



Painting Symbolizes Year's Devotion



Look Out Below

Beginning in February, your Courier Journal will bring you a chapter a week of the just published "Look Out Below" — the story of the 101st Airborne Division in World War II and of the 187th in the Korean action. The author is the paratrooper chaplain Lt. Col. Francis L. Sampson now serving in Germany.

Bishop Kearney has chosen as the thematic picture of our diocesan Eucharistic Year, Raphael's famous Vatican painting, "The Disputation of the Blessed Sacrament." A more appropriate picture could not have been selected.

Actually, this popular name "Disputation of the Blessed Sacrament" is an unfortunate one. It is not official, nor correct, nor adequate.

On the ceiling directly above Raphael's fresco is a female figure labeled "Theology." It is evident, therefore, that the painter of the great fresco intended to summarize in it the whole body of Christian faith.

Raphael divided the design into an upper and lower area. The upper one represents heaven, the lower one, earth.

HEAVEN DISPLAYS the vision of the Holy Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, in descending order. Christ, bearing the wounds of his passion, sits enthroned as the King of Kings.

Flanking him on his immediate right and left are Mary, who leans toward him in love, and St. John the Baptist, who points him out as the "Lamb of God." Seated a little below them, in a continuous circle, are the saints, who are rejoicing in the peace of the divine vision.

Peter is at the extreme left.

Theme Picture For Eucharistic Year

The famous painting "Disputation" by the Renaissance artist Raphael has been named by Bishop Kearney as the theme picture for this Diocese's Eucharistic Year.

The original is in the Vatican Museum at Rome. In the accompanying article, Rev. Robert McNamara, professor of history and Christian Art at St. Bernard's Seminary, explains the symbolism of the painting.

Paul at the extreme right. Between them, mixed indiscriminately, are the saints of both Old and New Testaments: Adam, St. John the Evangelist, David, St. Lawrence, Judas Maccabeus (?), St. George, St. Stephen, Moses, St. James, and Abraham.

These are separated from the lower level by the angel-borne cloud upon which they sit. They do not look down to earth. They have no need to, for they have reached the peace of their heavenly home.

Nor do they in the lower level of the picture behold the vision in the heaven above them, even though some of them look toward heaven in piety and awe. They assume many different positions, gaze in many different directions, are concerned about many different points of agreement or disagreement. But their attitudes all show earnestness about divine truth.

THE FOUR most prominent figures in this lower area are the four great Fathers of the west: St. Augustine, St. Jerome, St. Ambrose, and St. Gregory, who sit, as befits

their office of teachers, about the altar. Pope St. Gregory the Great looks heavenward. He wears the papal tiara, and has at his feet a copy of his book the "Moralia."

Next to him, in the traditional robes of a cardinal, and with his traditional symbol, the lion at his feet, is the studious St. Jerome, before whom lies a copy of the Vulgate Bible, of which he was the translator, and his letters.

To the right of the altar, wearing mitres, sit Sts. Ambrose (gazing upward) and St. Augustine (instructing a disciple). Augustine bears on his lap a copy of his "City of God."

The artist chose these men to represent the great teachers, of Christ's revelation. They are surrounded by other men who have devoted their hearts to honoring God and clarifying and spreading his doctrines.

At the extreme left, in the background, is Fra Angelico, the Dominican painter of heavenly subjects. On the right hand side, standing just right of the seat of St. Augustine, we find St. Thomas Aquinas, the Angelic Doctor, and chief luminary of scholastic philosophy and theologians.

Two figures further to the right wearing a cardinal's hat, is the Franciscan genius, St. Bonaventure. And further right by another two figures, is the laurel-crowned poet Dante, whose "Divina Commedia" merits for him the title of most theological of poets.

There is much obscurity as to the identity of the other figures on this lower level. Probably Raphael did not mean to personalize them all. He wished to give the general impression that to this group belong popes, bishops, and chief luminaries of scholastic philosophy and theologians.

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Pontiff Asks Prayers For Faith-In China

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope John XXIII has asked the clergy and people of Rome to join him January 25 in prayers for Catholics persecuted for their faith.

He particularly asked for prayers that Chinese Catholics be saved from a schism.

Mention of the word schism led the Pope to declare, "it would have been Our wish never to have pronounced the painful word but sad reality has led Us to do so because the Supreme Shepherd cannot remain silent and unmoved in the face of the threatened loss of an elect part of his flock, rich in ancient and very noble culture and—in exquisite gentility of soul."

It is therefore Our wish that on January 25—the day on which the Roman liturgy commemorates the conversion of St. Paul and when a beloved and providential custom closes the Octave of Prayer for Church Unity—the Rome diocese should come together in prayer with Us to give a dutiful proof of concern and solidarity with our brothers of China.

U.S. Air Force Awards Hero Medal To Priest

Syracuse — (NC) — One of the nation's highest peacetime decorations was posthumously awarded here to a Syracuse priest who died last May while trying to save a group of children from drowning.

The Soldiers' Medal, honoring the late Chaplain Leonard M. Barry was received in his behalf by Daniel J. Barry, his eldest brother, from Maj. Gen. Sam W. Agee, commander of the 26th air division at Syracuse Air Force Station. The medal was blessed by Bishop Walter A. Foery of Syracuse.

FATHER BARRY, a captain in the U.S. Air Force, drowned on May 25, 1958, when he tried to rescue three children from swirling waters in the Gulf of Mexico. He was found with his arms wrapped around the children whom he attempted to save. A total of seven persons, five of them children, died in the tragedy.

The citation accompanying the medal said that "the exemplary courage and selfless humanitarianism displayed by Chaplain Barry reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force."

Father Barry attended St. Bernard's Seminary, Rochester.

Twist Of Arm And A Sermon

Paris — (RNS) — Thieves who specialize in robbing churches are advised to keep clear of the village of Fontaine, near Antibes in southern France.

Chances are they will run into Abbe Couret, the village priest who is a judo expert and has caught 40 would-be thieves within the last two years.

His latest capture came when he found two men trying to rob the poor box.

One of the men took to his heels and escaped, but the priest got a firm judo grip on the other and held him until the police arrived.

Abbe Couret told a crowd attracted by "the commotion" of only having over to the police those thieves who offer resistance. The others he let go after preaching a good sermon to them on honesty.

Buffalo Area Half Catholic

Buffalo — (NC) — Catholics make up 50 per cent of the population in the eight counties that comprise the Diocese of Buffalo, Bishop Joseph A. Burke announced in reporting that last September's census showed 847,554 members of the Church.



Modern Hospital Displays Ancient Drugs

Ancient drugs are on display in modern St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira. Pharmacist John J. Reed and Sister M. Karen with student nurses Rosemary Sisolak and Patricia Marsh view the exhibit. Drugs include wine, myrrh, cinnamon, and niter (today's bicarbonate of soda) and 20 other items, many mentioned in the Bible. Exhibit was prepared by Franciscan Sister M. Maryisa and is open to the public.

St. Joseph Nuns

Funds Sought For Infirmary

(Picture on Page 2)

Bishop Kearney will be principal speaker at a kickoff dinner for the Monroe County advanced gifts committee of the Sisters of St. Joseph Infirmary - Novitiate Appeal at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 29, in the Nazareth College cafeteria.

The committee will solicit pledges toward the proposed construction of a \$1,500,000 infirmary building on the Nazareth Motherhouse grounds, 4095 East Ave., Rochester.

Aim of the appeal is two-fold: (1) to provide modern facilities for Sisters retired from active

duty because of illness or age, and (2) to make available in the Motherhouse additional space for the housing and training of young women preparing to become Sister-teachers in diocesan schools and others training for specialized work in Catholic social service institutions in the diocese.

Pledges toward the project will be sought among relatives, alumni, parent groups and friends of the Sisters throughout the diocese.

Nearly 1,000 members of the general committee for Monroe County will attend a kickoff rally at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4, in Nazareth Academy Auditorium, 1001 Lake Ave.

Gerald R. Barrett, general committee chairman, and William Mulcahy, head of the advanced gifts group, this week announce

ed members of the appeals advisory committee, of which Frank E. Donnelly Sr. is chairman. It includes:

Mayor Peter Barry, John P. Boylan, Harold J. Coleman Sr., Harry B. Crowley Sr., James P. E. Duffy, Bernard E. Flanagan, Robert E. Glavin, Martin T. Gullen, John D. Hayes.

Also Jeremiah G. Hickey Sr., J. Arthur Jennings, Henry J. Kearse, Judge Charles P. Lambiasi, Louis A. Langie, Michael J. Lawless, Thomas J. McCarrick, Paul J. McGuire, William T. Nolan, Fred J. Odenbach, B. Edward Shlesinger, Otto A. Shulls, Edward A. Springer, Fred M. Tobin Sr., Robert B. Wegman, Frank E. Wolfe, Theodore J. Zornow.

Of the more than 900 Sisters of St. Joseph — largest religious group in the Diocese — 80 are retired because of age or infirmity. Present infirmary quarters on the top floor of the Motherhouse provide for only 25 — the remaining 64 are in hospitals, parish convents, and other parts of the Motherhouse.

If the Sister-patients could be moved to the proposed new building, 50 more novices could be accommodated in the Motherhouse. Plans for the building include rooms for at least 100 Sister-patients.

Missouri Voids Church Bans

Jefferson City — (NC) — Any zoning law or ordinance which seeks to prevent the building of a church at any location in Missouri is in violation of the Constitution of the United States and of Missouri.

Effect of the opinion will be to permit the building of a Jewish synagogue in a St. Louis suburb, Creve Coeur, which is a community of expensive homes in western St. Louis County.

The state Supreme Court, in its action here, held that the State of Missouri had granted no authority to cities to prohibit the building of either churches or schools in residence districts.

French White House To Have Chapel

Paris — (RNS) — General de Gaulle, President of the French Republic, has ordered a new chapel installed in the Elysee Palace, the presidential residence here.

In the Solemn Hours, Flowers are more comforting than words. In the beauty of flowers is confirmation of the faith which sustains all who have suffered loss. Blanchard Florist, 58 Lake Avenue. BA 5-9484. — Adv.

Navy Chaplain Reports:

1,000 Miles For One Confession

People who gripe about having to travel a short distance to get to Church, haven't really much to complain about.

All they have to hear about is the case of Rev. Elmer McDonald, a diocesan priest who is a chaplain in the Navy.

FATHER McDONALD is stationed with our armed forces in the Aleutian Islands, barely three hours from Russia.

As part of his duties, he has to fly 1,000 miles from his home base on Kodiak Island to Adak to hear the confessions of a few low priest-chaplain in Adak. Both islands belong to the Aleutian group.

Father McDonald makes the 2,000 mile round trip in a single day.

He also makes a 1200 mile trip every six weeks to say Mass for five men at Cape Sarahel, a Coast Guard-Loran Station. Sarahel is also part of the Aleutian chain.

In a letter to the Courier Journal, Father McDonald told of his work among the Navy men.

"We run a regular parish at Kodiak," Father McDonald said. "There are about 250 Mass attending Catholics of whom 50 are children and 40 are women and although our numbers are small, we accomplish a good deal."

"Since last June, we have had the Dialogue Mass on Sunday," he related. "Until November, we did it in English, but now the responses are made in Latin.

"Religious instruction classes are held for the children and we have a Holy Name Society for the men. All our seven altar boys are enrolled in the Knights of the Altar Society."

"I am now conducting the third inquiry class since my arrival. From the first two, 10 enlisted men have become converts."

"Our biggest claim to fame," Father McDonald continued, "is the Nocturnal Adoration Society. We have 45 men, 13 officers and the rest enlisted men who belong and participate in the society."

"This group is quite an undertaking. Here three hours by jet from Russia, these sailors give four years of their lives to Uncle Sam and yet they arise at 2, 3, 4 a.m. to spend an hour before the Blessed Sacrament."

"They are not only willing to fight for peace, but they know how important it is to pray for peace."

"In spite of the extreme weather we have here, the boys walk about a half a mile from their barracks to the chapel to spend their hour before the Blessed Sacrament."

"The devotion of these lads should be an inspiration to their parents for a renewed faith and trust in God," Father McDonald concluded.

Buffalo Area Half Catholic

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Pontiff Visits Rome Seminary

Rome — (RNS) — Pope John XXIII is greeted on a visit to the Gregorian Pontifical University here by the institution's Rector, Father Paolo Munoz Vega, S.J., (kneeling). Attended by Msgr. Enrico Dante, Papal Master of Ceremonies, the Pontiff delivered an address in Latin vouching the hope that the students would remain "apostles of the Church for the glory of Our Lord."

Everything Isn't Outside, See Inside Too!

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