



Salt Lake City temple with monument to Brigham Young who succeeded Joseph Smith as head of the Palmyra prophet's new religion.

Did An Angel Of God Come To Palmyra?

More Than A Million People Say Yes

By FATHER HENRY ATWELL

This week, as every year in early August, quiet Palmyra, 20 miles east of Rochester, stirs to the influx of thousands of visitors.

These visitors, some drawn by faith, others by mere curiosity, are bound for Cuntorah Hill, south of the village, to view the annual pageant which tells the strange story first published there 130 years ago.

Joseph Smith, born in Vermont, brought to New York as a boy, claimed an angel gave him a buried book destined by God to be an American Bible and commanded the lad to establish a Church since Christ's own Church had died out centuries previously.

The Palmyra prophet achieved success which nearly made him president of the country but a mob made him a martyr to give him the status of a saint in the hearts of those who believe his message.

The Joseph Smith story basically is this. The teenage farm boy was stirred by "an unusual excitement on the subject of religion" as rival preachers competed for converts at emotion-packed revivals.

He walked into the woods near his home one early spring day in the year 1820 to make his first attempt at prayer and to ask which sect he should join.

He saw a pillar of light exactly over my head, above the brightness of the sun, which descended gradually until it fell upon me," Joseph later reported. He saw "two personages whose brightness and glory defied all description" and took them to be God the Father and His divine Son.

Joseph asked his question about the different denominations and was told to "join none of them for they were all wrong."

Three years later, during the

night of September 21, 1823, Joseph once again sought a "divine manifestation" about his "standing" before God. The now eighteen-year old boy saw his room become brighter than noonday as "a personage appeared at my bedside, standing in the air."

This, according to the visionary, was the angel Moroni, formerly the son of an ancient Jewish prophet who lived in the Americas. The messenger told Joseph there was a book "written upon gold plates" buried nearby in what today is called Cuntorah Hill.

Joseph found the plates there, he said, along with a sword and a breastplate and "seer" stones in a set of spectacles — equipment called the Urim and Thummim for translating the plates. He was not permitted to take the plates at that time, but had to wait four more years.

Meantime, according to Palmyra carpenter Willard Chase, a friend of Joseph's, the plates were guarded by a toad who turned into a man and hit Joseph on the head when he once attempted to dig them out of the hill.

At last, on September 21, 1827, he was allowed to take the buried treasure home — but forbidden to show the gold-plate pages to anyone.

The stones in the magic spectacles, however, have been variously described. His mother Lucy said they were "two smooth three-cornered diamonds." Martin Harris, soon to become Joseph's staunchest supporter, said the stones were "white, like polished marble, with a few grey streaks." David Whitmer, another early believer, said they were "chocolate color, nearly egg shape, and perfectly smooth, but not transparent."

This translating equipment was needed because the plates

CUNTORAH'S MORONI

seen by Joseph Smith, he said, was a book "written upon gold plates" buried nearby in what today is called Cuntorah Hill.

Whitmer said Joseph translated the golden plates which were kept in a wood chest wrapped in a yellow sash — by placing "one of" the spectacles on his face, then putting his face in the chest and drawing it tight around his face where "the spiritual light would shine."

To avoid all destruction, Joseph had the plates hidden by himself and his brother-in-law, Oliver Cowdery, whom he displaced. Joseph warned his scribes that if they dared violate the sacred secrecy as he took the plates to translate his "golden plates" up treasure.

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JOSEPH SMITH gold plates in a hillside.

RADIO AND TELEVISION: E. J. Teresi, William S. Teresi, Joseph S. Teresi, 115 Main St., East — Adv.

Cenacle Mass To Honor Saint Pope's Second Encyclical

Priests of the Rochester Diocese are invited to assist at a Mass honoring St. John Vianney to be celebrated in the Cenacle Convent chapel, East Ave., Monday, Aug. 10, at 4 p.m. Monsignor George W. Kohl will be celebrant and Monsignor Richard K. Burns will give the sermon.

French Saint Said Model For Priests



Lay trustees John Sillcock (left) and Sarto Stallknecht with their pastor Father Edward A. Shamon scan parish boundaries for new St. Lawrence Church in the Town of Greece. (Courier Journal photo by Paul Constable.)

New St. Lawrence Parish Boundaries, Trustees Set

New St. Lawrence parish in the Town of Greece has been assigned its boundaries, the City announced today.

The recently established parish also reported a bustling series of developments — acquiring a rectory for its pastor, a reception scheduled for the autumn, and the formation of trustees and formal incorporation of the parish.

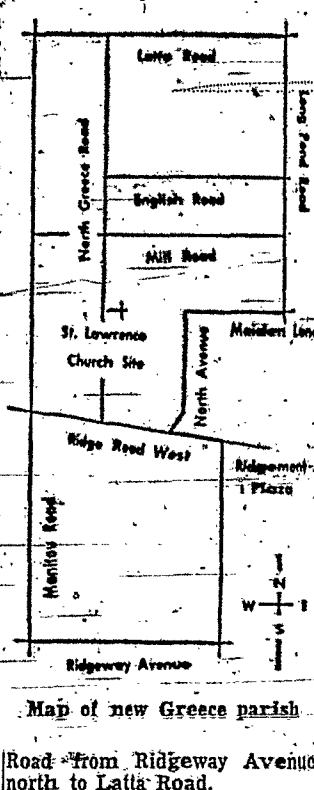
The boundaries of the new parish, as announced by the Chancellor, are:

Northern boundary: Latta Road from Long Pond Road west to Manitow Road.

Eastern boundary: Long Pond Road from Latta Road to Maiden Lane, west to North Avenue, south to Ridge Road West, east to the western boundary of Ridgeway Plaza, south on that western boundary and extending to Ridgeway Avenue.

Southern boundary: Ridgeway Avenue from the extended western boundary of Ridgeway Plaza west to Manitow Road.

Western boundary: Manitow



Catholics on both sides of the roads named and within the area they indicate are members of the new parish.

St. Lawrence parish was incorporated according to New York State law on Tuesday, July 28, with David H. Shearer acting as attorney.

The five trustees required for incorporation, according to Church law, include the Bishop, the Vicar General of the Diocese, the parish pastor and two lay parishioners.

The incorporation certificate lists as first trustees of the new parish Bishop Kearney, Monsignor James C. McAniff, Rev. Edward A. Shamon, Sarto W. Stallknecht of Ridgeway Drive and John G. Sillcock of English Road.

BOTH LAYMEN have played prominent roles in parish activities at St. John the Evangelist Church where they were formerly members.

The new rectory, a house acquired last week, is located at 1013 North Greece Road opposite the 50-acre site where the St. Lawrence Church will soon be erected. Rectory phone is UNIVERSITY 5-3946.

Father Shamon, the young pastor appointed to organize the parish just this past June, hopes to have the church ready for Mass by November.

Men of the parish are at work each evening dismantling the former St. Anne's Church, Rochester, which will be remodeled for use as the Greece parish.

The reception scheduled for the evening of the feast of St. Lawrence, Monday, August 10, will be held at the Henry Davis home, 267 English Road.

Pontiff Promises Prayers For Blind

Castelgandolfo — (RNS) — Pope John XXIII promised daily prayers for blind persons everywhere during a particularly cordial audience in the papal summer palace here to delegates of the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind.

THE DELEGATES, composed largely of blind persons, were accompanied by representatives of the Italian Union of the Blind. They are working under the auspices of the United Nations on plans to promote public bodies for the education and training of the blind, especially in underdeveloped countries.

The Pope, speaking in warm, friendly tones, urged his blind guests to offer their sufferings patiently to God.

"The blind," he said, "are called upon to fulfill a silent and beneficent apostolate, an apostolate of good example. How many have sight and still cannot see? How many forget their God, their souls?"

Pope John concluded by promising daily prayers for the blind and imparting his apostolic blessing not only to them and their families but to all institutions and organizations concerned with the care and protection of the blind.

Pontiff Asks Families To Foster Vocations

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope John XXIII, in the second encyclical of his pontificate, extolled St. John Baptist Vianney — popularly known as the Cure of Ars — as a model for priests in the modern world, especially those who are "easily tempted by dangerous forms of activity."

The encyclical, entitled "Sacerdotii Nostri Primordia," from its opening Latin words, was issued shortly before the centenary of the death of the humble French pastor who spent an extraordinary amount of time every day in the confessional and lived a life of great austerity.

Born on May 8, 1785, in the town of Dardilly, near Lyons, he died Aug. 4, 1859. He was canonized in 1929 by Pope Pius XI who proclaimed him as the principal patron saint of the diocesan clergy.

"TO THE PRIESTS of today who are readily aware of the efficacy of action but are also easily tempted by dangerous forms of activity, how beneficial is this model of a parish priest," Pope John declared.

Noting the great devotion of St. John Vianney to the Blessed Eucharist, Pope John reminded the clergy of the importance of the Eucharist and the Mass in their lives as "the first source of their personal sanctification."

Stressing also how "this extraordinarily self-mortifying priest" had virtually renounced food and sleep and submitted himself to the hardest discipline "for the love of God," the Pontiff held up to priests the great virtue of holy poverty.

At the same time, he said, he did not approve "the misery to which the ministers of the Lord are sometimes reduced." He said priests were not forbidden to possess money for their own use or for the poor. He exhorted priests to observe evangelical poverty, which meant being rich in giving to others and poor for themselves, but he added that "exaggerated interpellations of this principle must be avoided."

Pope John went on to stress the need for "a dedicated pastoral ardor" on the part of priests. He said this involved a high regard for their personal responsibilities, zeal in preaching and in teaching, and especially "an indefatigable apostolate in regard to the administration of the Sacrament of Penance."

He said that for the Cure of Ars, apostolate in this apostolate had been for him "an endless martyrdom, because he generally passed 25 hours a day in the confessional." The saint's day, he added, began at one or two o'clock in the morning and did not end before night arrived.

Pope John concluded his encyclical by speaking of the great need for priests in the modern world. He called particularly on Christian families "to give their children with joy and gratitude into the service of the Church."

The encyclical which ran to

about 7,000 words, was later broadcast to the faithful throughout the world in several languages by the Vatican Radio.

MOST SOLEMN part of worldwide celebrations honoring the memory of the Cure of Ars was scheduled in France for Aug. 2, when Archbishop Paolo Marella, Papal Nuncio to France, officiated at a triduum for the actual anniversary of the saint's death.

Slated to preside over the climactic anniversary rites was Clement Emile Cardinal Roques, Archbishop of Rennes, and Maurice Cardinal Feltin, Archbishop of Paris.

First Friday, Feast Days

Today is the First Friday of August, the day of devotion in honor of our Lord's Sacred Heart.

Most parishes schedule late afternoon or evening Mass for convenience of the faithful. Consult parish bulletins for exact time.

Tomorrow, Saturday, is the feast (changed this year from August 9) of St. John Vianney, patron of parish priests. This year marks the centenary of the saint's death. Catholics are invited to go to Mass and Holy Communion in prayer for their priests.

Next Saturday, August 15, is the feast of our Lady's Assumption, a holy day of obligation.

Centenary Mass For Horse Races

Sydney, Australia — (NC) — A special Mass to open the horse racing year was offered for St. Mary's cathedral here by Norman Cardinal Gilroy, Archbishop of Sydney.

Jockeys, bookmakers, trainers and others in the racing industry attended the Mass, which coincided with the centenary of organized horse racing in Australia. Religious services for the occasion were also conducted by the Anglican and Presbyterian churches.

Priest Tells Tailor

I Jump Out Of Airplanes

Father Joseph Natale, paratroop chaplain, is home in Rochester for the month of August after two years service in Germany.

He has been assigned to the jump training school at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, where his duties begin in September.

This week the military-garbed priest went shopping for clerical clothes.

The tailor, amazed at the padre's muscular measurements, asked him, "What do you do, Father?"

"I jump out of airplanes," Father Natale explained.

The tailor said he never knew priests had to do that. He must have missed the Courier Journal's series "Look-Que-Below" whose last chapter appears on page 5 of this week's issue.



FATHER NATALE paratroop priest

Christ Picture Said Moving

Rome — (RNS) — Il Tempo, conservative Rome newspaper, reported that the right hand of a picture of Christ in a convent chapel at Rossolini, southeast Sicily, was miraculously moving in a gesture of benediction.

The paper, which carried photographs of the picture, said that for the past several days, thousands of Catholics had been flocking to the church to pray in front of it.

Il Tempo said a full report of the alleged miraculous event had been submitted to Bishop Angelo Calabretta of Noto.

It quoted him as saying: "God can do this and other things, but we must be careful with such things. The Church cannot accept everything the press hastens to publish."

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