

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 6, 1958.)

"I'll doze, 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 feel 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 fine 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 gifted and 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 censuses 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.

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Bishop Offers Requiem For Monsignor Brien

(Continued from Page 4)

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"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 Judgment not empty-handed, but to present an account of a faithful and efficient stewardship."

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.F.; deacon, Rev. William J. Brien; subdeacon, Rev. Hubert A. Bisky; master of ceremonies, Rev. Edward J. McAniff and Rev. John F. Walsh; thurifer, Rev. William A. Burns; acolytes, Rev. Joseph F. Hogan and Rev. Alfred J. Horr; book bearer, Rev. John S. Maloney; candle bearer, Rev. Philip E. McGhan; mitre bearer, Rev. Bartholomew J. O'Brien; greenle bearer, Rev. Leonard P. Kujawski.

MONSIGNOR BRIEN'S death climaxes 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 St. Patrick's Cathedral High School and in 1922 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 1952.

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 capital campaign 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. Szepanski, Thomas Manley, Joseph O. Gorman, Joseph G. Merkle and Joseph M. McNamara. Rev. Benedict A. Ehmman, 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 Cannon. 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 Horr, 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. Cannon, Leo D. Ward, Francis W. Harding, Robert J. Fox, Thomas Watts, Harold Rogers, Thomas Cleary, Herbert L. Sturmer, Francis J. Kelly, Valdimir B. Dowhovich, John P. O'Berme, G. Stuart Hogan, Stanislaus H. Blaszcowski, Joseph E. Gullfoll, Vin-



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 semin-

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 fac-simile edition of St. Therese's "Story of a Soul" published in 1956 in France and reproducing exactly the original production of the text. The work will be published in the United States by P. J. Kennedy & Sons, publishers, of New York.

THE FIRST EDITION, as published by Mother Agnes, was edited 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 in 1956 of the French facsimile edition in 1956 and to the new English edition as translated by Msgr. Knox.

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 \$10,000,000 over construction activity in April, but was \$3,000,000 less than the mark established in May, 1957.

In the first five months of 1958, church construction, which has been reflecting to a mild extent the current business recession, totaled \$19,000,000, a decline of \$2,000,000 or 2 per cent from the 17 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 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, many 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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