

Where A Jewess Was A Nun

**Priest Visits
Cologne Convent**

An added chapter in human history was written in the anti-Jewish outbreaks in Germany this past spring.

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 relentless indoctrination by powerful Nazi propaganda technique 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 themselves victims held in the iron grip 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 the famed Dr. Edith Stein, one of Europe's most brilliant scholars in the young science of psychology, donated the nuns' garb, an event which stunned her science associates and marked her for the gas chambers of Auschwitz.

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

Her superior later sent her to the convent at Echt in Holland to escape the Nazi violence against her race. Behind these cloister walls, Sister Benedicte, her Carmelite name, turned her talents to



FATHER RUSH

the study of sanctity. She studied 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 required "Heil Hitler" but with the traditional German "Gelobt sei Jesus Christus — Praised be Jesus Christ." In return she received a curse.

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

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

Father Rush spoke to nuns at Cologne 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."

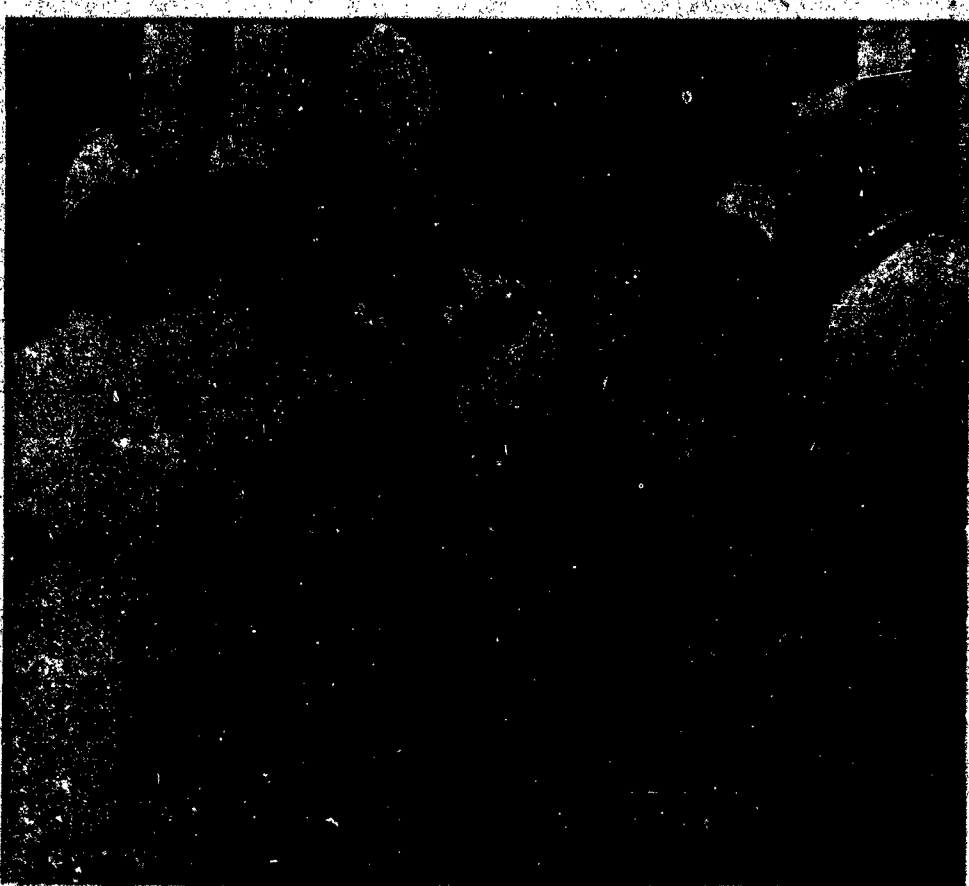
Cologne is still a war-wrecked city, Father Rush reports.

"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.

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



ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL Nursing School award winners are shown above with Bishop Kearney and Father Philip E. McGhan, chaplain. From left are: Phyllis Gorsky, 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 1908.

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. Gorsky, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard G. Gorsky of 864 West Sixth Street, Elmira.

The Margaret M. Valicenti 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, daughter of Mr. William Sprague, 411 South Albany Street, Ithaca.

THE GRADUATES formed a procession from the Dunn Memorial Residence to the church escorted by the student body of the School of Nursing. The new cap which has just been adopted by St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing was worn for the first time by the graduates. Red rose corsages were the gift of the hospital Medical Staff.

Among the clergymen attending were: Rt. Rev. Magr. Leo G. Schwab, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church and Dean of the Chemung-Schuyler Deanery; Rt. Rev. Magr. Arthur E. Raitman of Rochester and Rt. Rev. Magr. Francis J. Lane of Elmira. There were about twenty Elmira and area priests in attendance.

About 400 attended the commencement exercises including parents, relatives and friends of the graduates. Members of the Board of Directors of St. Joseph's Hospital, members of the Board of Directors of the Hospital's Women's Auxiliary, Medical Staff members, Sisters of St. Joseph and Sisters of Mercy were among those present.

"The power of prayer has been a vital part of your preparation in nursing. I assure you that I have expressed a sincere prayer of thanksgiving during Mass for the realization of your hopes as well as of those who love you so dearly.

"God the Son was the Great Healer. He loved us much; he let his kindness go out to the sick. He will follow by your side every inch of the way as long as He is made to feel welcome.

"Make your thoughts, words and actions such that Jesus Christ will feel happy to go through His work with you as He (Continued on Page 8)

"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 nephew 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 came soon after his arrival at the Port Elizabeth cathedral in 1944.

A colored couple called at the office and arranged for their wedding. After they left, the white housekeeper insisted the priest scrub the desk, chairs and anything else the colored couple might have touched because, she emphatically told him, "I won't clean up after cools."

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.

"Race is stronger than religion in many hearts," he said, and predicts hard days ahead.

Catholics in South Africa bear a triple tax burden for schools. Besides enduring the same exclusion from tax benefits as in the United States, the faithful there have to support not only their own parochial schools but the "mission" schools for the underpaid colored people.

"Colored" includes not only Negro people but those of mixed blood and even Orientals such as Chinese and people from India. The Catholic Church, a minority group numbered 23 to 1, has requested the missionary his South African citizenship.

**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. MARYA Ayer, Mr. and Mrs. George Bragg, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Benedict, Mr. Thomas Cera, Mrs. Robert Chely, Mrs. John Chubb, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Conroy, Miss Babe Crowley, Mrs. David Dickenson, Mrs. Margaret Dowling (Corning), Mr. and Mrs. William Drohan, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Ekes, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Fisher.

The Misses Shirley and Anne Frost, Mrs. Uri French, Mr. Joseph Gawlas, Mrs. Edith Griffin, Mrs. Jeremiah Hourihan, Mrs. George Keenan, Mrs. William Kneeland, Mr. Alex Costy, Mrs. Charles LaFollette, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Lane, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Laux, Mrs. John Mack, Mrs. James Mallon, the Misses Anne and Maryetta Manocchio.

Mrs. Stanley Mekos, Mrs. Edward Murphy, Mrs. Walker O'Brien, Miss Mary O'Neill, Mrs. Howard Paimon, Mr. and Mrs. James Fullford, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Rohde, Mr. Phillip Ross, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Sillicino, 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 Dedication Day celebration:

11 a.m. — High Mass; 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. bazaar booth featuring hand-made articles, baked goods sale, religious articles shop, Portrait Sketches, pony rides and games for children; refreshments, luncheon and snacks available all day; conducted tours of the chapel every hour; 4:30 p.m. — Vespers and Benediction.

New Address

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

**Retreat Listed
At Cenacle**

The Rev. Gerald A. Quinn, S.J., head of the Mission Band of the Jesuits' New York and Buffalo Provinces, will conduct a retreat for women at the Cenacle Retreat House, 693 East Ave., the weekend of Aug. 19-21.

The retreat will open at 8 p.m. on Friday with dinner, and will close with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday. It is open to women of all faiths.

Reservations are being taken at the Retreat House by mail or telephone: BR-9999-1-8755; and in Elmira by the Ladies of Charity, headed by Miss Mary Fitzgerald of the Catholic Family Center.

**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 V. Lynamcill, grand chairman.

An estimated 300 persons attended including several of the area clergy invited as special guests. Joseph Caponi was food and kitchen chairman.

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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 '36), Judith Getchell, Mrs. John J. Daly (the former Mary Murphy, Class of '27), Mary

Ellen Daly, Mrs. Edmund Shoeger (the former Jeanette Schone, Class of '25), Virginia Shoeger, Mrs. Bruce Williams (the former Mary Maser, Class of '38), Betsy Williams.

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