



Bring Your Baby for a Blessing

Nancy Hawke reaches for the medal Bishop Casey will give each child he blesses at Sacred Heart Cathedral this Sunday, April 9, 3 to 4:45 p.m. Parents are invited to bring preschool children for the blessing and receive the holy medal. Members of the Cathedral Christian Home and Family organization will serve as hostesses during the near two hour rite. Chairmen are Mrs. Frederick Hawke (left) and Mrs. Harry Roberts.

Test for Education Aid

What's Best for Nation?

What's best for America — of the Catholic University of New Orleans, he said, "Factually, the worst educational problem at the moment is in a section of the country predominantly Catholic." He added: "Despite the central Catholic doctrine of the Mystical Body, the pronouncements of the Holy Fathers and our hierarchy, there are Catholic schools and Catholic parishes and Catholic lay organizations and Catholic orders and Catholic neighborhoods that not only do not welcome, but positively repel Negroes from their midst."

Poll Shows Catholics Split On Aid Issue

Princeton — (NC) — The Gallup Poll says 56 per cent of Catholic voters favor giving Federal aid to Catholic and private schools as well as public schools. Among 1,608 voters of all religions questioned by George Gallup's American Institute of Public Opinion, 57 per cent favored giving Federal aid to public schools only, 36 per cent favored aid to Catholic and private schools as well, and 7 per cent had no opinion. Sixty-three per cent of the Protestants questioned would confine Federal aid to public schools, 29 would extend it to Catholic and private schools and 8 per cent had no opinion. Twenty-eight per cent of the Catholics favored aid to public schools only and 6 per cent had no opinion.



Papal Easter Blessing

Rome — (RNS) — This striking close-up of Pope John XXIII, wearing his three-tiered crown, was taken while the Pontiff read his Easter message to the world from a temporary throne on the central outer balcony of St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican.

Express your sympathy — Monuments and Markers for send flowers. Call BLANCHARD'S. You can be sure of the proper selection in perfect taste. Open daily 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. 58 Lake Ave. Free parking. Adv.

Triumph Of Church Predicted

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope John XXIII, in his third Easter message, deplored the "terrifying actions of a great number of men" which he said dimmed the joy of Christians everywhere on the great feast of Christ's Resurrection.

Obviously referring to Communism, the 79-year-old Pontiff predicted, however, that the Church would finally triumph over her enemies as she has so many times in the past.

THE POPE delivered his message from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica before a throng of more than 100,000 Romans and pilgrims and visitors from countries around the world.

He said the "imposing, respectful and pious multitude" before him tempered his "anxiety" over the "threatening attitude" of many men which "disturbs and troubles those who love justice and liberty."

"Sometimes," he said, "sadness recurs to invade our souls amidst recurring disagreeable and, here and there, terrifying actions of a great number of men. They belong to human society and by nature are our brothers, but toward them in fact to wish to be indulgent means nothing else than to apply correctly the last prayer of the dying Jesus: 'Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.'"

"Their disordered cries fill the cities and the fields. Their pressing agitation disturbs and troubles those who love justice, liberty, a life which is laborious, beneficent and tranquil. It is the same agitation which saddened the streets of Zion on the tragic eve of the death of Jesus. We do not want Him to reign over us. Away with Him! Away with Him! Crucify Him!"

Pope John concluded by extending good wishes to the crowd in 15 languages, including those spoken in Russia and other Communist countries. In English, he said, "A happy and blessed Easter to you all."

Martyr's Grave Now Rice Field

Hong Kong — (NC) — No sign remains of the grave of Bishop Francis X. Ford, M.M., who died in a Red Chinese prison nine years ago.

A friend of the U.S. Bishop went to pay a visit to his tomb outside Canton on the anniversary of his death, and found that a rice field now covers the site.

The late Bishop of Kaying died in a prison hospital in Canton on February 21, 1952, married a certain Mary Connolly.

Court Upholds Obscenity Ban

Albany — (RNS) — The Court of Appeals here upheld New York State's law against selling obscene literature.

But the state's highest court, in a 5-2 decision reversed the convictions of five New York City booksellers who had been prosecuted under the statute and ordered new trials for them. The court did not pass on the question whether "prior knowledge" of the contents of obscene literature was required before a conviction can be sustained.

This was left undecided because it was not an issue at the trial that resulted in the conviction of the New York City men. It became an issue after a California law, which demanded prior knowledge unnecessary, was declared unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court held that a person could not be convicted of possessing or selling obscene material unless he was aware of its content.

ASSOCIATE Judge Adrian P. Burke, who wrote the majority opinion for the Court of Appeals, said the New York law implied a knowledge of material, although this was not specified in the legislation.

"A reading of the statute as a whole clearly indicates that only those who are in some manner aware of the character of the material they attempt to distribute should be punished," he said. "It is not innocent but calculated perversion of filth which is exercised."

How Do Birchers Rate Catholics?

By FATHER HENRY ATWELL

What do John Birchers think of the Catholic Church?

We decided to find out, so we telephoned the organization's headquarters at Belmont, Massachusetts.

Robert Welch, founder of the three-year-old anticommunist John Birch Society, was "unavailable" but we spoke first with his secretary Miss Ellen Lovett and then with Dr. Francis X. Gannon, head of the society's research department.

We asked, "Do you consider the Catholic Church throughout the world and in America an effective block to Communist expansion?"

The answer, "Yes."

We were told Welch considers the Catholic Church and the United States as the world's two major defense bastions against the growing Communist takeover.

"What about Protestant Churches?"

"Certain groups of Protestants," Dr. Gannon stated, "are also firm in their resistance to Communism but he said the World Council of Churches and some individual denominations are 'badly infiltrated' with Communist sympathizers."

Welch was reported "critical of some college professors" for their sympathy toward Communist causes but neither the professors nor colleges were identified.

Dr. Gannon said Welch has "strongly criticized" the "Communist Party" and "has been labeled as a Communist sympathizer or unwittingly of Communist."

The John Birch Society gets its name from a man who never belonged to it. He was a Baptist missionary serving in the U.S. armed forces during World War II. He was killed by Chinese Communists 10 days after V-J Day and served as a patron for Welch's Communist-fighting organization.

Welch, also a Baptist, was reared in the extreme conservatism and fundamentalism of the Southern Baptist tradition in North Carolina. Both his secretary, Miss Lovett, and Dr. Gannon identified themselves as Catholics and said there is a "high percentage of Catholics in the John Birch organization."

Dr. Gannon said he was Jesuit-educated at Boston College and Georgetown University.

After the interview with him, we asked ourselves, "What do Catholics think of the John Birch Society?"

Opinions vary.

As Dr. Gannon indicated, many Catholics are enrolled as members. Rev. Richard Glinder, well known priest editor of Our Sunday Visitor, is a member of the society's board of directors.

We readily admit Robert Welch and his staff are dedicated, sincere people.

The John Birch Society, we think, points up an urgent need in our country at this time.

Many Americans are frankly getting scared of Communism.

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Defending the Union at Sumter, April 12, 1861.

Rochester's James Gibbons

Soldier of Sumter

By REV. ROBERT McNAMARA

This is the third in a series of articles by Rev. Robert McNamara to mark the four year centenary of the Civil War. Father McNamara is history professor at St. Bernard's Seminary.

One hundred years ago April 12, Southern forces fired upon the U.S. stronghold, Fort Sumter, in the harbor of Charleston, South Carolina. The attack on the fort and the capitulation of the fort to the Confederates, the first engagement of the Civil War.

What is not commonly known, but is of patriotic interest to Rochesterians, is that a young Irish soldier from Rochester was on hand to represent his city in this first memorable battle of the great conflict.

He was Private James Gibbons, of the 1st Regiment, U.S. Artillery. He belonged to Battery "E", commanded by Captain (later General) Abner Doubleday.

Rochester was to send many volunteers into the war once hostilities commenced. Gibbons happened to be at Sumter because he was a professional soldier. He was born in Ireland on June 15, 1833. ("About 1833" he later testified, with that vagueness for dates which characterized so many of the old immigrants.) In 1850, he married a certain Mary Connolly.

Anderson took over Fort Moultrie with a tiny army of sixty-eight soldiers. One of these soldiers was Private James Gibbons. Having surveyed the situation at Fort Moultrie, however, Anderson quickly realized that in case of an attack, that particular fortress would be impossible to defend.

The wisest move, he concluded, was to shut down Moultrie and move out into the five-sided, unoccupied Fort Sumter, which dominated a tiny island in the center of the harbor. The Major therefore took precautions to fortify Sumter as quickly and cautiously as possible.

On December 20, South Carolina seceded from the Union. Six days later, under the cloak of night, Major Anderson transferred his men and his remaining supplies over to Fort Sumter. Before they departed, however, the troops took pains to sabotage Moultrie, spiking the guns and setting the gun-carriages afire. They also chopped down the flagpole, lest it ever be used for other than the Stars and Stripes. Accommodating themselves, then, to their new island quarters, Anderson and his men began their long wait.

When he had time to attend to it, Private Gibbons sent off a letter from Sumter to his wife. Writing her on December 20, he recounted their removal from Moultrie. "We set the fort on fire," he told her, "and cut down the flag-staff before we left." To prove his point, he enclosed a chip from the flag-staff in his envelope.

Two hundred men from Charleston had come out to Fort Moultrie on December 27, he said, and taken over the abandoned fortification. An assault now threatened, but the garrison at Sumter was prepared for it, he assured her. "We are ready to fight and intend to clean 'em out."

On November 14, 1851, Jim decided to enter the army of his new country. He enlisted in Rochester on that date, and was assigned to Battery "E", Regt., U.S. Artillery, for a five-year term. When the term was up, he reenlisted a month later in the same outfit, on December 12, 1856.

On February 1, 1860, he was transferred to Battery "E". His wife was meanwhile living in Rochester. She had borne him a son, William, on August 21, 1858. William was baptized at old St. Patrick's church, Rochester, on September 12.

The 1st Artillery was destined to be in the middle of things when the trouble started. Trouble was brewing by November 15, 1860. The U.S. Government therefore assigned to the Kentuckian, Major Robert Anderson, the task of standing watch at Fort Moultrie, near Charleston, in case the South Carolinians should threaten the military installations in Charleston Harbor.

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How To Preach Better Sermons

Washington — (NC) — The Preachers Institute, designed to give priests specialized and intensive training in preaching, is shifting the scene of its operations to the Adirondack Mountains after 28 years on the Catholic University of America campus.

The institute will be held June 27 to July 27 at the White Fathers' seminary on Lake Kashaqua in Onchiota, N.Y., 15 miles north of Saranac Lake.

As a special feature this year, the institute will conduct four separate seminars: for parish priests, missionaries, homiletics professors and speech teachers. The Preachers Institute, which was founded in 1932 at Catholic University, has more than 1,000 alumni.

Hamilton and Omega Watches Budget Terms. William S. Thorne Jeweler, 313 Main St. East.—Adv.

Decency Legion Warns On 'Abolition' Film

A movie titled "Operation Abolition"—circulated in the Rochester area by people linked with the right-wing John Birch Society — has run up against widespread criticism for its "mishandling the truth."

The film's producers have also failed to present it to the Legion of Decency reviewers, the Courier-Journal learned this week. The American bishops who head the Legion's film-rating program warned Catholics in a November statement to avoid unlisted films.

According to newsmen who have seen the film, events are not reported factually and "distortions are so blatant and so extreme as to produce the net effect of a lie."

The film describes alleged Communist-sparked riots in San Francisco which disrupted hearings of the House Un-American Activities Committee there.