

### Monsignor Balcerak

Following is the text of the eulogy given by Rev. Ladislaus Szczepanski at the funeral Mass of Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph A. Balcerak at St. Stanislaus Church, Wednesday, Nov. 4. Monsignor Balcerak died Saturday, Oct. 31, 1959.

"And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Most High, for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways, to give to his people knowledge of salvation through forgiveness of their sins." (Luke 1:76)

On September 14, 1888, a boy, Joseph Balcerak, was born in the little village of Wloszyca, Poland. Little did his pious parents realize what God had decreed for one of their thirteen children. In him they saw only another manifestation of God's love and His confidence in them. They looked upon their child as another soul entrusted to them by the Almighty to be reared and directed to its ultimate end, the possession of God in eternity.

Early in life, they diligently fostered the seed of faith, implanted by Baptism, and arranged for his primary education in the little school of Zbrochlin, to fit him to take his place among the boys and girls of his village.

**DIVINE PROVIDENCE**, however, had other plans for him. At the age of twelve, he said farewell to his parents and emigrated to the United States in company of an older brother and sister, and settled in the city of Rochester, New York.

Here at St. Stanislaus school, under the religious influence of the pastor and the good Sisters, especially Sister M. Adalbert, also an emigre from Poland, the seed of a priestly vocation was implanted, nourished in St. Andrews Seminary, and finally after six years of special training in Philosophy and Sacred Theology at St. Bernard's Seminary, the seed blossomed and produced the fruit of a priestly ordination in June, 1915, at the hands of the Most Rev. Thomas E. Hickey, D.D., Bishop of the Rochester Diocese.

Deep indeed is Your Wisdom, O Lord, incomprehensible are Your Judgments, and Unsearchable are Your Ways.

We may readily imagine what joy there was in heaven as well as on earth, and how the angelic choirs must have chanted before the throne of the Great High Priest, Jesus Christ, those wonderful words of the royal psalmist David: "Thou art a priest forever."

"What is a priest?" may well be asked. The priest is another Christ, and as such he must carry the compassion, the sympathy of Christ in his bosom, and the love of Christ in his soul.

On the day of ordination, the priest, come weak, come weal, dedicates the undivided loyalty of his whole existence to his God, Jesus Christ, His Master, His Lord, His Father, His Father in God, Taught in God and suffered in God so that every priest, who is a second Christ, might live and love, and teach and suffer in God.

My dear brethren in Christ, of all the offices that man can be called upon to assume, the priesthood is the highest and the holiest in the plan of salvation, set down by Our Divine Master, the graces of redemption flow from the great Sacrifice of Calvary through the sacraments instituted by Our Saviour, and these Sacraments are to be administered to men by men, and hence the priest-

reduced the debt of a quarter million dollars, and the financial burdens of the parish were satisfied in December, 1950. The spiritual and material aspect of the parish took on a new look, as we are wont to say today.

Since that time the parish of St. Stanislaus, under the guidance of Msgr. Balcerak, erected the new convent for the Sisters of St. Joseph, and contracted for a new roof on the church. I mention these because they are the major projects of the years. Many other improvements were made since 1933.

All this, my dear friends, was accomplished by the boy Joseph Balcerak, an emigre from Poland, who was admitted to St. Andrews and St. Bernard Seminary, Rochester, N. Y.

And now we come to the gathering here this morning. We are gathered here to pay our respects to a priest, Msgr. Joseph A. Balcerak, a priest of the Rochester Diocese, who like others before him, has to answer to Almighty God for his stewardship.

Death is one thing that is absolutely universal. There is no individual, no home where death does not enter. There cannot be any exception, for there is that eternal decree: "Remember man, thou art dust, and into dust thou shalt return."

Thus it is a sad duty that brings us together today. We have met to pay our last tribute and respect to our friend and fellow-priest, your pastor, who for the past 25 years has ministered well to the spiritual and material wants of St. Stanislaus Church.

Permit me now to extend our heartfelt sympathy to the venerable sister and relatives of Monsignor Joseph Balcerak in this hour of their sad bereavement. We assure them that we will remember Monsignor in our daily Masses and prayers.

My dear friends here present, pray that his mission, in God's Providence may have been fulfilled in the words of Zachary: "And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Most High, for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways, to give to his people knowledge of salvation through forgiveness of their sins."

May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

### Aged Prelate Dies, Served Six Popes

Rome — (RNS) — Federico Cardinal Tedeschini, Archbishop of St. Peter's Basilica, and one of the most distinguished members of the Roman Curia, died at his home in downtown Rome on the Feast of All Souls shortly after he had received a special blessing from Pope John XXIII.

Eighty-six-year-old, Cardinal Tedeschini, who had served under six Popes during a long and varied ecclesiastical career, succumbed to an intestinal complaint for which he had been operated upon in the clinic of the Little Nuns of the Sacred Heart last September. It was announced that Pope John, who offered a Mass for the cardinal as soon as he learned of his death, would take part in the funeral in St. Peter's on Friday, Nov. 6.

Cardinal Tedeschini, one of the six Cardinal-Bishops in the Sacred College was Bishop of Frascati, one of the seven ancient sees around Rome, was the fourth member of the College to die during the pontificate of John XXIII and the third to succumb this year.

## Msgr. Balcerak Funeral Rites Held

(Continued from page 1) Balcerak, O.F.M.Conv., was co-celebrant and subdeacon.

Very Rev. Msgr. Edward J. McAniff and Rev. Edward Kowalski were masters of ceremonies.

Thurifer was Rev. Leonard Kujawski, cross bearer, Rev. Matthew Sudara, acolytes, Rev. John Woloch and Rev. Peter Jankowski.

Rev. Leo Matuszewski was co-celebrant; Rev. Valentine Jarzowski, candlebearer; Rev. Stanislaus Krelik, miterbearer, and Rev. Henry Adamski, gremiaz-bearer.

**MONSIGNORI** present were the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Arthur F. Florack, Frank J. Hoefler, George V. Predmore, Casimir S. Piejda of Syracuse, Peter J. Adamski of Buffalo, Francis J. Lane, John E. McCafferty, George W. Eckl, George J. Schmitz, William J. Naughton, John F. Goggin, Wilfred T. Craugh, Leslie Whalen, John S. Randall, Charles F. Shay, John M. Duffy and Very Rev. Msgr. Emmett Murphy and seventy-three priests of the Rochester Diocese and several priests of religious orders and neighboring dioceses.

Priests chanted the office of the dead at the church Tuesday evening and members of the parish societies and hundreds of parishioners and friends visited the church to pray for his soul. The church was filled to capacity by priests, nuns and lay people for the funeral Mass.

Assisting Bishop Kearney at the Mass were:

Rt. Rev. James C. McAniff, assistant priest; Rt. Rev. Msgr. John M. Ball and Rt. Rev. Msgr. Leo G. Schwab, deacons of honor.

Very Rev. Victor Balcerak, O.F.M.Conv., and Rev. Aloysius

### Miter Caps Charity Work

Rome — (NC) — The Most Rev. Ferdinando Baldelli, head of the Pontifical Relief Organization, was consecrated a bishop in the Church of St. Andrea della Valle here.

The new bishop, who had the titular see of Aperia, is responsible for the papal relief agency's distribution of assistance and emergency supplies throughout Italy. The relief agency receives much of its foodstuffs and other supplies from Catholic Relief Services—National Catholic Welfare Conference.

He told a group of some 100 reporters that the work of preparing the Council could not be accomplished for at least three years.

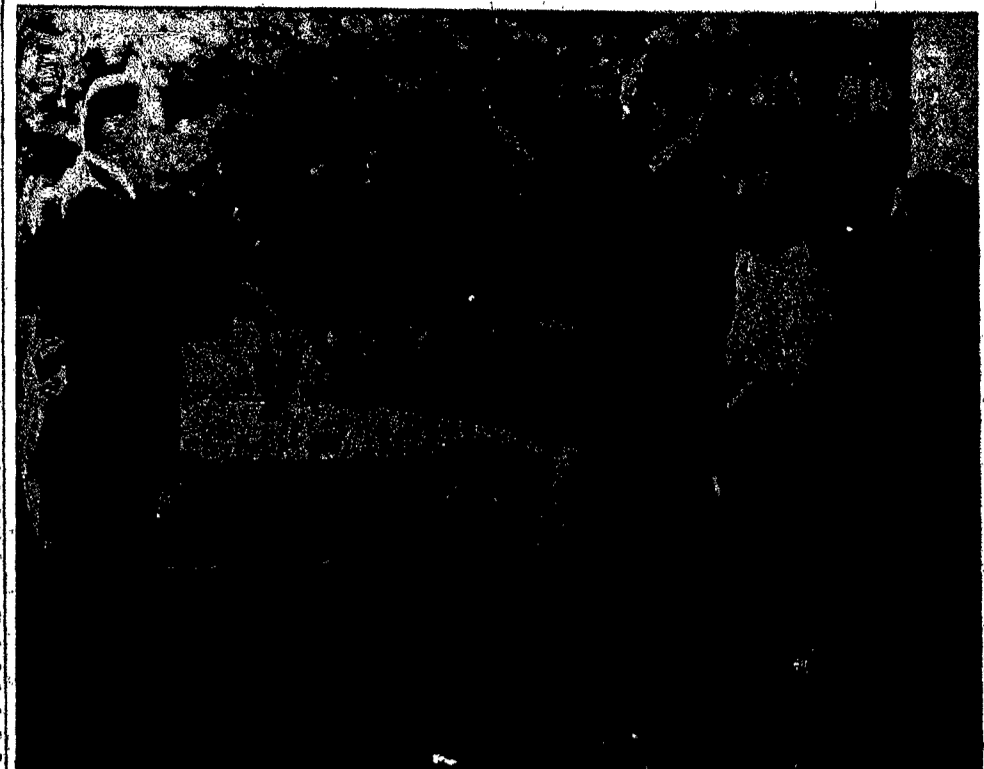
Cardinal Tardini said the agenda of the Council is still a secret, but suggestions ranging from new dogmatic condemnations of modern heresies have come from some 1,600 cardinals, archbishops and bishops and religious superiors around the world. In all, he said, some 2,700 letters have arrived with various suggestions.

Cardinal Tardini said the Council is being summoned for the development of the Faith.

### Papal Honor For Hitler Aide

Vatican City — (RNS) — Franz Von Papen, 80-year-old former German Chancellor and Nazi Germany's wartime ambassador to Turkey, has been reinstated as a papal chamberlain, according to Vatican sources.

The former diplomat was appointed a privy chamberlain by Pope Pius XI in 1923, but his name was removed from the chamberlains' roll in 1938 when he was serving under the Hitler regime.



### Women Drivers In The Making

New York — (RNS) — Father Raymond P. Rigney, associate superintendent of schools in the New York archdiocese, blesses the new dual control training car to be used in the first all girls' high school in the city to provide driver education. Edward J. Riger (left) of the Automobile Club of New York assists Father Rigney as students and Sisters of Mother Cabrini High School look on.

### Church Council Three Years Off

Rome — (RNS) — The Ecumenical Council summoned by Pope John XXIII last January will not be held until the end of 1962 or the beginning of 1963, instead of late in 1960 or early in 1961, as originally anticipated.

This was announced at a press conference here by Domenico Cardinal Tardini, Vatican Secretary of State, who heads the special committee set up to prepare the General Council at which bishops from all over the world will be present.

The cardinal said the Council will be an "internal affair" of the Catholic Church and thus any "giving and taking" with Protestant negotiators in an effort to unite Christendom will necessarily be precluded.

Nevertheless, Cardinal Tardini stated, Pope John's "loving nature" would guarantee warm welcomes to observers of other Churches who might want to come to Rome for the Council.

Per capita contributions in the 40 denominations averaged \$22.25, Mr. Thompson said. Highest per member giving for all purposes, he added, was recorded by the Free Methodist Church with \$243.95. Second was the Seventh-day Adventists with \$217.31. The Pilgrim Holiness Church was third with \$194.85, followed by the Evangelical Free Church of America with \$182.27.

Gifts for benevolence—home and foreign missions and overseas relief—amounted to \$473,911,895, or 20.2 per cent of the total for the 40 groups, slightly above the percentage for 1957.

### Methodists Give \$243 To Church

New York — (RNS) — Contributions by members of 49 Protestant and Eastern Orthodox denominations in the U.S. totaled a record \$2,332,159,299 in 1958, compared to \$2,206,593,817 for 52 bodies reporting the previous year.

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