

# THE CATHOLIC Courier Journal

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 1960

## In Funeral Notices

### Mass Request Suggested

A priest reads the daily death notices faithfully to find out whether the list includes a friend, a former parishioner, the relative of a priest, a nun or a parishioner. He observes how often the suggestion appears, even for Catholic funerals, that gifts be made to all sorts of agencies, funds, and institutions. As he goes about the various funeral homes to pray for the dead and to extend his sympathy to the survivors, he often notices the walls lined with flowers, and only four or five Mass cards on a tray.

We have no quarrel with those Catholics who wish to donate flowers as a gracious gesture to the survivors, or with those who desire to give money to some worthy charity in memory of the dead. What the relatives, friends and acquaintances of the deceased wish to do in this matter is their own business.

We merely propose one question: If the dead could make their wishes known, what would they request, first and foremost? They would beg that Masses be said for the repose of their souls.

Nothing possesses greater efficacy for the relief and release of the souls from Purgatory than the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Funeral pomp and flowers and cold blocks of granite are but a solace for the living, not for the dead.

The above is from *Sacred Heart Cathedral* parish bulletin of January 3.

those who die with our personal prayers and especially with the Masses we arrange to have said for the repose of their souls.

We suggest these Masses be celebrated in the parish church of the deceased, if possible, so that the survivors may attend. Even spiritual bouquets, or remembrances in Masses and prayers, given to the families of the deceased, lack the value of one Low Mass for the soul of the departed.

Masses should also be said on the anniversary of the death of the various members of our family. This is the gift they would have us give them.

We should like to see the deeply spiritual and essentially Catholic announcement in the obituary column: "Those who wish, may have Masses offered for the repose of his (or her) soul." We further suggest that those who make their last will and testament stipulate that a certain number of Masses be said for the repose of their souls. This is the way to insure their relatives forget.

To request Masses for the dead is essentially the Catholic way. It is a doctrine of our Faith that this is the most effective way to help the souls of the deceased. Our Catholic teaching is very definite in urging us to help the dead.

### Hibernians To Install New Slate

The 1960 officers of the Major John J. Lee Division, Ancient Order of Hibernians, will be installed Friday, Jan. 8, at 8:30 p.m. in Columbus Center, Elmira.

Hibernian National Secretary John F. Geoghan of Brooklyn will conduct the installation.

Raymond B. Hourihan of 800 Fulton Street, will be sworn in as the new division president. He succeeds Jerome F. Hogan.

Hourihan and the other 1960 officers were elected by the division membership at the December meeting.

THE SLATE of officers includes:

Vice-president Bart J. McNamee; Chairman of standing committees, Atty. M. Joseph Danaher; Treasurer, William C. Hibbell; and Financial Secretary, Atty. Jerome H. Kane.

Recording secretary, Atty. William D. Burns; Musicians, Francis M. Steed, and Seminole, Peter J. Glanton.

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