Why We Believe

(Continued from Page 1)

How much time all this early morning coming and going took, we do not know with certainty. Scripture scholars, allowing for the distance to and from the tomb, the excited reports and questions, tell us these events took two to three hours, so we have come to approximately 9 a.m. in the Easter morning story.

Two of Jesus disciples who were Passover pilgrims in the capital city started about this time on their journey home toward Emmaus. They picked up the story from street gossipers that the Master's tomb had been found empty.

While they walked they debated the events of the past few days — their shattered hopes on Friday, their turmoil over today. A traveler joined them—they did not realize it was Jesus—and they poured out their troubled hearts to Him.

What paralyzed their faith was the widespread idea that the Messias would be triumphant from the beginning, with no need to purchase glory through suffering. Their unknown Friend then set about to instruct them and faith stirred at His words and too soon it was evening.

He accepted their invitation to supper, and as at the Last Supper, He blessed the bread—Easter's first Mass?—and they recognized Him and He vanished from them.

They raced back across the miles and burst in on the Apostles in the Cenacle, the locked room where doors and windows were bolted. Their story was heard with a bit of belief and matched with a story that Peter too had seen the Lord.

Onto this skeptical stage the risen Saviour now came. He unexpectedly stood before them — never waiting to loose the locks—and in their stupor and fright He had to console them and assure them, "It is I myself . . . touch me."

St. Luke records that the Apostles thought they were the plaything of a fantastic dream so the Saviour asked simply, "Do you have anything to eat?" They shared their frugal meal with Him and at last were convinced this was not a specter haunting them. Then their faith was born and their joy was true.

Jesus, however, made His Easter and subsequent apparitions, not just to console His friends. On Easter night, He gave them power to do His work, "Whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them; whose sins you shall retain, they are retained." Later He will give to Peter the title and task of being Chief Shepherd, "Feed My lambs." He will give the Apostles authority to preach in His name and to baptize "the whole world" and He would promise, "Behold I am with you all days even to the consumation of the world."

Peter and John run to the tomb.

Swallows Back At Capistrano

San Juan Capistrano — (NC) —The swallows kept their appointment at the Mission of San Juan Capistrano, California, returning to the mission on the Feast of St. Joseph as they do every year.

Large crowds were on hand at the old mission to see the birds return to build nests.

Germans Hear Holy Week Rites In Own Language

Vatican City — (NC) — Use of the vernacular in chanting the Passion and Prophecies of the Holy Week rites has been granted to all the dioceses of Germany.

The concession was granted by Pope John XXIII through a decree of the Sacred Congregation of Rites. It is limited to this year only and is being permitted as an experiment.

THE PERMISSION affects the rites on Palm Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Good Friday, when the Passion is chanted in the liturgy, and Saturday's Easter Vigil rites for the chanting of the Prophecies.

The unprecedented move by the Congregation of Rites in favor of the use of the vernacular is being greeted here as a milestone in the history of the Church's liturgy.

Although the decree made the concession as an experiment, it is generally thought here that it will be received enthusiastically and that its success will eventually lead to the extension of the concession to the world.

The decree originated with a request made by Cardinal Frings, Archbishop of Cologne.

Pope Revives Washing Rite

Vatican City — (RNS) — For the first time in over 80 years, a Pope washed the feet of 12 poor men of Rome during Holy Week.

The rite was performed by Pope Jc! XXIII yesterday, Maundy Thursday, at the Basilica of St. John Lateran, his cathedral as Bishop of Rome.

The last Pope to wash the feet of poor men was Pius IX.

Known as the mandatum, the ceremony takes place after the Gospel in imitation of Christ's action at the Last Supper.

Jesuit OK's Hypnosis In Medicine

Milwaukee—(RNS)—A Jesuit priest, addressing a meeting of the Wisconsin Conference of Catholic Hospitals here, praised the use of hypnosis in medicine, but warned against regarding it as a "miracle worker."

Father John J. Higgins, S.J., of Parks College of Aeronautical Technology, East St. Louis, Ill., told the meeting that the value of hypnosis as an anesthetic and in medical diagnosis and treatment has been proved many times. The priest has himself practiced hypnosis successfully.

Archbishop William E. Cousins of Milwaukee suggested to the conference that Catholic hospital personnel co-operate with other institutions and groups in the medical field for "an interchange of ideas."

Interracial Canonization Proposed

New York— (RNS) —A leading Jesuit social scientist has urged that Roman Catholics join in prayers for the simultaneous canonization of two Blesseds—one a Negro and the other a white man—to underscore the importance of the Church's apostolate of interracial justice.

Writing in The Interracial Review, published by the Catholic Interracial Council here, Father Richard T. McKeon, S.J., of Le Moyne College, Syracuse, recalled that the two Blesseds—Blessed Martin de Porres, a Negro, and Spanish-born Juan Masias, both Dominican lay brothers—were jointly beatified on Sept. 10, 1837, during the pontificate of Pope Gregory XVI.

The two lay brothers were co-workers in many charitable and apostolic projects in Lima, Peru, where Blessed Martin was born and where his companion settled after leaving Spain. Martin died in 1639 at the age of 60 and John six years later.

"At present," Father McKeon said, "the canonization cause of Martin seems to be far more advanced than that of John. But God works in wondrous ways. It would be extraordinarily remarkable if the canonization cause of both would come to pass at the same time. This is worthy of remembrance in our prayers.

Stressing that interracial action has "a most important role" in the Church's social apostolate today, Father McKeon said "the lives of these exemplary lay brothers are a rebuke to those who seek positions of wealth and honor and in turn are wont to despise those who are less successful in material things."

"This attitude," he said, "has been especially noticeable toward the Negro, the Puerto Rican and the Mexican. Is there any great difference in this attitude from that of the slave-master of old, when today far too many are denying other human beings equal liberty, opportunity to improve their standard of living, access to decent housing and education, and through such bad examples scandalize them and then turn them away from the true Church?"

A Kiss For Her Son

Pittsburgh — (RNS) — Bishop John J. Wright gets a kiss from his mother during ceremonies in St. Paul's Cathedral here making him the Diocese of Pittsburgh's eighth ordinary. More than 2,600 persons crowded the cathedral for the event, including David Lawrence, Pennsylvania's first Catholic governor.

Protestants Invited To Catholic Rites

Belpre, Ohio — (NC)—Catholics of this community and nearby Vincent sent written invitations to their non-Catholic friends to participate in Holy Week services.

The invitation was drawn up by the Holy Name Society of St. Ambrose's parish here and the Catholic Woman's Club of St. Ambrose's Mission in Vincent.

"You have, no doubt," the letter said, "heard of the elaborate and ancient ritual of the Catholic Church during Holy Week. From the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem Palm Sunday to His Passion and death on Good Friday and through to His glorious Resurrection on Easter Sunday, the ceremonies are symbolic, devotional, and interesting.

"Our priests and all our people join me in inviting you to share our prayers in any or all devotions. Feel free to worship with us, and to watch and listen; and bring any of your friends.

Liberties Union Battle

School Book Case In Oregon Courts

Oregon City — (NC) — Circuit Judge Ralph M. Holman of Clackamas county ruled Monday that Ivan B. Carlson, a Catholic who is father of eight children, may intervene in a suit filed to test the constitutionality of an Oregon law that permits parochial school pupils to use school books bought with tax funds.

Judge Holman said that Mr. Carlson, who has six children attending St. John's parochial school here, was directly interested in the outcome of the case.

The judge also held that from a practical standpoint it would be well for those concerned with the outcome of the case that all proper legal arguments be presented either for or against the constitutionality of the law.

Leo Smith of Portland, attorney for Mr. Carlson, said he assumed that the effect of Judge Holman's ruling was to give the court the full benefit of any legal arguments pertinent to the issue.

Steve Anderson of Salem, a cooperating attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union, opposed the intervention by Mr. Carlson. Mr. Anderson represents three taxpayers of Oregon City school district No. 62 who brought the suit.

He argued that Mr. Carlson should not be permitted to intervene unless it could be shown that the school district was failing to make a proper defense. He also argued that Mr. Carlson had only an indirect interest in the case and should not be permitted to be a party to the suit.

Attorney Smith, contended Mr. Carlson has a direct interest since he would be forced to buy textbooks for his six children if the school district failed to loan them the books.

In addition to giving Mr. Carlson the right to intervene, Judge Holman gave the parties to the suit 10 days in which to further plead in the case. Mr. Smith said he would move, on behalf of Mr. Carlson, that parts of the complaint filed by the three taxpayers be stricken on the grounds they are immaterial and would have no bearing on the case, nor would they be of any assistance to the court in determining whether or not the law is constitutional.

The suit was brought by William H. Dickman, Harold E. Salisbury and Lawrence Smelser. Their complaint charges the school board violated the Federal and state Constitutions by using public funds to provide textbooks in the St. John parochial school.

Italy Boys Town Marks 15 Years

New York —(RNS)— Msgr. John Patrick Carroll-Abbing, founder and president of the Italian Boys' Towns, received cabled compliments here from many parts of the world on the 15th anniversary of his centers for homeless youths.

In New York to help raise $500,000 for the boys' towns, Msgr. Carroll-Abbing received congratulations from, among others, Pope John XXIII and Prime Ministers Eamon de Valera of Ireland and Antonio Segni of Italy.

The monsignor founded the first boys' town in 1944 with $20, two sacks of flour and some iron cots. Since then some 30,000 boys have been graduated and 2,400 youngsters are presently living in nine boys' towns.

SACRIFICE LOVE

SUFFERING GLORY

On the eve of His death, Our Lord raised the chalice of His Sacrifice at the Last Supper. He offered His sufferings to the glory of the Father. In His love for us He permits the same sacrifice to be offered in every Mass. Through the chalice of the Mass we offer our sacrifices, our sufferings to the glory of God and as a sign of our love for Him. The Sacrifice of the Mass unites us to God and to all members of the Mystical Body throughout the world. Your sacrifices for the Mystical Body in the Near East missions, your love for the suffering members of the Mystical Body will be commemorated in a special Mass. At the Holy Sepulcher, early on Easter morn, His Beatitude, the Latin Patriarch will offer a Pontifical Mass for your loved ones and for your special intentions. Immediately following the Patriarch, ten of your missionaries will each offer a Mass for the same intention. In this way the Patriarch, and all your missionaries will beg the Risen Saviour to bless you who have made their work possible by your generous support of the appeals of the Holy Father for the welfare of the Oriental Church.

YOUR MISSIONARIES BRING THE GLORY OF THE RISEN CHRIST TO THE NEAR EAST . . . YOUR SUPPORT IS ALL THE MATERIAL AID THEY HAVE . . . REMEMBER THEM TODAY.

SPRING IN THE MOUNTAINS can mean many things to many people. To the parishioners of the parish of St. Joseph (Wdi-Edd, Lebanon) it means renewed efforts to rebuild their beautiful Church of St. Joseph, severely damaged by shell fire. These are a hardy and resourceful people. They are proud of this Church which they had just finished building when hostilities broke out. Now it has been built for a second time! But it has been a severe strain on their limited resources and they are at the end of their abilities to improvise and "make do." It will take $500 to finish the job. Can you help them to honor the foster-father of the Risen Christ?

WHAT YOU GIVE TO THE HOLY FATHER YOU PLACE IN THE HANDS OF THE RISEN CHRIST!

DOMINIC and FRANCIS wish to preach the RISEN SAVIOUR through the ancient land of Egypt. They are willing to dedicate their lives and their talents that others may share in the glory of the Redemption. Can you help them? Each boy will need a sponsor who will pay his expenses of $100 a year for the six year seminary course.

SHARE YOUR EASTER JOY WITH A REFUGEE FAMILY . . . FEED THEM FOR A WEEK . . . THE COST IS STILL $10 FOR A FOOD PACKAGE.

SISTER MARY DIVINA and SISTER MARY MARIETTA wish to devote their lives to the service of the poor and the outcast of India. They will give their lives, can you help them? Each girl will need a sponsor who will pay $150 a year for the two year novitiate course. Why not "adopt" a Nun?

"THE INNOCENT EYES OF CHILDREN are a mirror of heaven," so runs an Eastern proverb. The innocent eyes of children are actually the windows of heaven on First Communion Day. Your missionaries have prepared thousands of children for this Great Day. Will you help to make the day complete by supplying a First Communion outfit for a refugee child? The cost is $10.

Near East Missions

FRANCIS CARDINAL SPELLMAN, President
Msgr. Peter P. Tuohy, Nat'l Sec'y
Send all communications to:
CATHOLIC NEAR EAST WELFARE ASSOCIATION
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