

The Lay Brother... Another Joseph

By BROTHER RALPH
CARPENTER, M.S.C.

The Lay Brother has as his special model one of God's greatest saints, the humble carpenter of Nazareth, Saint Joseph.

Leaf through the pages of the New Testament and you will find only these few words spoken of him — "He was a just man."

The people of his day knew him only as a lowly carpenter. His intimate union with God remained hidden from their eyes. The Scriptures tell us of his noble lineage and his remarkable, blind obedience.

Just as Saint Joseph was the laborer for the Holy Family, so the Lay Brother is the laborer for the Congregation which he chooses to enter. Many young men have been inspired by his hidden life and have dedicated themselves unselishly to the life of a Lay Brother, the life of other Josephs.

The religious life has often been compared to the life of the Holy Family at Nazareth. We can envision the priests represented as other Christs, the good sisters represented as other Marys; and the Lay Brothers as other Josephs.

IN KEEPING with the thoughts already expressed, may I observe, that for many people the life of the Lay Brothers re-



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mains an enigma, something unknown. Some Catholic people have the mistaken notion that a Lay Brother is one who failed to make the grade in studying for the priesthood and had to content himself with second best things. This is erroneous.

One famous Jesuit wrote, "The early monks did not as-

pire to Holy Orders or rather they desired not to receive them. Hence the brother became all that he was and all the graces given to the monastic life were given not only to monks, but also and especially to the Lay Brothers, who made up such a large segment of early monastic life. Many of the great leaders and teachers of the monastic life were themselves Lay Brothers.

The faithful, old and young, must be reminded that the religious life is the following of Christ in its finest form; and a religious Brother is a religious every bit as much as a priest in the community he represents.

One of the greatest joys of a Lay Brother experiences is the importance of his daily work when viewed from a supernatural light. He realizes that whatever job he is assigned to do by his Superior, whether it be scrubbing floors or office work, he is playing an important part in the work of the priest for the salvation of souls. He knows that no matter how menial his task may be, he offers it up with the right intention. It is a continual prayer, very pleasing to God and drawing down many blessings upon himself and his community.

THE STORY is told of a famous preacher of the Middle Ages who had a trading companion, a humble Lay Brother. While Father preached to the great crowds who filled the churches, the Lay Brother sat behind a pillar and offered up his prayers for the success of Father's preaching.

Cathedral Vets Mt. Carmel Grad Receives Grant

Plan Reunion

A "reunion picnic" for members of Sacred Heart Post Catholic War Veterans will be held at Powder Mill Park, West Area on Sunday, August 30, the committee headed by Leo P. O'Connor, chairman announced today.

All present members and those formerly active are invited to the affair to begin at 1 p.m.

SIGNS WILL be posted to guide those attending to the picnic area. Games and sports for adults and children will begin for all winners will be conducted. Food will be served about 5 p.m.

Reservations must be made on or before August 24. Tickets are \$1.00 each with children over 12 accompanied by ticket holder seventy-five cents and children under 12 to be admitted free.

THE PRIESTS have the greater responsibilities, such as the government of the Society, preaching, Missions and Retreats, administering the Sacraments, offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and educating youth. The Lay Brothers, usually serve their Lord in the manual trades as bakers, cooks, cabinet-makers, electricians, farmers, machinists, plumbers, printers, and office workers. There is also a great demand for Lay Brothers in the Foreign Missions entrusted to our Society.

While it is true that there is a great need of priests in our modern day America, there is an even more pressing need of Lay Brothers in our Religious Societies. We Missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus find this to be the case in our own Society. Daily we pray that God in His great mercy will inspire the generous hearts of our American youth to heed the words spoken by His Son while on earth, "the harvest is great, but the laborers are few." "Go ye also into My vineyard."

Auburn — The Rev. Brendan Hrouhan, O.Carm., principal of Mt. Carmel High School, has announced another scholarship winner added to the 1959 list of the student council for two years, president of the science club, a member of the dramatic club, the yearbook staff, dance committee, the basketball and golf teams.

William J. Burns, son of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore T. Burns, 6 Gady Street has received a New York State Regents scholarship for engineering, physics, chemistry and mathematics.

EDUARD WITKIN, 215 years at Mt. Carmel High School, was treasurer of the student council for two years, president of the science club, a member of the dramatic club, the yearbook staff, dance committee, the basketball and golf teams.

Reservations are being made with Leo O'Connor, 980 Dewey Ave., Apt. 21, Glenwood 3-1515-R or Ralph Edwards, 177 Alameda St., Glenwood 5-0947-W.

Picnic will be held rain or shine.

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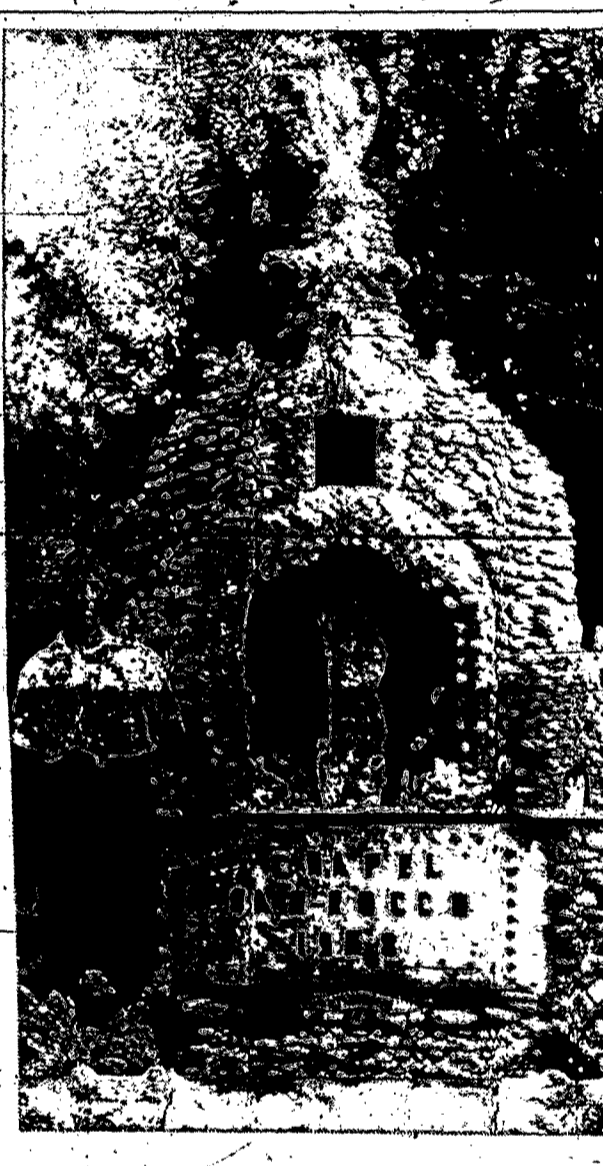
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JOSEPH PALMERI, 276 Clark St., Auburn stands next to the shrine he built in his spare time in the backyard of his home. A flower garden on both sides of the walk leading to the shrine beautifies the scene.

Auburnian Builds Shrine Honoring Saint Rocco

AUBURN — A shrine to Saint Rocco on the grounds of the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Palmeri of 276 Clark Street, Auburn, was dedicated Sunday, August 16 by the Rev. John A. Nacca, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church.

Father Nacca spoke briefly and commended Palmeri for his work in erecting the shrine. He also voiced the hope that others would be moved to erect such tangible evidence of their faith and devotion.

SAINT ROCCO, who lived during the 13th century, was celebrated during his life time for the angelic care with which he tended the victims of the plague then ravaging Europe. In plague years subsequent to his death his intercession was implored.

There is great devotion to him throughout Italy and France, but he is particularly venerated and loved in Bari. It is in this city in Italy and in the surrounding towns that many Auburn families have their ancestral roots. His feast day is celebrated August 16th.

The shrine which houses a large imported Italian marble statue of the saint is constructed of varicolored stones with colored glass accents. The colorful construction of the shrine is enhanced by the landscaping in the area of the shrine and in the walk which leads to it. During the winter months Palmeri constructed sections of the shrine indoors and then completed the outside work.

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Mission Lists Barbecue

Auburn — St. Anne's Mission of Owasco will have a chicken barbecue dinner and bazaar Sunday, August 30 at Camp Columbus on the east side of Owasco Lake. The Rev. Randal W. Whelan, pastor of Sacred Heart Church, is pastor of the mission. Serving will begin at noon and continue throughout the day and early evening.

M. JACK HOADLEY is general chairman with Leo Hunter, co-chairman. Special committee chairmen are: Mrs. M. Jack Hoadley, special events; Albert Gehweiler, advertising and publicity.

Mrs. Robert Headley and Rotary Aider Society members, kitchen; Francis Reilly, Thomas Reilly, barbecue pit; John Sloan, Mark St. John, John Clark, John Smith, James Shapley, Roma Caza, Leo Murphy, games;

George V. Frank, doll booth; Mrs. John Sloan, Miss Shirley Sloan, "nuts and pops"; William Flanagan, refreshments; Mr. and Mrs. L. Roy Schemat, variety; Robert McGraw, public address system.

Mr. Hoadley reports that the Owasco Valley Riders will be on hand to supervise pony rides for the children.

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