

## Monsignor Krieg

Text of his eulogy given by Rev. Edward J. Lintz at the funeral Mass for Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Krieg, Monsignor Krieg was pastor emeritus of the Blessed Virgin Church, Brookport, held Jan. 29, 1939 and his funeral was Feb. 2.

Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine.

With these words we have begun the Mass this morning, begging God to grant eternal rest to the soul of a priest who gave more than half a century to the worship of God and the salvation of human souls. For his loved ones there is a true and real sorrow because he will no longer walk among us, but there is also a great joy because he has been called home to God to receive the reward of his long years of service.

He was a priest, chosen by God. In those few words we can summarize his life. The great dignity and the work of the priesthood was his. He was called to the priesthood by God Himself.

Every priest is called upon to offer sacrifices, to administer the sacraments, to teach the word of God. He may be called upon to do other work but these are his main priestly functions. By these works he reconciles man to God. He is the bridge builder and mediator, joined with Jesus Christ, between man and God.

We may well marvel at the dignity given to him. Only God could think of giving such a sublime power to a man. Yet so it was done. Our Redeemer not only offered Himself in the sacrifice of the Cross, He not only changed bread and wine into His own Body and Blood, He not only gave Himself to the Apostles as their spiritual food, He also chose to make them sharers in His own priestly powers. They could use His own words—"This is My Body"—"This is the chalice of My Blood." By these words they could make Him present on the altar of sacrifice. He chose to become their victim to be offered to the Eternal Father.

Do this, He commanded, in commemoration of me. From that day to this, the Apostles and their successors, the bishops, and the priests of the Church have been offering God to God for the salvation of men's souls.

God knew more of the needs of his sinful children. He knew that they would abandon Him at times and, in so doing, they would, by deliberate infractions of His law, bring their own supernatural lives into a tumble of ruin. He might easily have left those fallen children in their sin.

But His unbounded mercy prompted Him to forgive their transgressions and to do so through the instrumentality of a priest, who understands the weakness of a penitent because of the awareness of his own human frailty. The priest today dispenses God's mercy with an understanding mind and heart and this brings the prodigal back to his Father.

The other sacraments are also entrusted to his care.

He baptizes the new baby and makes him a child of God and heir of Heaven. He calls the divine blessing upon the young couple as they begin the foundation of a new family in Christ. He comes to their home with the Eucharistic Lord in time of sickness. He brings divine healing in Extreme Unction, curing the ravages of sin and strengthening the soul in its last hours on earth, preparing it for the eternal joys of heaven.

These are the works of a priest. Only God could have fashioned such a vocation for a weak creature. In human terms and explanations, this priesthood of men would be an impossibility. Only a rash or foolish presumptuous man would dare to undertake such a ministry for other human souls.

Fortunately, no man chooses this vocation on his own. This vocation can only be called from God and by God, inviting the young man with all his strength and all his weakness, to be a co-worker with Christ in saving souls. "You have not chosen Me—I have chosen you."

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## Father Ralph Meyer

Following is the text of the sermon given by Rt. Rev. Msgr. Frank J. Hoelen at the funeral Mass for Rev. Ralph J. Meyer, pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Aurora, and St. Michael's Church, Union Springs. Father Meyer died Jan. 27, 1939. His funeral was held in the Aurora church Jan. 30.

"It is now no longer that I live but Christ lives in me."—St. Paul to the Galatians II, 20.

The theme of this brief eulogy is the dignity of the Catholic priest.

In every age and in every place men have been exalted by their fellowmen to worldly positions of dignity and of honor. For their elevation fitting words may well be found. But, my dear friends, no man can select words sufficiently expressive of the elevation of a mere human being to the dignity and to the honor of the Holy Priesthood. We call him another Christ.

For after all what is the priest?

My friends, there is only one way of understanding what a priest really and truly is, and that is by way of reference to the first priest, Christ Jesus.

When all other expressions failed to satisfy the conception of the Fathers and the Doctors of the Church—when in portraying this sublime dignity, the language of the Saints of God began to tremble and to lose its meaning, they all were driven in their attempt to give adequate expression to its grand significance to call the priest another—a second Christ.

The commission given to Christ by His heavenly Father is the same commission given to the priest. The power communicated to Christ in the sublime decree of the redemption is the same power given to the priest of God.

On the day of ordination to the Holy Priesthood, the young levite hears repeated the words of his divine Master: "Go you, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I command you." His trembling hands are anointed with the holy oil, and touching the chalice he hears the ordaining bishop speak these words: "Accipe potestatem offerre sacrificium Deo, missaque celebrare, tam pro vivis quam pro defunctis—Receive the power to offer sacrifice to God and to celebrate Masses both for the living and for the dead."

After a public and solemn profession of Faith, the young man feels the hands of the bishop imposed upon him, and he hears the words of his Divine Master spoken again—this time to him alone: "Accipe Spiritum Sanctum; quorum remiseris peccata, remittentur; quorum retinueris, retentia erunt—Whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them; whose sins you shall retain, they are retained." He possesses the

power to forgive or to retain sin.

In full possession of the sacerdotal powers, the chaste and unworldly about him, he stands in the sight of the people—a priest forever. As the Holy God is sung, there wells up from the bottom of his heart a prayer of gratitude and of praise to God—"It is now no longer that I live, but Christ lives in me."

My dear friends, such was the dignity of this priest of God for whose soul we today offer prayer and sacrifice.

Father Ralph Meyer was born August 15, 1888 in Rochester, New York. He attended St. Bridget's and Our Lady of Perpetual Help schools in Rochester. On June 7, 1924 he was ordained a priest. He served, thereafter, as assistant at St. Ann's Church in Hornell-St. Mary's Church, Auburn; St. Monica's and Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rochester and St. John the Evangelist Church at Clyde, New York. In 1929 he was appointed pastor of the Church of the Epiphany, Sodus, New York. As pastor of this parish his administrations extended to chapels at Sodus Point, Wolcott and East Bay.

On Feb. 4, 1933 he came to St. Patrick's Church at Aurora and St. Michael's at Union Springs. In all these parishes he was loved and esteemed especially by the children in whose welfare he was especially interested.

It would seem presumptuous on my part to attempt a review of the wonderful work performed by Father Ralph during the years of his priesthood. He was faithful to the commission entrusted to him by his divine Master—remembering always "It is now no longer that I live but Christ lives in me." And so he was faithful and enthusiastic in preaching the Word of God, faithful and devout in the administration of the Sacraments; God's work was his work. His charity towards so many lives was a secret between them and God. His works follow him into eternity.

It is not my place to discuss the man. It is rather my province to build a picture of the office to which the instrument vested with the exalted degree, and behold that man during the years of his faithful service on behalf of God's honor and glory in His Holy Church.

When a candidate for the priesthood plans to enter the sanctuary it is with a distinct understanding and with confidence that God has called him.



## \$10,000 Prize

Dr. Stephen G. Kuttner, professor of the history of canon law at Catholic University of America, Washington, has been awarded a \$10,000 prize by the American Council of Learned Societies. Dr. Kuttner, 51, a native of Bonn, Germany, is the only lay professor of canon law at a pontifical institution.

## China Reds Admit Parcels For Bp. Walsh

Hong Kong — (RNS)—Chinese Communist authorities finally accepted a Red Cross parcel for American Roman Catholic Bishop James E. Walsh in Shanghai which they had refused last December to let through the Hong Kong border.

THE BISHOP, a Maryknoll missionary, is the first foreign Catholic prelate in Red China. Red officials ousted him from the Church of Christ the King in Shanghai last October, and he is now reported being held incommunicado in another part of the city.

The parcel for Bishop Walsh was handed over to Chinese Red Cross officials by Jacob Hilderbrand, of the American Red Cross, who arrived here from Manila.

He also turned over parcels for four other imprisoned Americans who have been receiving packages regularly twice a month since 1935.

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## Catholics First In Congress Count

Washington — (RNS) — Catholics are more numerous in the 86th Congress than members of any other denomination, the Library of Congress reported here.

The Library said that 103 members of Congress, 91 in the House and 12 in the Senate, list membership in the Catholic church.

Methodists are in second place with 98.

Presbyterians follow with 68, Baptists with 64, and Episcopalians with 63. There are 13 Jewish members, 11 in the House and 2 in the Senate, and one Sikh, Rep. Dalip S. Saund (D-Calif.).

Only 5 of the 534 members of Congress said they had no

affiliation or did not care to list one.

Twenty-four of the members gave their affiliation as "Protestant." A total of 505 of the 534 said they had a specific denominational membership or preference.

Other lists of denominational affiliations which were compiled by private sources failed to list many of the new members. Only 2 of the 115 new incoming members declined to list an affiliation.

Methodists are the most numerous in the United States Senate with 17 members, followed by Baptists with 14; Episcopalians with 13; Roman Catholics with 12; and Presbyterians with 11.

In the House, Catholics outnumber others with 91 members; Methodists are second with 81 (one of their members, Rep. George Christopher of Missouri, a Democrat, has died since the opening of Congress); while Presbyterians number 57 and Baptists and Episcopalians both claim 50.

The overall tabulation shows that Congress has 412 Protestants; 103 Catholics; 13 Jews; 1 Sikh and 5 listing no affiliation.

The Catholic membership, which represents an increase of 8 over the 95 total of the last Congress, bears almost the same proportion to the total membership of Congress as the total of baptized Catholics bears to the whole U.S. population.

## Smoot Battle Never Ending Says Prelate

Montreal — (CNC) — "The fight against obscene literature will continue and the enemy is always before us and is untiring."

Cardinal Leger, Archbishop of Montreal, made this declaration at a meeting of the Diocesan Federation of the League of the Sacred Heart here.

THE CARDINAL congratulated the federation on its work in clearing news stands of many objectionable publications, but warned that new ones appear constantly. He also told members that they should work not only to wipe out obscene literature but also to promote good literature.

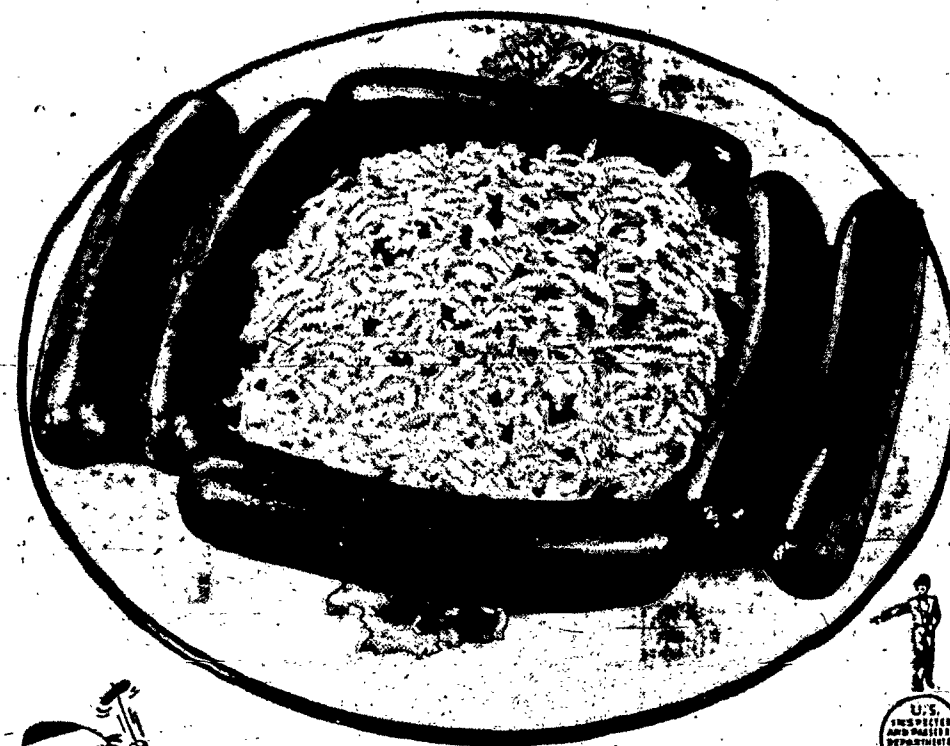
Napoleon Plette, federation president, recalled that the federation had answered the call of Cardinal Leger in October, 1937. After three months of study "a yellow list" of 30 publications sold in Montreal was prepared, he said, and by May 1938, nine of that list were withdrawn, but four new ones had appeared.

The same month a new list of 25 publications was issued, he said, and in December 1938, 13 of the 25 on the list had ceased publication. A further list of 12 remaining publications and four new ones was now being issued, Mr. Plette declared.

## Catholics Total Two Million

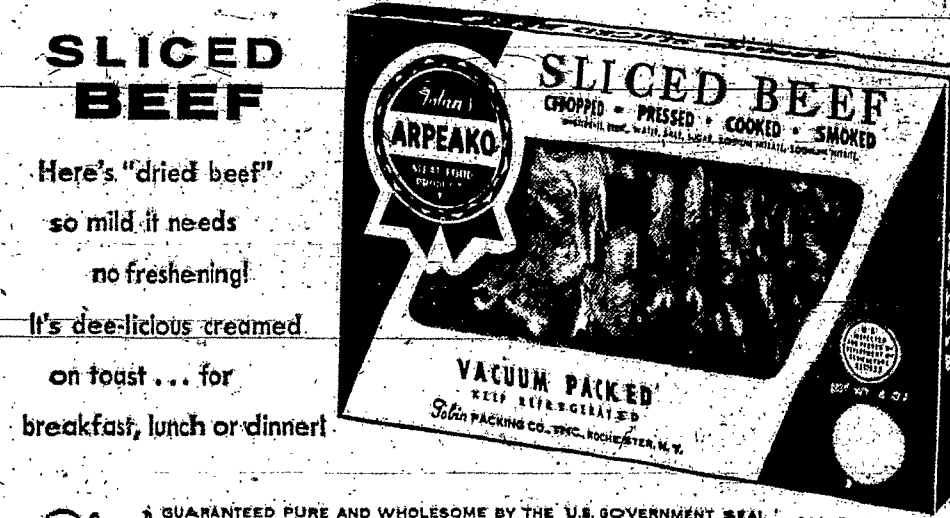
Melbourne — (RNS) — The Catholic population of Australia reached 2,035,295 during 1938, according to the Australian Catholic Directory for 1939. The total population of the country is almost ten million.

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