

New Museum Hours
Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences will be closed on Labor Day, Sept. 1. It is announced by W. Stephen Thomas, director.
Starting on Sept. 2, Fall hours will be in effect. The Museum will be open daily, Monday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sundays from 2 to 5 p.m.

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Sainthood Eyed For Spain Widow

Priest - Son May See Mother Canonized

By JIM KELLY
San Francisco - (NC) - Talking with strangers about a loved one is not easy. There is an intimacy of feeling, of emotion, that does not always come through in words. Especially when they concern a mother.

In the rectory of Holy Rosary Church, Decoto, Calif., the little Spanish priest was doing his best, with the odds against him. Stranded in midsentence, hunting for the proper English, he would turn finally to the interpreter.

THIS WAS MORE than his loving tribute to his mother, Praxedes Fernandez, widow of a humble workingman, has been singled out for the possibility of honors that the Church reserves for the heroic among the servants of God.

Father Enrique Fernandez, O.P., hopes to live to see his mother beatified, perhaps someday canonized.

"She often told me when I was a small boy, 'Always have your thoughts on God,'" said the Dominican priest, who travels throughout California giving missions for the Spanish-speaking.

"Her own life was the best example of that advice. She didn't live for herself. Only to serve others, and through them, God."

At the request of priests familiar with her sanctity, the canonical process for the beatification of Praxedes Fernandez was opened in the Archdiocese of Oviedo, Spain, in November, 1957.

SENORA FERNANDEZ, who died less than 22 years ago, spent her life in the province of Asturias in northern Spain, a coal mining region. Six years after her marriage to Gabriel Fernandez, a day laborer, she became a widow when he died under the wheels of a train in 1919. She was left with four sons, the youngest three days old.

To house her brood she turned to the home of her parents in the village of Suero. The bargain she kept for the next 14 years: her own domestic services in return for her family's shelter and feeding.

Suero was not known for its religious fervor. The hamlet had no church. By the late '20s communists agitators already were finding a ready audience among the miners.

For the deeply religious widow Fernandez this was trying. Daily Mass meant a two-mile walk in the early morning to the next town. Communist hoodlums sometimes followed her, jeering. She was threatened with violence more than once.

If the jeers drew tears, they also earned something the tormentors needed more—prayers. Senora Fernandez had vowed her widowhood would be dedicated completely to the service of God, a life of penance, prayer and sacrifice for her sons and others around her.

TWO HOURS a day she gave to meditation and the Rosary. Three days a week she fasted rigorously from all but the barest sustenance. In the privacy of her garret room the devout woman, with the permission of her confessor, disciplined her body with a stinging leather strap.

Villagers knew the widow as one never too busy to help others. She visited the sick in their homes, to clean and cook for those who were not able, to wash their sores, risking contagion where others would not. Father Fernandez remembers his mother learning out of the kitchen window, giving food to the hungry poor—her own meals.

And there were hardened sinners, communist sympathizers among them, often years away from Mass, who died thinking the gentle woman for helping them return to the sacraments in time.

Tragedy had struck again during this period. One of her sons,

Arturo, 11 years old died in 1931, victim of a rail accident like his father.

By 1933 Asturias was under the rule of communist violence. The village church, which she had attended for 13 years, burned before the widow's eyes. In December, 1934, as Franco's forces fought to stem the tide, Senora Fernandez, already called the "Saint of Suero," joined the streams of Catholics who sought refuge in the city of Oviedo.

Here she learned of the death of another son, Celestino, who had sacrificed a legal career to fight for Franco. And here, in October, 1936, as communist artillery hurled shells into the city, Praxedes Fernandez breathed her last, offering "for the salvation of Spain" the life that was ebbing from her.

Praxedes Fernandez' body, given mass burial with the rest of the dead of besieged Oviedo, was never recovered. But the faith and example of her sanctity grew with the passing years.

One son, Gabriel, now works in the mines near Suero. Another, ordained in 1941, was assigned to the Dominican novitiate in Ross in 1951.

Father Fernandez has been two years in California when he reached him that the papal process of the Oviedo archdiocese had postponed the opening of his mother's cause for beatification.

"I knew, of course, the esteem her life inspired," he said. "But that a simple widow should be proposed for such an honor . . ."

Two thousand Asturians watched last November, in the provincial capital of Mieres, as Oviedo's Archbishop Javier Lauzurica opened the informative process, first of the many steps that may lead Praxedes Fernandez to the title of Blessed.

'Empty Glass' Gift To God

Newark, N.J. - (NC) - "To make an empty glass a gift to God is a child-like thing," a meeting of the Catholic Total Abstinence Union was told here.

"But your gift of an empty glass is an act of sacrifice symbolic of true love, for out of love you sacrifice what might have been in the glass a good, normal, human pleasure."

Father David J. Pathe made this statement at the union's 88th annual convention.

"And this is a good Christian practice," he continued, "to do child-like things because Christ commanded us to become like little children."

Program Director For Heart Committee

Mrs. Katherine Smith Marvin has been appointed program director of the heart committee of the Health Association of Rochester and Monroe County. It was announced today by Marie Goulet, executive director of the association. Mrs. Marvin succeeds Mary Hurley, who resigned to accept a position with the Alaska Department of Health.

Water Colors At Museum

Mushroom portraits in water color by Mrs. Isabel Kelly Bird of New York City are featured in a special exhibition in the Hall of Natural Science on the first floor of Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences.



Noodles For Refugees
Hong Kong - (NC) - Maryknoll Father Howard Trube aids Catholic Relief Service staff workers making 120 pounds of noodles an hour for 228,000 refugee families. Machines were invented by Italy-born Monsignor John Romanzello of New Rochelle.

First Degree Taken By Six

Waverly - First Degree of the Knights of Columbus was exemplified at the Waverly council rooms.

Six recipients are: Paul Wehring, Lawrence Kelly, John Kuhns, John Dunham, Joseph Kobzlewski and Joseph Tully.

Local Builder Hailed First In Nation to Flag His Homes

Joseph Entress, builder and developer of residential tracts in the Rochester area for the past quarter century, is probably the first builder in the United States to adopt a policy of furnishing American flags with every home he builds.

Initiated last week in an effort to counter as he says "a certain apathy in the ownership and display of 'Old Glory' in private homes on holidays set aside for thankful tribute to the American Way of Life" . . . all purchasers of homes in the Entress' tracts of 'Homar' in Greece and 'Vilmar' in Scottsville since January, 1, 1958 will receive a high quality American flag and standard without cost.

A national impact is involved in the Entress decision. According to W. R. Shedinger, executive vice president of the Delta Flag Company of Oats, Pennsylvania, who has furnished flags for the Federal Government since 1915, the Rochester, N.Y. home builder is the only builder in the nation, as far as is known, to adopt this policy now, and for all future homes he builds. A congratulatory telegram to this effect was sent to Mr. Entress following his policy announcement.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Culver Post, was the first among local veterans' organizations, to pass a resolution commending Joseph Entress for his patriotic effort. W. Raymond Noll, Monroe County Commander (VFW) took part in a ceremony Wednesday noon of this week when Mr. Entress presented an American flag and standard to Mr. Richard Wemple and his family at their home in the 'Homar' tract.



JOSEPH ENTRESS

Requiem Mass Said For V. DeStefanis

Funeral services for Vincent DeStefanis, of 392 Norton St., who died Aug. 15, 1958, were held at the August M. Maler Funeral Home and in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church on Tuesday, Aug. 19. Funeral Mass was celebrated by Rt. Rev. Msgr. Frank J. Hoefen. Rev. Thomas Talla Kida, C.S.C., was present in the sanctuary.

Mr. DeStefanis was a member of the Laymen's Retreat League and the Holy Name Society of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. He had operated a shoe repair shop at the Norton St. address for more than 35 years.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Elvira DeStefanis; a son, Filoteo J. DeStefanis; one daughter, Mrs. James J. Douly; five grand children; three great-grand children; two sisters, Mrs. Matilde Colangelo of Schenectady, and one sister in Italy.

Bearers were Richard Boesel, Perry Flukis, Chris Kruppenbacher, Raymond Lill, Charles Martin and Joseph Slivick.

Interment was made in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, where final blessing at the grave was given by Father Tallarida.

Oblate Bishop Philadelphia - (NC) - Bishop-elect Francis J. McSorley, O.M.I., will be consecrated here in the Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul on October 8.

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