

Where A Jewess Was A Nun

**Priest Visits
Cologne Convent**

An added chapter in human cruelty was written in the anti-Jewish attacks in Germany when Sister Edith Stein, a Jewess, was taken to the Nazi days.

What caused this throw-back to Nazi days?

Father E. Leonard Rush of St. John Fisher College faculty sent a special report from Cologne, Germany to the Courier Journal this week.

He makes no claim to know the answer to the puzzle which leaves experts still shaking their heads in wonderment.

Even mention indoctrination by powerful Nazi propaganda techniques failed to convince most of the German people that the Jews were guilty of the crimes blamed against them by Hitler.

Father Rush said six weeks of talking with clergy, university professors and scores of other German citizens has convinced him they all had a deep, but futile sympathy for the plight of the Jews during the Nazi regime.

The Germans were the victims, he says, of a conspiracy of a dictator who brutally obliterated anyone who opposed him.

Father Rush visited the Cologne Carmelite convent, leveled by Allied bombs and rebuilt by the nuns after the war. Here she lived for five years, one of Europe's most brilliant scholars in the young science of psychology, and the nun who was killed in the gas chambers of Auschwitz.

Born a Jew in 1891, she became Catholic in 1922. Eleven years later she entered the Carmelite order.

Her superiors later sent her to the convent at Echt in Holland to escape the Nazi violence against her race. Behind these cloister walls, Sister Benedicta — her Carmelite name — turned her talents to the study of sanctity. She devoted herself to the study of the great Carmelite mystic, St. John of the Cross, and was at work on a book about him when the Gestapo arrested her on August 2, 1942, soon after their invasion of Holland.

She greeted them, not with the traditional German "Gott sei mit uns" — "God be with us" — but with a prayer for the Jews.

She was taken to the concentration camp at Westerbork, where witnesses later testified she displayed extraordinary calm and great charity tending for five days the children whose mothers, so beside themselves with fear, were unable to care for them.

Sister Benedicta was put on a train bound for Auschwitz on August 7 and passed there two days later.

Father Rush spoke to nuns at the convent who had known her — the scholarly woman who spent her life in the service of truth and sealed her faith by a heroic death.

The nuns also told the priest that Rochester Carmelite nuns aided them in the rebuilding of their monastery by sending "clothes, food and whatever they could spare from their meager resources."

Cologne is still a war-wrecked city, Father Rush reports.

"Remnants of bombed buildings dot the whole city and the people are still trying heroically to rebuild it," he states.

One pastor told him that one of the city's larger parishes counted 5,000 members at the outbreak of the war. In one raid, 2,000 were killed, and at War's end, only 20 were still surviving.

Against this background of terror, destruction and yet heroic faith, Germans have cleared away the rubble and launched their nation — divided still by the iron curtain — on its post-war course.



ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL Nursing School award winners are shown above with Bishop Kearney and Father Philip E. McGhan, chaplain. From left are: Phyllis Geraky, Elmira; Maureen Sprague, Ithaca; Jeanne Barry, New Albany, Pa.

Bishop Presides In Elmira At Nurses' Graduation Rite

The forty-ninth annual commencement of St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing, Elmira, was held in St. Peter's and Paul's Church on Sunday afternoon, August 7. Bishop Kearney presented pins and diplomas to the thirty-nine members of the class, one of the largest to be graduated since the school was founded in 1906.

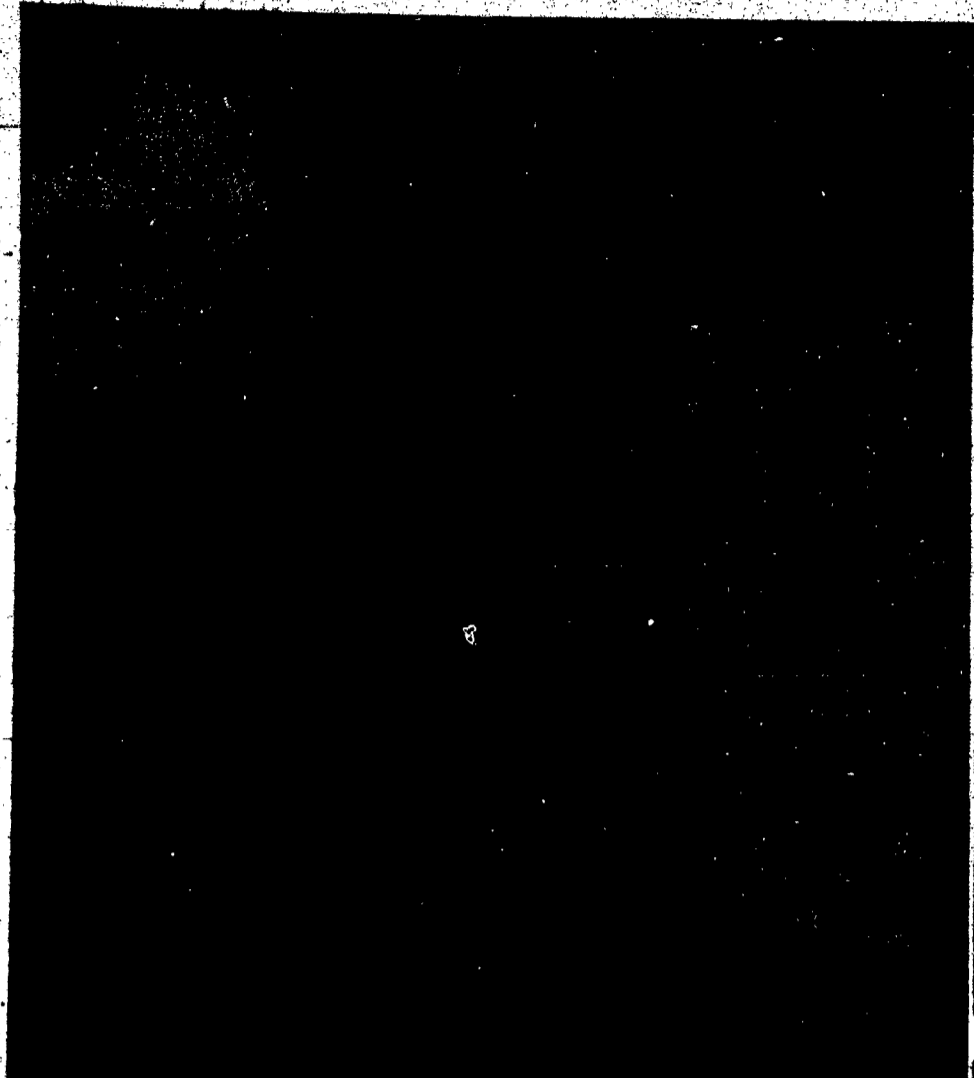
THE BISHOP was assisted during the ceremony by the Very Rev. Magr. Edward J. McAniff and the Rev. Roger F. Switzer, assistant pastor of St. Mary's Church, Horseheads.

The graduates were presented to Bishop Kearney by the Rev. Philip E. McGhan, hospital chaplain. Following the awarding of pins and diplomas, the Bishop gave his blessing to the graduates assembled in the sanctuary.

Father McGhan announced the winners of the awards and scholarships to the School of Nursing. The awards presented by Bishop Kearney were the Reverend Francis J. Walker Memorial award for Highest Scholastic Average and the St. Joseph's Hospital Alumnae Association Award for Excellency in Nursing Practice to Miss Phyllis M. Geraky, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard C. Geraky of 264 West Sixth Street, Elmira.

The Margaret M. Valkont Award for Outstanding Operating Room Nursing was won by Miss Jeanne Marie Barry, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Barry, R.F.D. No. 1, New Albany, Pa.

The District No. 3, New York State Nurses' Association Award for Outstanding Leadership in Professional Nursing Activities was awarded to Miss Maureen Sprague.



"Here is South Africa's Port Elizabeth, 400 miles from Cape Town where the race riots took place you read about in your newspapers," says Irish born Father Seamus Sheeran on a visit to Rochester this week.

Where Race Hate Seethes

A man in the middle of South African citizenship. He came to Africa's bitter race rioting in his new homeland immediately. Father Seamus Sheeran, Irish-born missionary visiting his in 1946. He will visit his cousin, Rev. Joseph Brennan at "old home" on his return trip to South Africa later this month.

The soft-spoken missionary described his spiritual work to blacks and whites as a job most hazardous for someone not used to the sharp segregation enforced by law in South Africa.

He said one of his first experiences in this harsh system was the Port Elizabeth cathedral in 1946.

A colored couple called at the rectory. He observed them late in the afternoon. After they left, their white housekeeper insisted the priest scrub the desk, chairs and anything else the colored couple might have touched because, she emphatically told him, "they clean up after colored."

He was then informed the colored were dealt with while they stood on the porch steps.

VIOLATIONS of apartheid (strict segregation) laws could cost the missionary his South African citizenship.

held but is powerless against the rigidly enforced laws.

Father Sheeran said the problem stems from tribal migrations of 150 years ago. Dutch settlers came to South Africa, then an "empty land," in the seventeenth century. They were Afrikaansers, and they married their own kind.

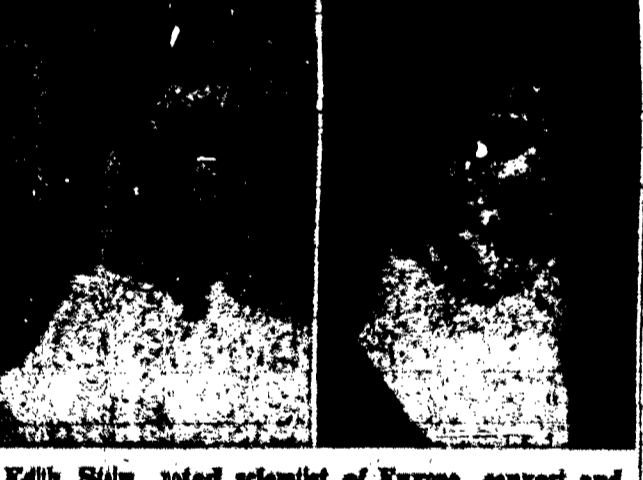
Her superiors later sent her to the convent at Echt in Holland to escape the Nazi violence against her race. Behind these cloister walls, Sister Benedicta — her Carmelite name — turned her talents to the study of sanctity.

To "keep them in their place" right have were connected to assure white supremacy, the system now facing violent overthrow.

"I wish there was a happy ending to my story but, I'm afraid, there isn't one. We need your prayers," he urged, Father Sheeran said.

New Address

New address of Chaplain Leo D. Ward is listed as follows: Chaplain Leo D. Ward, ICDM, USN, Office of the Catholic Chaplain U.S. Marine Corps School Quantico, Virginia.



Edith Stein, noted scientist of Europe, convert and Carmelite died in Auschwitz gas chambers, a victim of Hitler's hatred of Jews.

Dedication Day Events Readied At Mt. Saviour

A meeting of the committee for the annual Dedication Day fair was held at Mount Saviour Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. Plans were made for the activities to be held on August 14 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the anniversary of the dedication of the Monastery Chapel.

Committee for the fair includes the following from Elmira and Corning:

MRS. MARTHA Ayers, Mr. and Mrs. George Bragg, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Benedict, Mr. Thomas Corbin, Mr. Robert Chely, Mrs. John Clobé, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Conboy, Miss Babe Crowley, Mrs. David Dickenson, Mrs. Margaret Dowling (Corning), Mr. and Mrs. William Drohan, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Egan, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Fisher.

The Misses Shirley and Anne Frost, Mrs. Uri French, Mr. Joseph Gawlas, Mrs. Edith Griffin, Mrs. Jeannine Houtman, Mrs. George Keenan, Mrs. William Kneeland, Mr. Alex Costy, Mrs. Charles LaFollette, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Lane, Mr. Daniel Laux, Mrs. John Mack,

Mrs. James Mallon, the Misses Anne and Maryetta Mannocho.

Mrs. Stanley Mekos, Mrs. Edward Murphy, Mrs. Walter O'Brien, Miss Mary O'Neill, Mrs. Howard Panton, Mr. and Mrs. James Palford, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Rohde, Mr. Phillip Rosol, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Sillicano, Mr. Dalton Wesley, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Wilcox, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Winicki, Mr. Bernard Winicki.

THE FOLLOWING program of events will be offered at the Dedication Day celebration:

11 a.m. — High Mass; 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. bazaar booth featuring hand-made articles, baked goods, religious articles, shop, portrait sketches, toy rides and games for children; refreshments, lunches and snacks available all day; conducted tours of the chapel every hour; 4:30 p.m. — Vespers and Benediction.

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FOUR GRADUATES with their mothers who are also alumnae of St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing: (from left) Mrs. Harry Getchell (the former Theresa Connolly, Class of '39), Judith Getchell, Mrs. John J. Daly (the former Mary Murphy, Class of '27), Mary

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Retreat Listed At Conale

The Rev. Gerald A. Quinn, S.J., head of the Mission Band of the Society of Jesus' New York and Buffalo Provinces, will conduct a retreat for women at the Conale Retreat House, 803 East Ave., the weekend of Aug. 18-21.

Elmira KC Holds Outing

The annual Elmira Council Knights of Columbus outing on Aug. 7 at Ukrainian Park was termed "one of the most successful in recent years" by Michael F. Limoncelli, general chairman.

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