

Obsolete Valentine?

Something Old, Blue

Bishop Robert J. Dwyer of Reno made front page headlines in Cincinnati this week by calling famous St. Patrick's Cathedral of New York an obsolete valentine.

He said a view of the century old edifice on Fifth Avenue as seen from skyscraper towers nearby revealed it as lacy frivolity and that such structures "should be buried."



ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL "should be buried" while the world and its worries thrrob outside.

The Reno prelate made his comments in a talk on church architecture.

Personally, we disagree with the good Bishop. We don't want to see St. Patrick's buried. We like it and think it serves a needed role in the heart of the "Big City."

Any tourist ever to visit the great cathedral is awed not only by its soaring arches and its shimmering bronze altar canopy, but equally moved by the quiet devotion of the thousands who daily find the cathedral a place to pray in quiet while the world and its worries thrrob outside.

An old saying says a bride should wear "something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue."

St. Patrick's, like a bride, is garbed in fine old gothic style borrowed from medieval monasteries—a graphic reminder that the faith it represents has preserved the best of the old world, the devotion and genius engendered by centuries of Christianity.

At the far end of the great cathedral is "something blue"—the chapel of Our Lady who smiles her blessing on the faithful who seek to obey her Son's commandments.

The cathedral is also in every sense of the word utterly "new" for it cradles in its tabernacle the Lord of heaven and earth for whom one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as a single day.

We are sure this Bishop of Reno momentarily forgot these aspects of the alleged "obsolete valentine" of Fifth Avenue.

Undoubtedly he merely wanted to emphasize his main point that new churches should be constructed not as mere copies of ancient edifices but with a touch of the contemporary about them. In this we agree, and our own Diocese of Rochester has set an enviable pace in its most recently built parish churches—St. Pius X, Chell; St. Louis, Pittsford; St. Thomas More, Brighton.

But we can't agree that we should bury the soaring towers of Sacred Heart Cathedral or St. Michael's Church in Rochester, St. Patrick's in Elmira, St. Mary's in Auburn or Immaculate Conception in Ithaca.

As Catholics we have a heritage from the past to cherish as well as a vocation to live in the present. It seems that our churches should bear witness to this double responsibility and that our Catholic faith is broad enough to admire the achievements of the past as well as the aspirations for the future.



LABOR DAY, Monday, is America's annual tribute to the working people of this country who use their brains, their skills, their brawn to develop the God-given natural resources of the United States. Catholics will mark the holiday with special Masses honoring St. Joseph, patron of working people, to ask God's continued blessing of peace and prosperity.

College President Bids Adieu

On Sunday evening August 24, 1958, the pioneer president of St. John Fisher College left for his new post at the University of St. Thomas in Houston. The Catholic Courier is happy to bring his farewell words to the people of the Diocese of Rochester.

My Dear People,

Every beginning is fraught with danger and anxiety for every beginning is a birth. Just as the early weeks of a child's life before the child has developed the resources to cope with the dangers of life can be uncertain so too, it was with the childhood years of St. John Fisher College.

Your interest, though your paternal concern for the infant college gave us the vision and courage to bring it into this world even though the nation was at war. In seven short years this infant in a pre-cooled Bishop. The Basilian Faith and intellectual growth our fondest hopes. It has been your support, your willingness to accept our insistence on nothing but quality which has made this possible.

A WISE PROVIDENCE now calls me to another field. My interest in and concern for St. John Fisher College you know.

As one last parting secret I want to share with you my consolation and confidence that the College passes into the competent, high minded guidance of the Very Rev. Charles Lavery, C.S.B., Ph.D., the new president. He brings to it the richness of the Basilian Community in college work of insistent excellence.

Even if there were a moment's cause for worry, we would banish it completely knowing that a gracious Providence still keeps the watchful, fatherly eye of a scholarly, kind, future-minded guardian on the College, its founder, His Excellency, the Most Rev. James E. Kearney, our Shepherd in Christ.

Should God's will of another day call me again to this Diocese I know that the College I leave will, in the hands of the Bishop, the Basilian Fathers and the Priests and People of the Diocese, have grown to fulfill visions not yet seen on the horizon. Gratefully, prayerfully, affectionately I leave you only to remain, In Christ, Father John F. Murphy, C.S.B., Ph.D.



FATHER MURPHY

Daily Mass Calendar table with columns for Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, listing specific Masses and prayers.

Vatican's

International Diplomacy Dept.

By JAMES C. O'NEILL, Vatican City—(N.C.)—The Sacred Congregation for Extraordinary Ecclesiastical Affairs is the Church's highest office dealing with Church problems that touch the political field.

Maglione died in 1944. Filling the number two position in the congregation is its Secretary, Archbishop Antonio Samoré, O.S.A.—apostolic nuncio to Columbia.

Because of the historical development in some countries, such as France, Germany, Spain and several in Latin America, the Church consults with some civil governments on the appointment of bishops and changes in the ecclesiastical jurisdiction within their borders.

A principal figure in the congregation is Msgr. Domenico Tardini, Pro-Secretary of State for Extraordinary Affairs. The top man in the Secretariat, Msgr. Tardini sees the Pope daily, often more than once. Offered a cardinal's hat in 1953, the small curly-haired Monsignor turned the honor down along with his coworker, the then Msgr. Giovanni B. Montini, now Archbishop of Milan.

Less Than An Hour To Heaven

By FATHER PATRICK O'CONNOR, Society of St. Columban

Lagos, Nigeria—(NC) Mary Popula seems to have kept her promise.

Mary was an African Catholic girl, but her Catholic life lasted less than an hour. It began and ended one Saturday night, 27 years ago. Dying on the night of her baptism, she promised to pray for Akure, then a forlorn, remote place.

THE PEOPLE of Akure (population about 39,000) and countryside belong to the Yoruba tribe. In 1931 the half-dozen Catholics in Akure were mostly Ibos, who had come to work as clerks and the like. Local prospects for the Church seemed hopeless.

"I planned to visit Akure, Monday," Father Corish related, "and I sent a boy to the marketplace to see if a truck was going that way. He found none. He tried day after day without success. By Saturday evening I gave up the idea and prepared to spend Sunday in my central mission.

"I was hearing confessions when the boy ran in to say that a truck was leaving for Akure immediately. I told him, 'I can't go now.'"

The missionary heard one more confession and then suddenly changed his mind. After all, the handful of Catholics in Akure had few chances of seeing a priest. He ran out after the boy, "Tell the driver I'm coming," he shouted.

It was nearly 10 p.m. when the truck reached Akure. An old catechist welcomed the

priest and told him at once "There's a girl dying in one of those houses."

"Maybe you could go in and talk to her."

Covered with the grime of travel, the priest went straight to the house. The people received him and brought him where the girl lay, dying of gangrene.

HE ASKED her if she knew who he was.

"You are the Padri (Father)," she answered.

"Do you know anything about the Catholic religion?"

Yes, she had visited the Catholic church a few times. She knew the principal mysteries of religion.

"Would you like to be a Catholic?"

"I hadn't gone 20 yards from the house when the people ran after me to say that she was dead," he said.

GREAT CHANGES have come in Akure since then. In place of the almost extinct little mission station, there is now the growing Sacred Heart parish with some 1,500 Catholics, 19 Catholic primary schools in the district, two secondary schools and two elementary teachers' training centers.

Bishop William Field, S.M.A., of Ono makes his headquarters in Akure, as did his predecessor, the late Bishop Thomas Hughes, S.M.A.

Father Corish, now Chancellor of the Lagos archdiocese, went to Akure last April to attend Bishop Field's consecration. It was a great occasion, another milestone in the progress of the Church in Nigeria.

But Father Corish slipped away from the throng to visit a spot that had special significance for him. Fittingly, it was beside the busy parochial church and house.

Bishop Kearney's Appointments

- SEPTEMBER
4 Thursday—St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing—Mass of the Holy Ghost—4:00 p.m.
5 Friday—Our Lady of Mercy High School—Mass of the Holy Ghost—9:00 a.m.
6 Saturday—Sacred Heart Academy—I.F.C.A. Mass—8:30 a.m.
8 Sunday—Nazareth Academy—Mass of the Holy Ghost—9:00 a.m.
9 Tuesday—Aquinas Institute—Mass of the Holy Ghost—9:00 a.m.
10 DeSales High School, Geneva, N.Y.—Mass of the Holy Ghost—9:00 a.m. Annual Mercy Alumnae Banquet—6:30 p.m.
11 Thursday—St. Joseph's Church—Mass of the Holy Ghost for St. Joseph's Commercial School—9:00 a.m.
15 Friday—St. Joseph's Church—Annual Lawyers' Rod Mass—9:00 a.m.
13 Saturday—Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse Chapel—Nazareth College Alumnae Mass and Breakfast—10:00 a.m.
16 Tuesday—Sacred Heart Academy—Mass of the Holy Ghost—9:00 a.m.
17 Wednesday—Nazareth College—Mass of the Holy Ghost—9:00 a.m.
18 Thursday—St. Andrew's Seminary—Mass of the Holy Ghost—9:30 a.m.
19 Friday—Sacred Heart Cathedral—Solemn Pontifical Mass for His Excellency, Bishop Kearney's Golden Jubilee of Priesthood—10:30 a.m.
20 Saturday—St. Bernard's Seminary—Ordinations—6:30 a.m.
21 Sunday—St. Joseph's Church—Diocesan Council of Catholic Nurses Mass and Communion—9:00 a.m. St. Patrick's Church, Elmira, N.Y.—Preside at Solemn Pontifical Mass for Golden Jubilee of St. Joseph's Hospital—5:00 p.m.
22 Monday—St. John Fisher College—Mass of the Holy Ghost—9:00 a.m.
24 Wednesday—Mercy Motherhouse Chapel—Solemn Pontifical Mass for Patronal Feast—10:00 a.m.
25 Thursday—International Federation of Catholic Alumnae Banquet—6:30 p.m.
28 Sunday Trappist Monastery, Piffard, N.Y.—Priesthood Ordination—9:30 a.m. Cenacle Concept—Breaking of Ground for Addition—5:00 p.m.
29 Monday—St. Patrick's Auditorium, Seneca Falls, N.Y.—Address, 35th Annual Banquet, Court Seneca Falls, No. 324, C.D.A.—7:00 p.m.

Bishop Casey's Appointments

- SEPTEMBER
3 Wednesday—Sacred Heart Cathedral—Pontifical Low Mass of the Holy Spirit—Opening of School—9:00 a.m.
8 Monday—St. Agnes High School—Mass of the Holy Spirit—9:00 a.m. Sacred Heart Hall—Rosary Guild—8:15 p.m.
9 Tuesday—Mt. Carmel High School, Auburn—Mass of the Holy Spirit—10:00 a.m.
10 Wednesday—Notre Dame High School, Elmira—Mass of the Holy Spirit—10:30 a.m.
11 Thursday—McQuaid High School—Mass of the Holy Spirit—9:00 a.m. St. Bernard's Seminary—Tonsure—4:00 p.m. Sacred Heart Hall—Men's Club—6:30 p.m.
12 St. Bernard's Seminary—Minor Orders—10:15 a.m.
14 Sunday—Blessing of Gates Catechetical Center—4:00 p.m.
15 Monday—St. Bernard's Seminary—Minor Orders, Subdiaconate—6:30 a.m.
19 Friday—Sacred Heart Cathedral—Bishop Kearney's Golden Jubilee of Priesthood—10:30 a.m.
21 Sunday—Holy Sepulchre Cemetery—Blessing of the Graves—3:30 p.m.
22 Monday—Sacred Heart Hall—Closing of Men's Club—Rosary Guild Membership Campaign—8:00 p.m.
27 Saturday—St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira—Pontifical Low Mass, Sermon, Golden Jubilee of Hospital—11:00 a.m.
28 Sunday—St. Catherine's, Addison—Confirmation—11:00 a.m. St. Mary's, Corning—Confirmation—1:30 p.m. Our Lady of Lourdes, Elmira—Confirmation—3:30 p.m. St. Cecilia's, Elmira—Confirmation—5:30 p.m.

Strange But True...

Advertisement for 'The Holy Family and Their Relatives' featuring a large illustration of the Holy Family and text describing the subject as a favorite of 16th-century Rhineland wood-carvers.

Courier Journal advertisement including contact information for the Rochester Diocese, subscription rates, and office locations in Auburn and Elmira.