

FROM DEATH TO LIFE: ALLELUIA!



THE CATHOLIC
Courier Journal
OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE

70th Year ROCHESTER, N. Y., FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 1959 10 Cents

Why We Believe

Text by Father Henry Ansell
Drawings by John C. Menihan

Death was not the destiny of Jesus, as it is for the rest of men.

He Himself had said, "The Son of Man must rise from the dead."

St. Paul later said that if Jesus had not risen from the tomb our faith would be vain. Had there been no resurrection, Christians would be the most unfortunate of men, for we would still be chained in our sins.

What would the Christian religion be if Jesus had not risen?

Baptism would be meaningless and pointless, there would be no tabernacle, no forgiveness of sin, no voice of a vicar to speak clearly the truths of the Saviour—there just would be no Catholic Church as we know it today.

Why is this fact of our Lord's resurrection so fundamentally necessary for our faith?

Jesus Himself gives us the reason.

His resurrection would be decisive and irrefutable proof of His claims to be the world's Redeemer, the very Son of God. He also needed to rise to continue His work and to confer on His Apostles the power and authority to perpetuate His redeeming work.

How, then, can we twentieth century Christians know for sure whether or not Jesus did actually rise as He said He would?

The Gospel writers record a parade of witnesses, all unsuspecting and objective about the resurrection, and their unanimous testimony that they found Christ's tomb empty and they saw Him and touched Him and believed only because it was impossible not to.

At the first glimmer of Sunday's dawn, an earthquake rocked the area near the sepulcher and Jesus came forth resplendent but invisible to the Roman guards who stood watch at the tomb.

Then an angel rolled back the stone-wheel which sealed the chest-high entrance way to the burial vault. The angel's vesture, we are told, was whiter than snow and his face dazzled as the sun.

The Roman soldiers, hardened by stern discipline to face any eventuality, were unable to stand up to this turn of events. Half dead with fear, they abandoned their post, ran into the still drowsy city and reported to the chief priests.

The priests in a hasty council bribed the guards to spread the story that while they slept, Jesus' disciples stole the body away. A strange lie—for if they were asleep, how did they know what happened, and if they were awake, why did they let the disciples get away? Certainly Roman soldiers were able to do far more difficult tasks than watch corpses snatched. Bad as was the explanation, it was the best they could invent in a hurry. This lie therefore, in a backward way, serves as the first testimony to herald the resurrection.

Meantime, while men were frightened, or sleeping, or scheming, women, as they usually do in a crisis, went on with the business of living. Back in their homes, they prepared the spices according to the Jewish customs for burial. Friday's hasty burial before the Sabbath began at sunset prevented this ritual at that time.

At daybreak Sunday—this aspect is specific about this—they were on their way to the tomb where they thought Jesus lay in death.

At daybreak Sunday—this aspect is specific about this—they were on their way to the tomb where they thought Jesus lay in death.

At daybreak Sunday—this aspect is specific about this—they were on their way to the tomb where they thought Jesus lay in death.

At daybreak Sunday—this aspect is specific about this—they were on their way to the tomb where they thought Jesus lay in death.

Easter Rites On TV

WROC-TV, Channel 5, Rochester
Holy Saturday — A half hour film on the ceremonies of the Easter Vigil service scheduled in all parish churches late Saturday evening — telecast time 1:30 to 2 p.m.
Easter morning — Solemn Mass at Holy Redeemer Church, Rochester, Very Rev. Msgr. Joseph E. Vogt, celebrant, and music by the Angel Choir of 100 children — telecast time 10 to 11 a.m.

'Keep Eyes On Cross'

Vatican City — (RNS) — More than 4,000 sick persons — hundreds of them on stretchers or in wheelchairs — were received in audience by Pope John XXIII in St. Peter's Basilica.

In their presence, the Pontiff broadcast a message of consolation to the sick and infirm in all parts of the world.

'Perfidious To Be Omitted'

Vatican City — Pope John has ordered complete removal of phrases from Good Friday prayers considered offensive to the Jews.

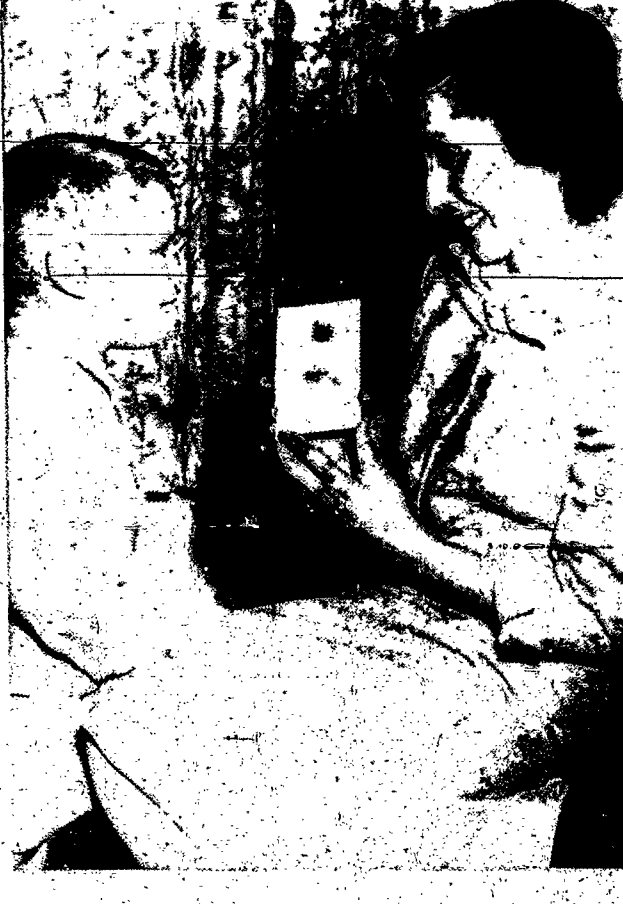
Six Parishes Adopt Total Coverage Plan

Six pastors announced this week their parishes will inaugurate 100 per cent subscription to the Courier Journal.

ADOPTING the full coverage plan this week are: Our Mother of Sorrows parish, Greece, Rev. Daniel B. O'Rourke, pastor, 788 subscribers, increase 398; St. Cecilia, Rev. Bernard C. Newcomb, 674 (gain 508); St. Agnes, Avon, Rev. Rev. Msgr. Patrick J. Flynn, 307 (194); St. Mary of the Lake, Ontario, Rev. John Maloney, 439 (187); Immaculate Heart of Mary, Painted Post, Rev. Harold F. Rogers, total 140; St. Francis, Phelps, Rev. Edward B. Simpson, 104, gain 78.

Pope's Envoy

Archbishop Egidio Vagnozzi, new Apostolic Delegate to the U.S., will leave Italy for his post in Washington April 12.



Bishop's Blessing For Your Baby

Parents are invited to bring their infants and preschool children to Sacred Heart Cathedral Sunday, April 5, 3 to 5 p.m. Auxiliary Bishop Casey will personally bless each child and present a medal blessed by Bishop Kearney. Mrs. Maurice Gormican shows her 3-year-old son David the medal and souvenir card to be given at the Cathedral rite. She heads a committee arranging the program.

BLANCHARD'S is open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. during Easter season and Easter Sunday until noon. For the finest showing of Easter flowers, plants and smart corsages anywhere see Blanchard Florist, 58 Lake Ave. Free parking. Baker 5-9494. — Adv.

SUNBEAM APPLIANCES: Toasters, Mixers, etc. Budget Payments. William S. Thorne, Jewellers, 318 Main St. East. Adv.