

Cornerstone of Faith

By FATHER HENRY ATWELL

Eight hundred million of the world's near three billion people are Christians because they believe the story of Easter.

That story, almost 20 centuries old, is still able to hold the attention and rekindle the faith of those who hear it.

It was first told by the four Gospel writers.

Briefly, this is it.

Four women were astir before daybreak on the morning of the first Easter.

They were going to anoint the body of Jesus, a rite omitted when He was buried late Friday afternoon because the Sabbath law which began at sundown forbade any work of that nature.

An earthquake roused the drowsy city but did not daunt the women on their errand of piety. They were troubled, however, wondering how they would roll away the shoulder-high stone disc which sealed the entrance to the tomb.

"Then they looked up and saw that the stone, great as it was, had been rolled away already," and the tomb was wide open. It took only a glance to see that the body of the Lord was no longer in the shroud on the stone bench. The women impetuously thought robbers had broken in.

Mary Magdalen turned at once and came running back the quarter mile distance to the city to report to Peter and the apostles.

The other women entered the empty tomb and then, in this

morning of miracles, two angels in human form appeared to them.

"You need not be afraid," one angel told them, "I know well that you have come to look for Jesus of Nazareth . . . He has risen again, he is not here. Here is the place where they laid him." The angel pointed to the linen shroud in which the sacred body was wrapped. The Saviour is alive. His body is not stolen.

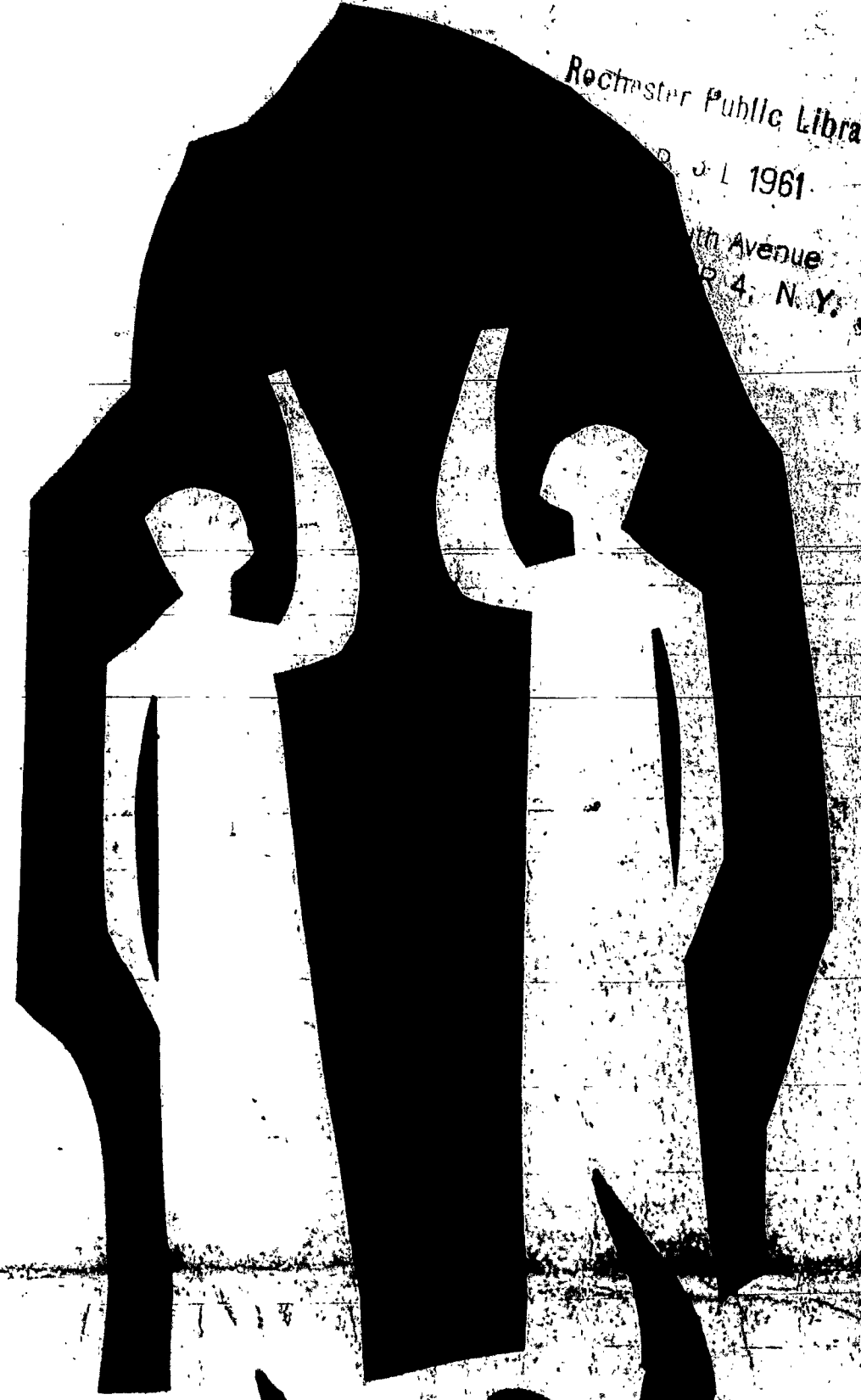
In this quite matter of fact manner the cornerstone of Christian faith was first described to three frightened women.

Events then tumbled over each other — the women hurry back to the city; Peter and John, after hearing Mary Magdalen, run to the tomb; the Magdalen, still puzzled, returns to the tomb where the risen Lord appears to her; the Roman guards, confronted with an empty tomb, desert their post and appeal to the Jewish priests for protection; two disciples on the way to Emmaus have Jesus as their companion but failed to recognize him until at supper "He took bread and blessed and broke it and offered it to them."

The two promptly returned to Jerusalem under the bright light of the still full Passover moon. They told the apostles who were still hesitant to believe.

Now it was late evening. The eleven apostles had locked themselves into their room, probably where they had the Last Supper.

While they debated the reports of the day "Jesus himself came, and stood there in the midst of them." He calmed their fright, showed them His hands and feet where the nails had pierced Him to the cross. He ate with them and then sent them to continue the work He had begun — the reconciliation of sinful, wandering souls to their Shepherd and Saviour.



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Cross on Freedom's Frontier

An American soldier on guard at a U.S. Army outpost in South Korea is reminded of Easter by this 20-foot-high wooden cross which can be seen for miles across the demilitarized zone separating North and South Korea. The guard is PFC Bennie M. Boggard of the 1st Battle Group, 8th Cavalry, U.S. 1st Cavalry Division. (RNS Photo)

Easter Sunday Mass On Television, Radio

Easter Mass will be brought to shut-ins of the Rochester Diocese by both television and radio this Sunday morning.

Bishop Kearney's pontifical Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral will be broadcast by radio station WHAM from 11 a.m. to noon. The Bishop will also give the Easter Sunday sermon. St. Bernard's Seminary choir will sing the Mass.

High Mass will be televised from the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Mercy by WROC-TV, Channel 5, 10 to 11 a.m.

Father David Finks, chaplain at the Motherhouse, will celebrate the Mass. Basilian Father Peter Sheehan of St. John Fisher College will give the Palm Sunday Mass. The nuns choir will sing the musical portions of the Mass.

In Auburn, radio station WMBO will broadcast solemn Mass at St. Mary's Church at 11 a.m. Celebrant will be Rt. Rev. Msgr. James D. Cuffney and the sermon will be given by Oratorian Father James J. Sharples.

Narrow Road on New Frontier

School Loans Opposed

President Kennedy this private school were said to be constitutionally "invalid." road for possible federal funds to trickle down to pupils in Catholic schools as he repeated his plea for massive aid to public schools.

His plan would permit limited funds to Catholic school students "for special purposes not closely related to religious instruction."

Examples of what the government considers constitutionally permitted are "loans to private schools to acquire science, mathematics or foreign language equipment" or "such programs which either bear a clear-cut relationship to children's health or promote a special purpose with a clear national defense implication."

Outright grants or loans to

The President's position was spelled out in a 63 page memorandum to Senator Wayne Morse, head of the Senate's educational subcommittee.

According to the memorandum, federal aid may be given to private colleges because there is no requirement to go to any college but federal aid may not be given to private high schools or grade schools because students at this level are compelled by law to attend school.

Catholic educators expressed their puzzlement why congressional changes the constitutional status of funds said to be needed to raise the level of education for the "national defense and welfare."

The administration's plea for federal aid to only public schools rests on the claim that a critical shortage of classrooms exists, posing a threat to the nation's safety in an era of growing technical competition with Soviet countries.

Catholic leaders have stated the same crisis exists in their schools which also need more

classrooms and higher pay for the increasing numbers of lay teachers.

Max Freedman in the Manchester Guardian, English newspaper, states, "Even the strongest critics of the Catholic philosophy recognize the force of this case."

Jesuit Father Charles M. Whelan in this week's America magazine says federal aid exclusively to public schools would destroy Catholic school hopes not only to expand but even to survive. This, he says, would mean "the disappearance of all choice, save for the rich," and the ultimate emerging of a one-system government monopoly in education, contrary to the American tradition of freedom of choice in religion and education.

Destruction of this freedom by economic boycott is not in the national interest, Father Whelan states.

At a meeting in New York City, Catholic college officials heard Jesuit Father Virgil Blum of Marquette University

say the current school aid discrimination should not be a question of church-state relationships but ideals.

Protestant groups, however, kept up a steady pressure on Congressional leaders opposing aid to Catholic school pupils. Voicing their opposition were Lutherans, Unitarians, Baptists and the 31 denomination Protestant Council of New York City.

The educators endorsed both President Kennedy's and New York State Governor Rockefeller's programs to aid college students but asked Congress members "to recognize and uphold always the value and absolute necessity to the nation of private education at all levels as an integral element of our system of education through equitable legislation."

Siding with the Catholic bishops' proposals to aid parochial schools through federal loans were the Hearst newspapers led by the New York Journal American and nationally syndicated columnist David Lawrence and George Sokolsky.

A Jewish national organization, Agudath Israel, also took the stand that denial of aid to pupils in private schools "is

Lent Fast Laws End Tonight

Lent's laws of fast and abstinence end tonight, Good Friday, at midnight in the Diocese of Rochester.

Bishop Kearney has granted a dispensation for tomorrow, Holy Saturday, from laws otherwise in force throughout the day.

Monuments and Markers for Holy Sepulchre. The better way to observe a monument is to see our Indian history. You will appreciate our message plan. THEOTT BROS., 1120 Mt. Hope, GE-3371-Adv.

Crosses In Tree Trunk, Crowds Trek To Site

Mexico City — (RNS) — Catholic authorities are investigating an allegedly "miraculous" tree trunk in the village of El Molinito in the state of Mexico.

Two clearly defined crosses are evident when the trunk was split recently by a village farmer, it was reported. Soon villagers flocked to the site and after a preliminary investigation by the parish priest, ecclesiastical authority forbade veneration of the trunk or construction of a chapel at the site.

However, the Church authorities soon reversed themselves and ordered a full investigation into the incident.

Father Jorge Duran Pineiro was placed in charge of the inquiry.

Meanwhile, a growing number of visitors have come to the site of the "miracle" to see the parted trunk and the crosses.

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Easter Mass For Donors

Bishop Kearney will offer his Easter Sunday High Mass for all who pledged or contributed to the autumn fund drive to build two new Catholic high schools in Monroe County.

The Mass will be celebrated at Sacred Heart Cathedral at 11 a.m. and broadcast by radio station WHAM.

Construction of the two schools is already underway, one in Irondequoit and the other in the Town of Greece.

New Pupils Registration

Registration of new pupils for parochial schools of the Rochester Diocese will take place Tuesday and Wednesday, April 11 and 12.

Applicants for kindergarten must be five years of age by Nov. 30, 1961, and first grade applicants must be six by Nov. 30, 1961.

Parish bulletins should be consulted for time and place of registration for each school.

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