Nocturnal Adoration Society, Nation's Task Force Of Prayer

to the members of the Noc- all through the years. turnal Adoration Society of the Rochester area at their annual breakfast held in the Bausch and Lomb Company cafeteria following Mass and Holy Communion in the society's four churches where monthly nightlong devotions are held. The breakfast was Sunday, March 19.

Before we enjoy the hospitality of this dining hall, may I grasp this opportunity of the presence of Mr. Hallauer, and thank him personally for making this outstanding gathering of men, the possibility and reality year after year.

Mr. Hallauer has always been very sensitive to any activity in this community that, has a spiritual value; and to me particularly, through the years, he has lent not only his kind cooperation, but he has lent his prestige in the community: he has lent the devotion in which he is held by our people; he has lent his time and his energy

I know the least thing that he expects is that I should take time out of this speech to say this to him, but I say its in all sincerity, that his friendship and his magnificient 'spirit of cooperation has been one of the most beautiful experiences of my now almost quarter century as Bishop of Rochester.

A man should be rather humble in mentioning a quarter century here because we have at this table two men who have been on the firing line for over sixty years, Monsignor Connors and Monsignor Eckl.

My dear friends, as we all realize, this is a unique gathering that we have here each

I have the privilege of addressing our people all through the year for various occasions, the many orour contribution to the social, the education, the general welfare of the community: not only for this gathering, votes itself exclusively, as fast a gathering so large that

God; devotes itself exclusively to a program of prayer.

We have nothing else to, do, we do not go outside of that field. Everyone of us has undoubtedly another association which takes care of that responsibility, but we have the great commandment of God, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God, and Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thy-

We all have some organization, some connection by which we are happy to exercise the love of our neighbor, but this organization devotes itself exclusively to the glory of God, and its only function in the community is prayer.

Now, I think it's a very worthwhile thing in the community that the largest gathering of this kind, which I attend, should be one whose purpose is to keep us in touch with Almighty God. I think ganizations that try to make it's a great sense of happiness to us to realize that our selection of that particular work has received God's blessbut this gathering, which is ing the way it has so that we the largest that I address, de- can bring together for break-

date us.

Now, we know that in the welfare of a community, and the welfare of a country, prayer must play a very important place. The psalmist said long ago "Unless the Lord build the city, they labor in vain who attempt to construct it. Unless the Lord protects it, they waste their time who try to guard it."

And, not too long ago when we put into the administration of this country, a young man as President, he said an impressive thing at the close of his inaugural speech. He had pointed out, as we heard him, again and again, that probably no man ever accepted the supreme executive office of this coun-

try at a more crucial time in her history. Despite the fact that America has been the good Samaritan of mankind, despite the fact that we have extended our generosity in millions of dollars all over the world, we have not too many friends.

Our enemies have be e n powerful enough to insinuate a certain amount of distrust

Bishop Kearney gave this talk but for any number of things you know, to the worship of no other hall will accommo- for us all over the world, and this young man inherits that for our own families, and attitude of distrust.

> When he outlined his hopes for the administration of his country, he chose four particular virtues: Courage, Judgment, Integrity, and nedication.

> > He told his fellow legisla-

tors in Massachusetts, where his career began, that these things would mark his career, and then he brought his speech to them to a close. It is a rather touching thing because he was, after all, bidding farewell to the group with whom he had been associated all his life and w h o s e acceptance of his youthful efforts had a great deal to do with his final success; but he said "in order to do these things I have to depend upon the help of God: and since God depends upon' man for the winning of that help, may I ask that you keep me in your prayers." You will recall that the same theme closed his inaugural.

That's the very thing that we are doing in our Nocturnal Adoration Society. While we are sanctifying our own our own welfare, let us also realize that we'too are one of the government task forces.

This man has established a group of them, but your Nocturnal Adoration, whereby a man selects a certain time each month and goes into solitude during the night so as not to be disturbed, so as to get his mind and thoughts away from the occupations of his life and family, so that there may be in the silence of the night nothing to interfere with his communion with Almighty God, makes of all of you the task force of prayer.

We are part of the program for which the supreme executive of wour country prayed. Now we know that the power of prayer is an outstanding and a wonderful thing. This man with all his training, with all his hopes. with all his ambition, with all the youthful enthusiasm, confessed at the end of his acceptance speech, that without the help of God, he could expect to be a failure.

We are his committee for

an organization, we are spread all over this country, night after night, from Maine to California, and from the St. Lawrence to the Gulf, and there are gathered in churches, members of our

great prayer task force, the committee on prayer, praying not for ourselves because if we were badly in need of these prayers, we would not be in the Nocturnal Adoration Society; but we know that God accepts the unselfish and the sacrificing attitude of those who will pray for others. We know that there must be in our prayer a certain definite power that can challenge the sympathetic ear of Almighty God; and so, gentlemen, therefore, when you depart, as you do, again and again, and kneel down in the presence of God, ask His blessing upon this world that needs it so much, ask His blessing upon your families, upon these young peo-

Remember that you are answering the prayer of the President of our country who says that unless he receives

ple who have to grow up into

such a very challenging

souls, while we are praying the help of God because as the support of prayer and the help of God, he cannot carry the ship of state through the turbulent tides, the destructive seas which we have to face during the next four years.

So then, this Nocturnal Adoration prayer is a tremendous, a very necessary thing for the welfare of our country, and you may well look upon yourselves as necessary to our nation in this day when we turn over so many functions of government to trained and competent task forces.

You have been trained by education; you have been trained by prayer; you have been trained by the gifts of the Holy Ghost to become competent men of prayer to talk to God in the silence of the night, a supreme act of devotion not only to God but for our beloved country.

May God bless your efforts and may He bless everyone of you for the contribution that you are making to the honor of God in this community for the betterment of the areas in which you live, and it may be to the selvation of our beloved America.

Constancy, Key Virtue for Legion of Mary

Rishop Casey gave the following talk to the members of the Legion of Mary at their annual diocesan Acles ceremony of rededication. More than a thousand members of the lay apostolate organization renewed their pledge of service for another year at the cathedral rite held Sunday, March 19.

The annual Acies ceremony of the Legion of Mary always does something to the blood pressure. Those present are always stirred at the sight of so many consecrated men and women, the active Legionaries and their auxiliaries, gathered to pay honor to their heavenly Queen.

The Legion in the Diocese of Rochester has grown to such an extent that this year, for the first time, the Junior Legion has its own Curia and will hold a separate Acies ceremony next Sunday. The Legion of Mary is on the march locally. When one considers its humble start in this Diocese and sees its present state, one understands that the hand of God is here.

. The Legion of Mary began in the Diocese just 22 years ago with only three praesidia directed by Monsignors George Burns, Joseph Curtin and George Schmitt. Today there are 70 praesidia and the active Legionaries, junior and senior, number 830, and there are almost 19,000 auxillary members. The Legion of Mary has come a long way in the Diocese in a relatively short space of time.

As you Legionaries meet to reconsecrate yourselves to Mary, it would be profitable first to stress the importance and necessity of your work and then to re-emphasize the means to make that work more vital and efficient.

Long ago you learned in the catechism that the Catholic Church is a visible body. This statement was more true in the horse-and-buggy days when life was simpler and the pace slower. It was more true in the days when the parishes were smaller and the priests knew every last one of their parishioners personally.

With the population explosion a reality in our crowded cities and suburbs, our Catholic parishes now have a large number of invisible members — they are the hidden ones and often they have hidden problems which would be helped if discovered.

The obvious solution to this problem might seem to be, "Let the priests do it." It is not as simple as that. Consider our local problem. Recall the 1960 figures for Monroe County. The population of this County increased nearly 100,000 in ten years. Of this number a very large percentage are Catholics. The growth in the counties east of here may not have been as rapid but you priests and Legionaries from Auburn. Clyde, Geneva, Newark and Ontario, and Geneseo, Dansville, Wayland, South of here, have seen your parishes expand from 1950 to 1960.

' In the same period, the number of priests working in the Diocese has not increased in like proportion. This Diocese extends to the Pennsylvania border and down east almost to Binghamton. We have only 290 active parish priests trying to take care of over 360,000 Catholics. Twelve priests will be ordained this June and we could use 40. For the next five years, there will be only ten new priests each year. For those who have the responsibility of spreading the Kingdom of God in this section, it is a disquieting situa-

In many parishes, we have one priest trying to do the work two should be doing. In others, two priests where there shoul be four, and so en Your priests are doing

the best they can but they are not adequate to cover the territory assigned to them.

Running a parish, city or suburban or rural, gets more involved each year. To add to the complications of his regular spiritual duties, the priest finds that he is swamped in a sea of paper work - reports for this and that, marriage investigations and requests for certificates, Such work is necessary but distasteful to the shepherd who would prefer to spend his time making direct contacts with his flock.

On your side of the altar rail, you have fellow parishioners who never identify themselves with their parish and float from one church to another. It's Sunday Mass for them - period! Add to these the number of inactive and of Catholics involved in invalid marriages and who have given up their religion and you have a submerged ghost parish of perplexing magnitude concealed within an apparently flourishing one.

To counterbalance this discouraging picture, we have an ever growing Legion of Mary. Thank God for the Legion. We parish priests have in you a loyal group of men and women who will help us search out reluctant souls, help us find the wanderer, the strayed.

You Legionaries do not subscribe to the false notion that the laity should have nothing to do with apostolic work. Catholics who entertain such a narrow and insular belief forget the example of Christ Himself. He sent out twelve apostles to spread His Kingdom but he also commissioned 72 laymen to preach His gospel Happily, yours is the wider viewpoint. Inspired by our Lady you have enlisted in an army dedicated to direct service of immortal souls.

The Church is grateful that you are doing so. In view of the picture we have drawn of the local situation, and it is a realistic one, there is an urgent need for your assistance. It is true that your numbers have greatly increaswhat we said of the shortage

of priests is equally true of sorrow, strong to endure." the Legion of Mary. There will never come a time, in the foreseeable future, when we shall have enough activve Legionaries,

So there is a project for you active members and devoted Auxiliaries - to pray constantly not only for more religious vocations but also that the Legion of Mary will grow and, the next step, to do your part in recruiting likely candidates for the Legion's work. The priests themselves meet potential recruits but it is safe to say you of the laity have more contacts than we do. You know the qualifications necessary and you will use good judgment in making the initial approach.

Now about yourselves and the means to make your work more effective. The first class Legionary must possess many qualities and we could give a separate talk on each of the qualities required. May we mention only one, and one that is often overlooked the virtue of constancy. It means to be faithful, loyal, resolute. When we call a person dependable, reliable, we give that individual high praise.

Life does not go along in a straight line. "Our life is not a stately progress towards death; it is a drifting up and down, up and down, in the wilderness of this unsubstantial world." We are like the Israelites in their journey toward the Promised Land, wandering up and down, up and down the desert for 40 years, with the Promised Land always about three days' march away.

What crooked and confused lines write the story of life! There is wisdom in the Portuguese proverb, "God writes straight with crooked lines." Sometimes everything is fine and we go along on all eight cylinders. Other days there are reverses, failures, disappointments. We're not feeling well and we limp along on one or two cylinders. At times we feel as unstable as water but we pick ourselves up and, with God's help, keep on going. That is

On the day before his death, Robert Louis Stevenson wrote a prayer, "When the day returns, call us up, o Lord, eager to labor; happy ed in the past few years but if happiness be our portion, and if the day be marked for

This is the mark of a true Legionary, to keep going, taking the good days and the bad days with equal hand.

This is the constancy we learn from our Redeemer, our model, especially during this sacred part of Lent. Passiontime, which begins today. Nothing, nothing at all, deterred our Lord from the task which had been appointed for Him by His heavenly Father.

He said to His apostles and He repeats it to you, "The task I have appointed to you is to go out and bear fruit.' Go out and bear fruit. There is no question about it, the apostolic part of your work is hard. To "hit the asphalt" week after week, to persevere in keeping to the essentials, to enter every hame no matter how unattractive, to meet with disappointments, even rebuffs, to keep on doing this is hard, at times very hard. That is why the virtue of constancy is so necessary.

You go out on your mission, however, with confidence. Mary clothes you in her strong armor. In addition, you have the assurance which comes from a knowledge of your mission as Legionaries. You know its purpose, what it's all about. The directions of your standing instructions seem at first cold and arbitary but experience shows that they give you a most providential technique to help the priest multiply his presence among the people.

Those who first see your group in action may be tempted to believe that the Legion of Mary is too meticulous in its adherence to its rules. This is not so. Past experience shows that when one rule is not kept, many of the others start to go and before long that particular praesidium begins to fall apart.

We must always remember that the Legion is basically a contact group. If it isn't out winning friends and influencing people toward God, a praesidium might just as well die. Its field of action is the marketplace, n o t sacristy work nor rectory work.

It is the military discipline which helps to make the Legion such a strong force for good. Those attending the Christmas parties and the other rare social functions of

the Legion observe the nice relaxed wholesome atmosphere of those gatherings. But it is a different story at your regular meetings. The newcomer is struck by the members' earnestness, their devotion to duty and their absolute fidelity to the principles of the Legion of Mary.

As we have remarked before, there is a "no-nonsense" tone to your meetings. You won't find there the easygoing casual coffee-break attitude on the part of the members. Everything is strictly business. That is the way you get things done.

You get things done not only because you have a timetested system to guide you but because you are motivated by a spirit of generosity and self-sacrifice. You conscientiously fulfill your work assignment each week, never grumbling, never criticizing, you give up television, social gatherings, the comfort of a loving family to go about the work of your Queen and this you do without looking down your noses at those Catholics who have an indifferent outlook on religion or without feeling sorry for yourselves because you are not properly appreciated.

That would spoil the whole covenant you make with Mary. Because you are generous, you volunteer for work above and beyond the call of duty. Because you are humble you do not wear a sandwich board with the word "apostle" written on it. You work quietly, unnoticed, not wanting to be noticed, not seeking praise, content that Mary knows what you are doing.

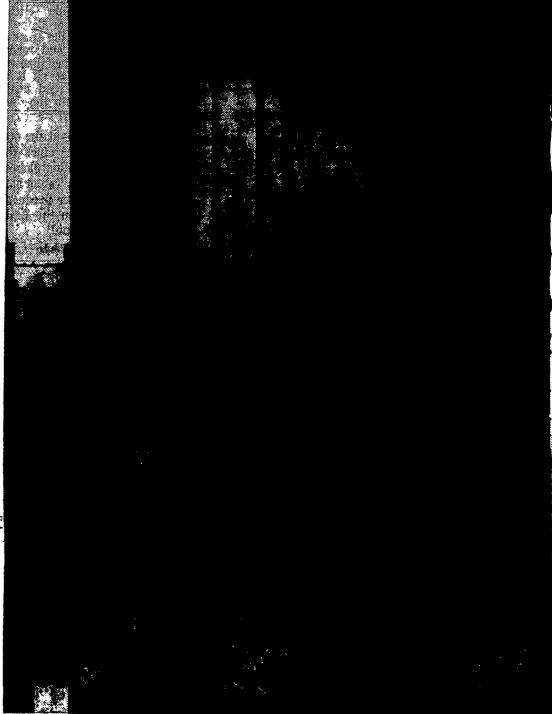
Behind your constancy as a true Legionary lies your personal religious program. That is what really keeps you going. You sense your need to sanctify yourselves and there is no magic formula to acquire holiness. There is only one way and that is the ordinary way - the living, the hard work of living the ordinary spiritual exercises.

Daily Mass and Holy Communion if possible, frequent Confession, some spiritual reading and meditation, acts of self-denial,-you know the All the saints used these means and no others. Your daily spiritual program will be successful if you follow the same standard you use for the standing instructions of the Legion-no exceptions! Once you start making exceptions, your whole program gradually collapses.

This annual Acies ceremony, then, is something like a spiritual retreat for you Legionaries and Auxiliaries. You meet today to make a union with and dependence upon Mary your Queen. As you rededicate yourselves to aries united with you by a ommon bond.

And you also examine your you are giving all you can to evening. Mary's work, whether you could make your work for The founders of the Legion end at midnight Good Friday. had supernatural vision when they made this Acies ceremony an integral part of the

Looking out at this chosen group, we have this conviction — what fortunate people you are. Mary gave you a special call and you had the grace to answer it and you. have found that membership in her army has brought, and will continue to bring you muntless blessings. You have word of her Son - he that works for Me shall reecive in this life a hundredfold and shall possess life



Legion of Mary members from scores of parishes in Rochester Diocese listen to Bishop Casey in pulpit at Sacred Heart Cathedral in annual rededication rite. (Chuck Mantelli Photo)

Timetable of Parish Holy Week Ceremonies

The dramatic, grace-laden rites of Holy Week vividly recall the redeeming work of Jesus Christ, the world's Saviour.

Parishes will schedule these ceremonies according to the following timetable:

PALM SUNDAY - Blessing of palm, procession list. There is no other way. to honor Christ the King, solemn Mass.

Pope John XXIII has authorized American parishes to bless palm prior to the solemn rite with simpler ceremonies to accommodate the faithful who attend earlier Masses.

HOLY THURSDAY - Solemn Mass of our Lord's

Last Supper, between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. Each parish may also schedule two Low Masses,

one of which may be in the morning.

GOOD FRIDAY - The Liturgy of our Lord's sufferings and death, between 12 noon and 9 p.m. Preferable, but not mandatory time, is 3 p.m. Holy Comsolemn expression of your munion is given at the conclusion of this rite.

HOLY SATURDAY - Easter Vigil service includes blessing of the Paschal Candle (symbol of the her service for another year, risen Saviour), Scripture reading, litany, blessing of you draw inspiration from baptismal water, renewal of baptismal vows, to be the sight of so many Legion- scheduled to end at midnight when Mass will be celebrated.

Parishes, with the Bishop's permission, may schedconsciences to see whether ule the Vigil rite and Mass earlier Holy Saturday

Fast and abstinence laws during Holy Week are souls even more effective. the same as on other days of Lent. The Lenten laws

There is no fast-or abstinence on Holy Saturday.



Vol. 72 No. 25 Friday, March 24, 1961 MOST REV. JAMES R. KEARNEY, D.D., Preside



Daily Mass Calendar

Sunday, March 26 - Palm Sunday (purple), blessing of palm and procession honoring Christ the King, Gospel of the Passion may be shortened at a priest's second Mass.

Monday through Wednesday, Mass as in missal. March 29, 1920-Rev. James Hart-

Holv Thursday, March 30 -Chrism Mass at the Cathedral, Last Supper Mass in all churches. 1955 - Rev. Arthur LeMay.

Good Friday, March 31 -Liturgy of our Lord's Sufferings.

Holy Saturday, April 1 - No Mass in morning. Vigil and Mass in late evening.

Priests listed above died on date indicated. Please pray for them.

Mercy In A Jeep

Hekkaide - A missioner with a Jeep, filling in for the town ambulance marooned in a severe Japan blizzard, saved a baby's life here re-

Maryknoll Father Donald J. Vittengl, of Glens Falls, N.Y., rushed the infant, hemorrhaging from hernia, through 28 inches of snow to the hospital in his Jeep, equipped with four-wheel drive.

When staff doctors agreed that the baby had only a slight chance of surviving, Father Vittengl baptized her. Almost immediately, to the amazement of the doctors, the infan't condition improved: five days later, she was re-

moved from the critical list. This month, the parents, impressed with the compason of the American misstoner, will complete their finel course of doctrinel is

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