

Monsignor Cowen

Following is the text of the sermon given by Monsignor Dennis Hickey at the funeral Mass for Monsignor William E. Cowen in St. Mary's Church, Auburn, Sept. 8. Monsignor Cowen died Tuesday, Sept. 5, 1961.

"Father, if Thou art willing, remove this cup from me: yet not My will but Thine be done." (Luke 22:42)

On the night before He died, Christ retired with His Apostles to "Pray, that you may not enter into temptation. He Himself withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and kneeling down He began to pray, saying: 'Father, if Thou art willing, remove this cup from me: yet not My will but Thine be done.'" (Luke 22: 40-42)

Spiritual writers tell us that Christ in His agony foresaw the terrible ordeal of the morrow and His human nature in it was recoiled. Since the fulfillment of His Father's will was His supreme and only rule, He unhesitatingly reiterated what had been His intention from all eternity: "Not My will, but Thine be done."

GOD LOVE YOU!

By MOST REV. FULTON J. SHEEN

"He that gaineth souls is wise." The Book of Proverbs tells us. For did not our Lord balance a single soul against the universe — and find a soul more precious?

The primary work of the Holy Spirit is in the hearts of unbelievers. Yet, the number of annual conversions per priest in the United States is a little less than three. And one must wonder if these same priests do not know at least three other people who have separated themselves from the Mystical Body of Christ because of pride, lust or avarice.

One diocese in the United States with some 1,600,000 souls accounted for 3,898 converts last year. In a certain area of Africa with exactly the same number of Catholics there were 188,000 converts. Indeed, the Territory of Ruandi in Africa had three times as many converts as there were in the entire United States. In all of the Dark Continent there were 3,390,977 converts, twenty times the number of converts in our country, and we have about four times as many priests. Conversions in Africa last year averaged 232 per priest.

The point is this: In the light of such facts, should you not be giving practical help to those who are bringing souls into the Church in other, more receptive lands? Should you not be offering your prayers, sacrifices and alms to the poor missionaries in Africa who are bringing so many souls into the Mystical Body of Christ? If you were given the choice of investing \$100,000 in an enterprise that paid three per cent interest or in another enterprise that paid twenty per cent interest, would you not choose the latter? If, then, your alms will win so many more souls in Africa, will you not make every effort to support the Holy Father that he may support them?

Get into the habit of making a small sacrifice daily, be it only two cents. At the end of the month send your savings to us. If the month has 30 days, you will be giving us 60 cents. That will be 33 cents more than the average Catholic now contributes to The Society for the Propagation of the Faith in an entire year. Be wise — gain souls by supporting us.

GOD LOVE YOU to a Mother for \$5 "In honor of our infant son who has passed away." — to B.R. for \$3 "Every United States taxpayer spends some \$2.25 to send Allan Shepherd into outer space. Here is \$3 to fill the inner space of an empty stomach." — to N.H. for \$1 "Just because I think I should." — to A.T.L. for \$5 "We are broke no job and a new baby! But we have a roof over our heads for another month, a turkey for dinner and our Faith and the Sacraments. So, actually, we have everything. Please use this for someone who has nothing."

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Cut out this column, pin your sacrifice to it and mail it to Most Rev. Fulton J. Sheen, National Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, 388 Fifth Avenue, New York 17, N.Y., or your Diocesan Director or the Rev. John F. Duffy, 50 Chestnut St., Rochester 4, New York.

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Buffalo, N.Y. — (NC)—The U.S. and Canadian Kolping Societies announced plans here to cooperate in establishing a Kolping center in Ecuador, South America.

We are assembled today to pray for the soul of Msgr. William E. Cowen and to lay to rest his mortal body. If one might epitomize the guiding principle of his good priest's life, it would probably be found in his life-long effort to fulfill God's will, wherever it might lead him.

When William Cowen presided himself on the sanctuary floor of old St. Patrick's Cathedral in Rochester, New York on June 14, 1902, it was in fulfillment of the will expressed in "Come and follow me." No man who might be ahead of him, nevertheless with his thoughts on the great High Priest, "Not my will but Thine be done," he placed his hands within the hands of the ordaining prelate, Bishop McQuaid, and accepted the solemn promise of the question, "Do you promise me and my successors reverence and obedience?" with a solemn "I promise." Having offered himself to Christ to be another Christ he further bound himself to obey his superiors, who as every good priest especially knows, are used as indicators of His Holy will.

Although Father Cowen may have personally preferred the work among souls of a parish, preaching, administering the sacraments, visiting the sick, it was God's will expressed through the Most Reverend Bishop that he go on for graduate studies and teach in the "florean seminary of St. Bernard. When he received such an important assignment, he may well have recalled Christ's prayer for His priests at the Last Supper: "And for them I sanctify myself that they also may be sanctified in truth." It is God's will that I offer myself for these young men that they also may be set aside for God's work.

For 27 years Doctor Cowen, as he was to be affectionately known the rest of his days, lectured in Dogma and Patrology, as well as acting as Prefect of Studies, Seminary teaching, as well as demanding because it entails such tremendous responsibility. The whole future of the Church rests in the hands of the professors who are charged with the task of preparing men to carry on the work of Christ Himself. Their task calls for study, prayer, self-discipline, more perfect detachment from the world. All of these were found in Dr. Cowen's life in the seminary because he realized it was all part of God's will.

If one were to characterize his teaching, it would be stated simply in the word "orthodox." His supreme norm was "entire cum ecclesia," think with the Church. Whether he was teaching the tract on the Trinity or the

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In 1932 God's will was once again made manifest through his Bishop and Dr. Cowen came to his home parish of St. Mary's as Pastor. It was not easy to exchange the role of teacher for that of pastor, but the change was made palatable by his love for this grand old church in which he had received his first Holy Communion and in which he had offered his first Solemn Mass. In addition, Dr. Cowen it was indeed a home coming for Auburn and its people and always had a warm affection for him.

One could describe Dr. Cowen as the "bonus pastor," the Good Shepherd, who knew his and his knew him. One renowned educator recently said that a man has to be interested in people to know them. Dr. Cowen knew his flock because he was interested in everyone of them. No one, who ever sought his help or counsel, was disappointed. As the good pastor, he was concerned first with their spiritual needs, but he was likewise interested in their physical, social and cultural needs.

When Our Lord delivered the parable of the Marriage Feast, He gave the admonition to go into highways and byways to bring in the guests. May we not say that Msgr. Cowen did not hesitate to go in the highways and byways of public life. He always felt and emphasized to his assistants that the Catholic Church and her priests have much to offer to the community. He was most insistent that the priest not hide his light under the bushel of parochial interests, but let it shine on the mountain of community participation.

May it be said to his eternal credit that Msgr. Cowen did not spare himself in any community endeavor, be it Community Chest, Red Cross, United Fund, War Bond Drive, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, County Home and Hospital or any cultural program. The City of Auburn and the County of Cayuga have been enriched by his unselfish participation in such affairs. May I also add that the Catholic Church occupies a much more respected place today because Msgr. Cowen was willing to go

into the highways and byways deny himself, take up his cross of the community, and follow me."

Msgr. Cowen was not always easy to understand and actually became fathomable only in the perspective of time and distance. He was certainly no wishy-washers, his assistants, fellow workers in the wind. He was not a seker of acclaim of we are all better people for popularity. Once he had assem- bled all the facts in any given him problem and applied some more to his face. We can still pray for his study, he made up his mind and there was no subse- quent vacillation. It was all God, whom he served so part of his philosophy of life well in this life, to have mercy take the necessary human on his soul and to grant him a place of refreshment, light and peace.

Even in his later years Msgr. Cowen looked on his physical weakness as a manifestation of God's will. Although mentally alert, he was physically incapacitated. There was no complaint. No self pity. He was the great high priest whose priest to the end, offering his afflictions silently in union with the cross he shared in his later hundreds of nuns and la-

Solemn Requiem Mass was offered by Auxiliary Bishop Francis J. Kane, who also gave the blessing at the grave.

In attendance were the Right Reverend Monsignors John M. Duffy, Francis B. Burns, John Randall, Richard K. Burns, Charles F. Shay, Leo G. Schwab, Thomas J. Lane, William Byrne, Thomas F. Connors and James D. Cuffney. Very Reverend Monsignor Donald M. Cleary, 70 days. It was his response to other priests of the diocese and cross he shared in his later hundreds of nuns and la-



From Ireland To America

Dublin — (RNS) — Bound for the United States, a group of postulants from the Mount St. Joseph Convent, Cabra, County Down, are shown as they boarded a jet airliner here. On arrival in New York, they proceeded to Newark, N. J., where they will continue their studies at the mother house of the Sisters of St. Joseph. They were seen off at the airport by Miss Nuala Doyle, at extreme right, religious sales representative of Aer Lingus in Dublin.

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Wehle Fishing Contest August Winners Told

The August winners of the 12th annual Wehle Fishing Contest were just been released and show that the famous Hartmans of Ogdensburg are still at it—getting the big ones and winning prizes.

Len Hartman caught the second largest fish ever entered in the 16 year old Wehle contest—a 67 pound, 15 ounce muskellonge taken from the St. Lawrence River. The fish was over five feet long with a girth of 31 1/2 inches.

Five days later Betty Hartman landed a 60 pound, two ounce muskie, also out of the St. Lawrence, using a "Rattle Spoon." This giant measured 38 1/2 inches (almost five feet) with a girth of 29 inches. Then on August 20, to show her versatility, Betty landed a 13 pound, 11 ounce walleye pike on a "Williams Wobbler" to win first prize in that division.

The Hartmans have left for Florida on fishing business, which will be pleasant news for other fishermen in the north country who have been trying to match their knack for landing big fish.

Area winners included Howard F. Miller, 78 State St., Seneca Falls, whose 3 pound, 13 ounce brook trout was good for second prize; Samuel A. DeRenzo 958 E. Clinton St., El-

mira, winner of first place honors in the lake trout division; Bernard Shinnars, 165 Hamilton St., Corning, and William J. Quinn, 745 DeWitt Rd., Webster, who captured second and third prizes with their rainbow trout entries.

A Pittsford angler, Carl Zahn of 206 Tobey Rd., entered a 14 pound, 11 ounce northern pike or a third place prize and John Westlake, RD 2, Hornell, was top winner in the brook trout class with a 10 pound, six ounce entry hauled from Canandaigua lake.

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Prime Minister U Nu of Burma was received in private audience by Pope John.

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U Nu Visits Pope John

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Priest Honored, Aided Policeman

Morrisstown, N.J. — (NC)—Father Gerard Griffiths, C.P., now stationed in Pittsburgh, has been named to receive the "outstanding civilian" award given annually by the New Jersey Police Benevolent Association.

FATHER GRIFFITHS is to be honored for helping Patrolman Mark Fusco of Union City to disarm a man who shot at them while he was threatening to jump from the roof of his home last April.

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