

Monsignor Straub

Following is the text of the eulogy given by Rev. Raymond J. Wall at the funeral Mass for His Rev. Msgr. Frederick G. Straub in St. Alphonsus Church, Auburn, Wednesday, October 25, 1933.

Thou has made him a little less than the angels. Thou hast crowned him with glory and honor, and hast set him over the works of Thy hands. — Ps. VIII, 5 & 6.

When we pause to think of the dignity, honor, and powers that accompany ordination to the Catholic Priesthood, we are overcome and bewildered until we realize that it is the work of Almighty God. We are overwhelmed when we understand the full import of Christ's words, "As the Father has sent me, I also send you." "Going, therefore, teach all nations." "Do this for a commemorative of me." Receive ye the Holy Ghost whose sin you shall forgive, they are forgiven them."

With St. John Chrysostom we are prompted to exclaim, "Jesus gave to His priests powers that neither angels or archangels possess."

When the Catholic priest stands at the altar or in the pulpit, when he admonishes and instructs the faithful, when he administers the sacrament of Penance or Holy Communion, when he baptizes and instructs the children, when he marries and blesses the bridal couple, when he administers the last sacraments to the dying, when he blesses the dead and accompanies them to their last resting place and above all when he offers up the Sacrifice of the Mass for the living and the dead, he acts in the name and with the power of God Himself and so in speaking of the Catholic Priest we can exclaim with David, "Thou has made him a little less than the angels. Thou hast crowned him with glory and honor, and hast set him over the works of Thy hands."

FOR 43 YEARS Monsignor Straub has been blessed with the dignity and the honor of the Priesthood. He has been truly as St. Paul says, "The dispenser of the mysteries of God." He has become "All things to all men." To review the life of Monsignor Straub would indeed fill a library, yet certain things must be recounted this morning in order to more fully appreciate the greatness of the man who lies before us.

Frederick Straub was born and raised on a farm in Greece, a town adjacent to the city of Rochester. He attended grammar school at St. John's, Greece, St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's Seminaries and was ordained in June, 1913. His first of only three appointments was as procurator of St. Bernard's Seminary, where his knowledge of farming was put to good use. When coal became scarce during the first world war, the typical energy, initiative and ability of Father Straub became evident.

Charged with seeing for the needs of seminarians and professors alike, Father Straub on one occasion drove a flock of turkeys from the old Bishop's farm on Hemlock Lake to Rochester and through the streets to St. Bernard's Seminary. While providing for the Seminary he worked weekends in the parishes of Rochester and the surrounding towns, preaching, hearing confessions and celebrating the holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

His second appointment was to Scipio and Genoa, our neighbors to the south, where he soon endeared himself to the people. There especially, because all things to all men. When he had taken care of their spiritual needs, he joined them in their farm chores, pitching hay, fixing roofs, milking cows and so on, always leading the people to a greater appreciation of their faith.

Then came his final appointment to St. Alphonsus, the little German Church on Water Street in Auburn. Within six years the little church was too small to contain Father Straub, his congregation and his ideas and so he was instrumental in moving the church from Water Street to East Genesee St., where we stand this morning. At St. Alphonsus, he became known as a builder, financier and administrator.

The Creator endowed Father Straub with a prodigious memory for faces, names, dates and events. He soon came to know the history of families throughout Cayuga County. It wasn't a strange thing for Father Straub to pick out some child and say I baptized you and your mother and your grandmother. More and more people began to bring their problems to Father Straub and always with God's help he was able to help them.

HIS CHARITY became well known during the years of the depression and only God knows how many coal bins were filled and how many kitchens had food through the efforts of Father Straub. His name spread through the years and time after time people of every race and creed called him for advice and help.

Parents called him doctors and lawyers called him the

it go back to Auburn where you belong."

"Do you remember the time at Camp when Father Straub was out in a row boat with one of his assistants? When they reached the pier the assistant stepped out and Father Straub in the back of the boat started to go down until all you could see was his hat and his cigar. And he couldn't swim either."

You remember the incident of the horse-hipping. You remember him on the thousands of occasions that he recited the Rosary at the homes of the faithful departed. You remember his visits to your own homes in times of sickness and trouble. His own home was a haven for priests, old and young; a home where a priest could stop and find a meal and companionship.

It was not a strange thing for Father Straub and his assistants to start a meal and then before it was over be joined by 2 or 3 or 6 or 7 other priests who just happened to be passing through. All this is Father Straub.

THERE WERE many projects in Auburn close to Father Straub's heart. First and above all things came his parish. Then there was Mercy Hospital, Camp Columbus, and Mt. Carmel High School. And I would indeed be remiss in my duty if I failed to mention his tremendous interest in the new Sacred Heart Parish.

When I returned to Auburn as Father Straub's assistant some three years ago, he had just been made a Monsignor, on his death bed as all thought. He was given three or four months to live.

Almighty God was not finished with him, however, and he spared him for those last three years. When he was finally summoned before the heavenly court on the great Feast of Christ the King, he who had served the King so well had seen his parish grow into a well organized and smoothly running unit in Christ's Church.

He had witnessed his beloved Camp cleared of debt, due to the generosity of one of his loyal parishioners. He had seen Mercy Hospital returned to a local board of directors; he had conceived the plan for financing the construction of the new and necessary addition to Mt. Carmel High School, and last but not least he had witnessed Sacred Heart parish come into being and with his assistance become a thriving but struggling cell in the Mystical Body.

When a couple of months ago he felt that he could no longer carry the burdens of the Parish, because of failing health, he resigned the parish that had been his great love for the past 33 years, a parish where the faith was deep and strong because Father Straub had been its shepherd.

Brother priests, sisters, relatives, parishioners and friends!

As Father Straub looks down, know ye that he lives on in Auburn in the lives of other priests, in the lives of sisters, doctors, nurses, fathers and mothers; in the lives of business men and laboring men; in the lives of young men and women; in the lives of his boys and girls.

Realize that Auburn is a much better place in which to live because of Father Straub's 34 years here. Today the hands that were so often stretched out in beneficence, are stretched out asking for your prayers and remembrance. Father Straub was in all things throughout his life an "Aid" to his father, "if you don't like Father Straub," another Christ.

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Cambridge — (RNS) — New England artist Allan Rohan Crite made this drawing of "Our Lady of Harvard Square" for the St. Thomas More Bookshop here. It depicts the Blessed Virgin Mary with the Child Jesus against a background of Harvard University buildings and nearby churches, business places and a subway station. Designed for a Christmas card, it was exhibited here with other works of the artist.



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