

Father Edward Waters

Following is the text of the eulogy given by Rev. John S. Maloney at the August 28th funeral of Rev. Edward J. Waters who died August 24, 1958. The funeral was held in St. Patrick's Church, Elmira.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith. For the rest, there is laid up for me a crown of justice, which the Lord, the just Judge, will give to me in that day."
— 2nd Timothy 4: 7-8

Shortly before his death in Rome, St. Paul wrote these words to one whom he had ordained a priest. Supremely conscious of the fact that he had been chosen by Christ Himself to be an Apostle, remembering the struggles he had endured in preaching the Gospel, knowing that his death was near, Paul looked back over his life and could honestly say these words of himself. As he lay dying, Father Waters could have said the same words truthfully and so very correctly they can be used as the text of his eulogy.

ST. PAUL had defined a priest as one "taken from among men" and "appointed for men in the things pertaining to God, that he may offer gifts and sacrifices for sins."

A priest is the way in which God comes to man and by which man seeks to approach God.

First, God became man, and in order to perpetuate his nearness to men for all time He made himself available through the ministry of His priests.

The essential purpose of any priest is to offer sacrifice to God for himself and the people whom he represents in order to offer the perfect sacrifice — which is the offering of His Divine Son — the priest must first of all call Christ down upon the altar in the words of Consecration, and then offer Christ, truly present, to His Father Almighty in adoration, thanksgiving, propitiation and petition. And then in fulfillment of God's purpose to give Christ to individual persons in Holy Communion.

It is this power to command Christ's presence on our altars that sets a priest apart from other men, as St. Paul says. It is a power not possessed by the angels. Not even the Mother of God with all her unequalled privileges can change bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Her Divine Son as the priest does every time that he says Mass.

The one thing that stands in the way of men coming close to Almighty God and living on terms of friendship with Him is the ugly fact of sin. The second essential function of the Catholic priest is to forgive sins in the sacrament of Penance, to apply

the saving grace that Christ gained on the Cross to the souls of men, to revive the sanctifying grace that was given at the time he administered Baptism.

Constantly throughout life, man needs the ministrations of the priest in order to accomplish the purpose for which he was created, to bring him close to God in this life and hence to Him in the next.

In order that men may know all this and take advantage of it, the priest needs to preach and instruct, to teach and exhort in the pulpits, in the classrooms, at the bedside of the sick, and dying, and when necessary, by way of correction and admonition.

This in short is the life of a priest. It was the life of Father Waters, for above all things he was a priest, always conscious of the powers given him by God, always ready to use them for the benefit of others.

In various places throughout the Diocese he has preached the Gospel and administered the sacraments faithfully until last Saturday afternoon. He was justly proud of his role as a Chaplain in the Army. Even before this country entered World War II, he volunteered to minister to the Catholic men who were called in the draft as the shadows of war began to gather.

HE WAS THE first priest of the Diocese to don the uniform in World War II. He wore on his shoulder the Big Red One, the emblem of the First Infantry Division. He was with it after the invasion of Africa during the desperate defense of Kasserine Pass.

He stayed with it during the invasion of Sicily, across the bloody sands of Omaha Beach in Normandy, across France, in the bitter cold and bitter fighting of the Bulge, through the dim and deadly Huerigen Forest where not a tree was left unmarked by the shells and bullets.

His ministrations through all this were essentially the same as

in his parish work — to forgive the sins of men about to enter combat, to offer Mass for them, to console them with the consolation of God's sacraments if they were wounded or dying, and, if they died to offer again the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for the eternal repose and rest of their war-weary souls.

Perhaps only a few of his closest friends (and I am proud to count myself among them) knew of the crosses he carried and the difficulties under which he worked. He lost a year in the Seminary because of sickness and two serious operations. He suffered the painful and enervating effects of chronic colitis during and since the war.

His legs were injured when struck by an automobile several years ago which made it difficult for him to stand or walk for very long. He has suffered from diabetes the past few years.

Something he revealed recently throws light on his character. For two years after he was struck by the car he practiced genuflecting very painfully in the privacy of his room for a half hour a day so that he would not be awkward in offering Holy Mass at the altar.

He never complained about these crosses and mentioned them only in casual conversation. He was impatient with them only because they interfered with his work as a priest. He drove himself harder to overcome these handicaps, assuming at times a bluff hearty good humor which he did not always feel.

Since he was human he had his faults like the rest of us. In the eternal light of God's judgment he may be more conscious of them than before. Any faults he may have had stemmed from his impulsive and impetuous nature, a characteristic he shared with a priest of long ago — St. Peter whom Christ loved more than the other Apostles except St. John in spite of his impetuosity or perhaps because of it.

FATHER WATERS was quite accustomed to face the thought of death as any soldier with his experience would be. In mentioning death he usually expressed the hope that prayers would be said and Masses offered for him. It was about all he ever asked for anyone for himself. It should go without saying that everyone of his friends and all those for whom he has offered the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass should do for him the one simple thing he wanted most of all.

I should like to extend to his sisters, and to his other relatives the sympathy of the Bishops and

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Funeral Held For Fr. Waters, Elmira Pastor

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He had been at Camp Drum early this August for his annual reserve duty.

PRIOR TO HIS assignment on June 24 as pastor of St. Patrick's, Father Waters had been pastor of St. Aloysius Church, Auburn since 1954. He had also served as assistant pastor at St. Augustine's Church, Rochester (1936 to 1940), at St. Mary's Church, Elmira, in 1940, the year he entered the chaplaincy corps, and at Our Lady of Good Counsel parish, Rochester (1946 to 1954).

A native of Owego, he was born Aug. 5, 1906, the son of the late Joseph and Elizabeth Traynor Waters. He attended St. Patrick's School, Owego, and the Free Academy, there.

He studied at St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries, Rochester, and was ordained in old St. Patrick's Cathedral, Rochester, by Cardinal Mooney on June 6, 1936.

HIS DEATH Sunday noon resulted from a severe heart attack suffered Saturday afternoon at

all the priests of the Diocese. While you mourn the passing of a brother we mourn the passing of a good friend, and we mourn and sympathize with you.

Some while ago in talking over experiences of the war, he unwittingly summed up his life and said something that can serve as his epitaph.

During the chaotic confusion of the invasion of Sicily, American paratroopers were dropped in the wrong place and some of them were being fired upon by other Americans who thought they were enemy forces.

One plummeted out of the evening sky near Father Waters shouting, "Don't shoot. I'm an American." Father Waters shouted back "It's all right. I am a Catholic Priest." He was indeed. He was a fine priest. May God in His infinite mercy be good to him.

He had been examined by doctors Thursday and Friday at St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira, and told he had a heart condition.

He is survived by three sisters, Mrs. Katherine Horner and Miss Mary E. Waters of Bath, and Mrs. Margaret Doty of Owego.

Prayers of the Diocese chanted Vespers of the Dead Wednesday evening in St. Patrick's Church where Father Waters' body lay in state from 4 p.m. until the funeral on Thursday.

ASSISTING Bishop Casey at the funeral Mass was Rt. Rev. Msgr. John E. Maney, assistant priest; Very Rev. Leo G. Schwab, deacon, and Rev. Elmer W. Helndl, subdeacon.

Rev. Edwin R. Wedow and Rev. Darcy Bolger were masters of ceremonies.

Rev. James O'Connell was thurifer; Rev. John O'Malley and Rev. Gerard Amagn, acolytes.

Rev. Emmett Davis and Rev. John Gorman were book and candle bearers; Rev. Austin Hanna and Rev. Albert Simoseitl, mitre and gremiale bearers.

Pall bearers were the Rev. Fathers William Burns, John Walsh, Nicholas Alletto, Hubert Bisky, Leonard Kujawski, and Joseph Merkel.

Burial was in the priests' plot of St. Peter and Paul's Cemetery, Elmira, where Bishop Casey gave the final absolution.

ATTENDING the Mass were the Rt. Rev. Monsignors William J. Naughton, Lawrence W. Gannon, V.F., Francis J. Lane, William Byrne, V.F., Arthur E. Rattigan and Shields Dwyer and Robert Dillon of Syracuse, James D. Cuffney, Joseph J. Sullivan and Patrick J. Flynn.

The choir directed by the Rev. Edmund Thoman completed the Requiem Mass. Officiating were the Reverend Fathers Robert J. Dwyer, Bartholomew J. O'Brien, Francis J. Egan, James O'Connell, Eugene J. Kelly, Thomas E. Casey, Henry Adamski, Paul Czorny, Herbert L. Summer, John H. Hill, William S. Baker, Peter J. Schmitt, John Casey, Joseph P. Harty, Bernard C. Newcomb, John P. Norris, Adolph Schuler, Orin W. Felt, J. J. O'Leary, Albert J. Thomas, H. W. W. Smith, Nolan, Richard J. Harriet, Francis J. Leary, W. Leary.

Prayers also attending were the Reverend Fathers Robert J. Dwyer, Bartholomew J. O'Brien, Francis J. Egan, James O'Connell, Eugene J. Kelly, Thomas E. Casey, Henry Adamski, Paul Czorny, Herbert L. Summer, John H. Hill, William S. Baker, Peter J. Schmitt, John Casey, Joseph P. Harty, Bernard C. Newcomb, John P. Norris, Adolph Schuler, Orin W. Felt, J. J. O'Leary, Albert J. Thomas, H. W. W. Smith, Nolan, Richard J. Harriet, Francis J. Leary, W. Leary.

Waterbury, John M. Egan. The Reverend Fathers John S. Whalen, Leo J. Crowley, David E. Slingerhoff, George M. Hurley, Joseph F. Hogan, Bernard Kuchman, John S. Harte, John D. Malley, Michael J. Hyland, Raymond G. Heise, Robert G. MacNamara, John Reddick, John M. Dellar, Daniel E. McGahan, Joseph V. Gullotti, Justin Bush, D.E.M. Long, John P. O'Brien, William M. Cannon, John L. Maxwell.

The Reverend Fathers Leonard P. Kujawski, Joseph L. Hogan, M. K. Haller, G.S.B., Donald J. Murphy, Charles W. Hyde, Benjamin J. Joseph, Robert F. Shea, Gerald J. Whelan, G.S.B., Jerome St. George, James G. Lane, Francis J. Harty, William M. Roche, John J. Leary, Alphonsus P. Grumena, Raymond S. Nolan, Edward J. Foy, Thomas J. Brennan, Marjaretta Nowakowski, G. Cannon.

Parents Said Failing In Sex Instruction

Portland, Ore. — (NC) — Only a few young persons questioned in a Young Christian Workers survey here felt they had been given adequate sex education by their parents.

Tom Condon, executive secretary of the Portland YCW, said most of those questioned agreed that parents rather than schools should be the teachers on matters of sex.

About 15 per cent of those interviewed were Catholic.

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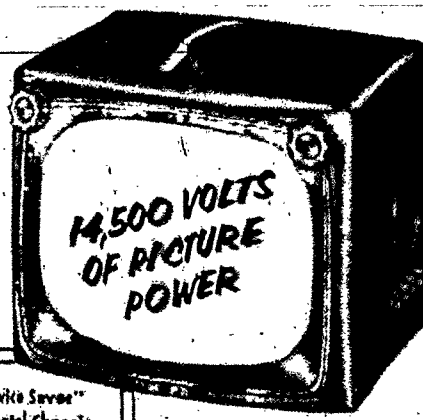
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