his faults and failings. And I am sure that Monsignor Brien does not ask praise of us today but rather our prayers.

We have loved him in life. We have been his beneficiaries in many ways. All he asks of us is our prayers; remembrances at the altar, and at the Communion rail. And especially in our Rosaries.

MONSIGNOR BRIEN had a great devotion to the Blessed Virgin, and to her Rosary. Many times he and I said it together while driving back from Rochester in the evening. How many times he had pleaded, "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death."

Even though death came suddenly, I am sure that his prayers were answered, and that his loving Mother Mary in Heaven was with him at that moment.

Bishop Offers Requiem For Monsignor Brien

(Continued from Page 1)

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Assisting Bishop Kearney at the Mass were: Rt. Rev. Msgr. James C. McAniff, assistant priest; deacons of honor, Rt. Rev. Msgr. Arthur F. Florack and Rt. Rev. Msgr. William Byrne, V.E.; deacon, Rev. William J. Brien; subdeacon, Rev. Hubert A. Bisky; master of ceremonies, Rev. Edward J. McAniff and Rev. John P. Walsh; thurifer, Rev. William A. Burns; acolytes, Rev. Joseph F. Hogan and Rev. Alfred J. Horri; book bearer, Rev. John S. Maloney; candle bearer, Rev. Philip E. McGhan; mitre bearer, Rev. Bartholomew J. O'Brien; geminate bearer, Rev. Leonard F. Kujawski.

MONSIGNOR BRIEN'S death climaxed a 42 year career of outstanding priestly service in the Diocese of Rochester. His record shows a series of achievements in various roles as educator, advisor, pastor and administrator. Following his ordination in 1916, he was assigned as a teacher at the old St. Patrick's Cathedral High School and in 1925 was appointed head of the history department at the newly established Aquinas Institute of Rochester.

He was a prime mover in the establishment of the Elmira Catholic High School, forerunner of Notre Dame High School. In addition to his pastoral duties, he served as principal of Elmira Catholic High School for several years, and was chairman of the Bishop's Fund Drive to build Notre Dame High School in 1932.

During his pastorate, Monsignor Brien twice renovated St. Patrick's Church and recently completed a renovation program in the parish school and launched the current construction work on the new auditorium-gymnasium for the school. The convent and rectory were also renovated during his pastorate.

Priests who acted as pallbearers for Monsignor Brien were: the Reverend Fathers Nicholas P. Alletto, Ladislav J. Szepeanski, Thomas Manley, Joseph O. Gorman, Joseph G. Merkle and Joseph M. McNamara. Rev. Benedict A. Elmann, pastor of St. Mary's of the Lake Church, Watkins Glen, conducted the Priests' Choir singing the Mass.

Present also at the funeral Mass were the Rt. Rev. Monsignors George Fredmore, William Naughton, Francis Lane, John Duffy, and Lawrence Gannon. Also the Very Rev. Monsignors Joseph J. Sullivan, Donald Cleary, Gregory Dugan and James D. Cuffney.

ALSO THE REVEREND Fathers William J. Brien, Hubert Bisky, Edward J. McAniff, John Walsh, William Burns, Joseph F. Hogan, Alfred Horri, John Maloney, Philip McGhan, Bartholomew O'Brien, Leonard Kujawski, Thomas J. Toole, Francis Erb, Robert Donovan.

Fathers David B. Singerhoff, William D. Tobin, William M. Canham, Leo D. Ward, Francis W. Harding, Robert J. Fox, Thomas Watts, Harold Rogers, Thomas Cleary, Herbert L. Slurmer, Francis J. Rellly, Waldimir B. Dowhovich, John P. O'Brien, G. Stuart Hogan, Stanislaus H. Blaszczyk, Joseph E. Gullfoll, Vin-

cent P. Collins, John W. Dailey, Daniel Wheeland.

Fathers Edward J. Waters, Lawrence P. Weniger, William E. Burckhill, Alexander J. Stee, Harold Mulhoney, Leo V. Smith, John S. Hays, Francis Turner, John T. Kerrigan, Leonard A. Kelly, Francis G. Waterstrat, William J. Gaynor.

Fathers Thomas J. Brennan, Cassian Kirk, O.F.M., Justus Sweeney, O.F.M., Michael Tydings, John Manley, L. Emmett Davis, Joseph P. Haffey, Michael L. Hynes, Raymond G. Heisel, James R. Lane, Robert L. Kress, Francis J. Pegnam, Wilfred J. Dwyer, C.S.B., L. John Hedges, Joseph L. Hogan, Alphonsus P. Crimmins, John J. Gaffney.

FATHERS JOHN F. DUFFY, Raymond P. Nolan, W. Darcy Bolger, Albert L. Simonetti, Holand Jasulski, O.F.M., Henry Napiela, O.F.M., Maurice Scheler, O.F.M., Timothy Pawlak, O.F.M., Peter Ruden, S.A., Thomas Condon, S.A.

Fathers Owen Murphy, S.A., Martin Boler, O.S.B., Damasus Wizen, O.S.B., Benedict Ballon, O.S.A., Edward C. Murphy, C.S.S.R., and Lawrence W. Scanlon.

The priest's choir was composed of Fathers Edward A. Shannon, John A. Murphy, Frederick W. Bush, William M. Thomas, William M. Roche, Daniel J. Milliken, O.S.B., Michael L. Reagan, John A. Widman, Donnon M. O'Neill, O.F.M., Edward Delany, Edward A. Zimmer, Otto J. Vogt, Thomas J. Florack, James F. Slattery and James G. Malley.

Delegations of Sisters of St. Joseph and Sisters of Mercy were present in the church, which was filled to capacity. Prominent Elmira civic officials were among the more than 1,000 who paid final tribute to the distinguished priest.

Monsignor Brien is survived by three brothers, Joseph and Thomas of Rochester and Edward of Buffalo, and two sisters, Mrs. Elmer Hoag and Mrs. George Kastner of Rochester.



Nun Scientist Fights Leprosy

Sister Hilary Ross, D.C., biochemist, is shown at work in the laboratory of the U.S. National Leprosarium, at Carville, La. For her 35 years research in this field, she was awarded the President's Medal of St. John's University, Brooklyn, at the annual Commencement exercises. (NC Photos)

Priest Baptizes Parents Before His Ordination

East Liverpool, Ohio — (NC) — Father Joseph Rushton, a newly ordained priest here, baptized his parents in the Catholic Faith on the evening before his ordination.

Father Rushton became a convert to Catholicism while attending East Liverpool High School. He was ordained by Bishop Emmet Walsh of Youngstown. Father Rushton gave his parents their first Communion when he offered his first solemn Mass in St. Aloysius church here.

Bologna City Official Quits Post To Become Priest

Bologna, Italy — (NC) — One of Bologna's municipal councilors has resigned his post to become a priest.

Giuseppe Dossetti, 46, announced his resignation at a meeting of the council. His ordination as a priest of the Bologna archdiocese is expected to take place within two months.

(An official of the Sacred Congregation of the Sacraments in Rome said that, although he knows nothing of the present case, there would be nothing to prevent a bishop from granting a dispensation from full secular studies for sufficiently serious reason. It is known that Dossetti has long been a student of the canon sciences, thus accounting for his ordination after so short a time.)

Mr. Dossetti was professor of canon law at the University of Modena from 1948 to 1952 and also has served as a Christian Democratic member of Italy's Parliament.

In 1936 he headed the Christian Democrats list for Bologna in that year's administrative elections.

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St. Therese's Complete Autobiography In English

New York — (NC) — The complete and original text of the autobiography of St. Therese of Lisieux, one of the most widely read autobiographies of all time, will be published for the first time in English on May 22.

The translation, by the famous British author and scholar Msgr. Ronald Knox, was completed just six weeks before his death in August, 1957.

PREVIOUS EDITIONS of the autobiography, detailing St. Therese's spiritual growth, have been based upon the text edited at her request by her sister Pauline (Mother Agnes). In attempting to present the book in a traditional form to appeal to the reading public of the turn of the century, Mother Agnes omitted almost a quarter of the work and made some 7,000 alterations in the text.

The new translation was done from a facsimile edition of St. Therese's "Story of a Soul," published in 1956 in France and reproducing exactly the original text as the saint wrote it. The work will be published in the United States by P. J. Kennedy & Sons, publishers, of New York.

THE FIRST EDITION, as edited by Mother Agnes, was published in September, 1898. Since then the autobiography has been translated into almost every known language. Total sales are unknown, but are estimated in the millions. St. Therese was canonized in 1925.

Some 50 years after the first edition appeared, the Carmelites of Lisieux made public the fact that the original text had been altered before publication. Public demand for the complete text led to the publication of the French facsimile edition in 1956 and to the new English edition as translated by Msgr. Knox.

COURIER-JOURNAL
LAST WEEK'S
PAID
CIRCULATION
56,246

Churches Increase New Construction

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — Church construction increased to \$65,000,000 during May, the Department of Commerce and Labor reported here.

This was an increase of 1,000,000 over construction activity in April, but was \$3,000,000 less than the mark established in May, 1957.

In the first five months of '58, church construction, which has been reflecting to a mild extent the current business recession, totaled \$9,000,000, a decline of \$3,000,000 or 2 per cent from the 1957 level.

The year 1958 is still the second best on record for church construction, however, topping every other postwar year except 1957 up to this point.

Construction by the non-public schools and colleges totaled \$43,000,000 in May, a gain of \$1,000,000 over April, an \$3,000,000 above May a year ago.

Construction by non-public hospitals and institutions, most of which are church-related, has continued to show gains, reaching \$51,000,000 in May, an increase of \$1,000,000 over April and \$10,000,000 more than the same month a year ago.

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