

Lent's 40 Days Begin Wednesday

Catholics will be marked with the smudge of blessed ashes, a reminder of inevitable death, at church services Wednesday, March 2.

The Ash Wednesday ceremony will inaugurate forty days of Lenten prayer and penance.

For the faithful of the Rochester Diocese this Lent "has a character of its own," Bishop Kearney has stated in a letter to be read at all Masses this Sunday.

"It is a Lenten season marked by special devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus," he said, having designated 1960 as the Year of the Sacred Heart throughout the twelve county Diocese.

In his letter, the Bishop asks for daily Mass and Communion, spiritual reading about the Sacred Heart and visits to our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

The Bishop has authorized pastors to schedule a daily evening Mass to enable more people to attend at Mass each day during Lent. The Act of Reparation to the Sacred Heart is to be said following each evening Mass (except Friday) when Stations of the Cross may follow the Mass.

Pastors of the 150 parishes in the Diocese have scheduled special Lenten rites, most to be held on Wednesdays and Fridays. Parish bulletins should be consulted for exact times.

Ash Wednesday rites will begin prior to early morning Masses when ashes will be blessed and then marked on foreheads of the faithful with the statement, "Remember, man, that you are dust and to dust you will return."

THE CATHOLIC *Courier Journal*

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE

71st Year

ROCHESTER, N.Y., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1960

PRICE 10¢

Shelters, Busses Stall In Albany

Shall We Survive?

Governor Rockefeller this week moved closer to his goal to build a fallout shelter in every backyard in the state.

Having approval for his plan from the New York State Defense Council, top level advisory group on civil defense and "stand by" government if an enemy attack cripples the existing state government.

The Governor will ask for a law to expand private property owners to build additional fallout shelters. His proposal last week stated "private, business, schools, both public and parochial, privately run institutions, as well as state and local government houses, hospitals and other institutions."

Bishop Kearney will mark the event by leading the devotions on Thursday, March 3. Nazareth College students will make the responses and sing.

The Bishop's program will be the 3,055th consecutive broadcast of the Rosary over Rochester station WSAY each evening at 7 p.m.

At a private meeting with the state lawmakers this Wednesday, however, Governor Rockefeller was advised to postpone legislative action until next year. An intense education program is needed, he was told, to alert the public to the need for extensive shelter construction.

Legislators, faced with demands from voters to cut soaring taxes and traditionally divided along party lines do not want to add burdens to taxpayers in an election year.

Cost of the construction program would soar into billions of dollars throughout the state.

Individual home shelters will cost from an estimated \$700 for a cellar basement self-built shelter to a \$1000 professionally constructed backyard shelter.

Observers at the capital predict the Governor's plan will not clear the Legislature unless state or federal funds relieve property owners of some of the cost of constructing the shelters.

Bolstering the Governor's plea, however, was President Eisenhower's statement to the nation Sunday evening which admitted the "continuous threat" of nuclear attack.

America's defense, he said, is "a great deterrent strength, so powerful as to command and justify the respect of knowledgeable and unbiased observers here at home and abroad."

He said the U.S. is able to use "frightful destruction" against any aggressor nation.

Commentators noted he tacitly admitted an enemy could rain nuclear bombs on American cities and risk the promised massive retaliation.

Civil Defense officials bluntly state an atomic attack would kill millions—but even those who escape the nuclear blast would face the painful and lingering death agony resulting from radioactive fallout.

Only shelters can provide adequate protection for blind survivors to escape the lethal fallout, the Defense officials say.

The Governor earlier this week announced a \$7 million dollar shelter would be built at an emergency capital in the event of enemy attack.

Like the teacher and I, the students, Miracles said of the school, where he is in his final year.

Free Rides To Church

Albany — (RNS) — Free transportation for churchgoers during Lent will be provided by the Niagara Frontier Transit System here.

The move, which was approved by the Public Service Commission, will allow free travel both to and from church on Sundays.

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He said that during religious classes he has a study period and finds no conflict time to different religious beliefs.

Shall We Ride?

A 1950 school bus law will be brought up to date if New York state lawmakers ask a proposal currently bogged down in the Legislature in Albany.

The Spence-Brennan bill seeks to extend the present 8-mile limit for school bus rides to private schools to a maximum of 15 miles.

State Senator Edward J. Munro (Long Island Republican) and Assemblyman William G. Donohue (Bronx Democratic) have introduced a proposal last year for governmental busses, but the bill did not go far.

Both the bill is in the committee.

The revived bill is again a victim in the state Senate Finance Committee and the Assembly's Ways and Means Committee.

Chief backing for the bill has come from Westchester and Nassau counties where Protestant and Jewish groups, as well as Catholics, demand more independent schools than in state areas.

Charles J. Tobin Jr., secretary of the New York State Catholic Welfare Committee, told the Courier Journal this week, the Spence-Brennan bill has been promised "extensive support" if it reaches the floor of the Legislature.

Additional support, however, is needed from sports areas, he said, to bolster the Westchester and Nassau pressure.

Citizens are urged to write their representatives in the Legislature to bring the bill out of committee for settlement at this year's session.

Last week, the staff Council of Protestant Churches went on record as opposed to extending "string benefits" to pupils not attending public schools.

Defenders of the bill point out the existing 1950 law is obsolete. At that time, they say, an 8-mile ride was considered "a trip." "We can't solve 1960 problems with a 1950 solution," a spokesman stated.

Latest statistics report 2,720,000 children attend public schools in New York state and over 351,000 (more than 20 per cent of the total) are in privately run schools. Of 670,000 pupils attend Catholic schools, the remaining 106,411 attend other nonpublic schools.

The Spence-Brennan bill aims to end the practice of pupils of the state from sickness, accidents, and traffic highway deaths by providing bus rides to the schools of their choice, up to a 15 mile limit.

The cost of this bus service is negligible compared to the tax savings realized from the near million people attending the Catholic and other privately run schools.

In other action at Albany this week, a fifty million dollar increase in state aid to public schools appeared certain of winning approval from the legislature.

Proposed legislation for Holy Communion. The bill would give a minister to see over infant baptism. You will appreciate our continued support.

Destiny — body to ashes, soul to eternity.

Family Retreat On Record

My dear People:

A complete family retreat on records has been prepared by the Rev. Conleth Overman, C.P., Director of Our Lady's Retreat House, Warrenton, Missouri.

Consisting of 17 talks, the records are designed to reach the forgotten millions with the good news of retreat. As Fr. Conleth explains, "the people the most need a retreat, young couples with a growing family, are unable to avail themselves of the closed retreats."

The 17 talks on the 6-LP records packaged in an attractive album offer a program for Christian family living. There are 7 talks for husband and wife, 5 talks for the wife alone, and 5 talks for the children. The records are most successfully used when they are purchased by a group and circulated to the members of the parish who are of a special organization.

**Prayers Greet
New Prince**

London — (RNS) — Catholics throughout England, Wales and Scotland joined in hailing the new Prince born to Queen Elizabeth II.

By order of William Cardinal Godfrey, Archbishop of Westminster, the collects from the Mass of Thanksgiving were recited at public Sunday Masses in England and Wales.

In the evening Te Deum was sung or recited at Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in all public churches and chapels.

Meanwhile a congratulatory message from Pope John XXIII was received at Buckingham Palace. The text of the Pope's message was not immediately made public.

This daily Lenten service will give our Lent session of 1960 the unique character of being intimately associated with the Sacred Heart. What better preparation for the sacred mysteries which bring Lent to a close!

Finally, may I ask that your Lent in the year of the Sacred Heart be marked by personal visits to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. There is a deep refreshment from sitting alone in the presence of your God hidden behind the door of the tabernacle. There He waits with the patient and sympathetic ear of a Father Who never tires of listening to the problems of His children. There He repeats His invitation: "Come to Me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for your souls."

(Matt. XI, 28)

Let us pray that Lent in 1960 will bring to everyone an intimacy with our Sacramental King deeper than any we have known before. It can set the spiritual atmosphere for the rest of this holy year dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

With my blessing, I am

Your devoted Shepherd in Christ,

+ James Kearney

Bishop of Rochester

(A general dispensation from fast will be granted on Thursday, March 17, 1960.)

**Native Tongue
Used in Mass**

Mangalore — (NC) — The vernacular language was used in the Kyrie, Gloria, Credo and other parts of the Ordinary during a High Mass here.

Celebrant of the Mass was Msgr. W. Lewis, Vicar General of the Mangalore diocese. The choir sang in Konkani, major dialect in this part of southern India.

Msgr. Munasinghe Diengode, Msgr. Thomas, William S. D'Souza, Superior, St. Paul's Seminary, Bangalore, 215 Miles SE.

Local News

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