Monsignor Hart

Following is the text of the sermon by Bishop Kearney at the Funeral Mass for Monsignor William M. Hart in Corpus Christi Church, Rochester, Tuesday, Nov. 27. Monsignor Hart died Thursday, Nov. 22, 1962.

There are no more impressive pages written anywhere in the pages of the liturgy of our Church then those pages which contain the ceremony of the ordination of a priest. Beginning with the words on the lips of the consecrating prelate when he asks those who have been responsible for the training of the candidate, "Do you know if this man is worthy?" until the end of the ceremony, the liturgy is just filled with the concern of Holy Mother the Church that no mistakes should be made in the man whom she consecrates to the glory of God and for the salvation of souls.

After having made that inquiry, she proceeds with the very impressive ceremony handing him one vestment after another, handing him the instruments for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and, all through the ritual, with every step of the ceremony, challenging him with the deep significance with that particular event or that particular part of his vesture.

Then she would seem to sum up the whole ritual when the chasuble is hung over his shoulders, the vestment for the Holy Sacriface of the Mass. The ordaining prelate says in a very simple formula, "Receive the vestment of a priest through which is signified charity," or as we might express it, "devotion."

She uses the word "caritas" which St. Paul so beautifully defines in his epistle to the Corinthians as this personal devotion that involves the love of God, the love of man, the love for all things God has made. This "caritas" is the dedication of one's self to the things that are not of one's self.

Might I say in the lives of few priests have we seen that total gift of devotion dramatized more beautifully than in the life of the great priest who rests today before the altar of this Church that he loved — devotion first of all to those whom God gave him as his own family. As we express to them our sympathy this morning we realize how in their lives more than in the lives of any others this is a tremendous loss. He had a great devotion to those whom God had given him as his own personal family. They meant a great deal in his life and he was never too busy nor did he have too many official responsibilities but that he found extra time to devote to them.

He also had a great devotion to the priests of this Diocese and all of us today can testify to the sympathy he always had for the needs of a priest and for the weaknesses of a priest. His door was always open to welcome any priest who came to him for counsel or advice or help.

He was devoted to the people of his parish. I need not tell you who knew him so well of this devotion — especially for the children of the school and particularly St. Agnes High School which has grown so magnificently due to his concern and guidance.

In public life, the "caritas" of his chasuble at Mass took him into every phase of activity where he could be of service to others — the Community Chest, the Red Cross and in contributing his rich talents to solve community problems. He was a distinguished leader, as all recognized, and the fine relationship that exists between the different churches of this area owe a great deal to him. In all these projects he displayed a scrupulous devotion to his own Church as well as a fine sense of responsibility to all men, his neighbors.

Thus we see clearly how his chasuble of devotion dramatized his life.

I would be negligent in my duty and to my predecessors, however, if I failed to mention the great role he played in the administration of the Diocese.

In the ages of chivalry, kings and princes depended on a "power behind the throne." That "power" shaped the policies of the soverign for good or evil and that is why it was so important for men of integrity and loyalty to be that "power behind the throne."

This Diocese has been blessed in having this man as the "power behind the bishop's throne." Under one bishop after another, he contributed two of the greatest gifts a bishop needs — a keen intellect and a loyal heart.

Monsignor Hart certainly possessed these qualities to an eminent degree and gave them generously in the service of the Church. He knew the law of the Church very well and when I first came to this Diocese twenty-five years ago I soon learned to respect this great ability of his. He could quote the various canons of Church law word for word.

But in addition to this knowledge he certainly needed as Vicar General, he enriched the Diocese with a very warm devotion. His statements, his opinions, his consecrated mind were guided by a heart filled with charity and devotion. He particularly had an intense personal loyalty to his bishop, to be in every respect the bishop's "alter ego." No problem was too difficult for him, no work too unpleasant for him to say, "Let me do it." Cardinal Mooney told me, "Monsignor Hart will never let you do an unpleasant task if he can do it for you."

So I speak for myself and for the bishops who preceded me as I say this priest was indeed worthy of the chasuble — the symbol of charity and devotion — a devotion he showed so loyally and so wisely as he quietly served as the "power behind the throne."

Monsignor Hart in miter and pontifical vestments after Cathedral rite in 1948 which raised him to rank of Protonotary Apostolic, highest rank of the Monsignori. With him are the late Monsignors Walter Donaghue and John B. Sullivan.

Monsignor Hart Mourned

(Continued from Page 1)

in 1947, a rank which entitled him to wear the mifer and celebrate Mass with the ceremonial of a bishop. Bishop Kearney solemnly invested him in this rank in a Cathedral ceremony Nov. 11, 1947, his tenth anniversary in the Rochester Diocese.

Monsignor Hart celebrated his own jubilee in the priesthood at a solemn Mass in Corpus Christi Church June 15, 1941. A seminary classmate, Bishop Walter A. Foery of Syracuse, attended the Mass and Bishop Kearney gave the jubilee sermon.

In that sermon, Bishop Kearney said, "Bishops have learned to lean upon the noble heart and active mind of this devoted Vicar General."

MONSIGNOR Hart's interests were wide ranging.

In the few moments of leisure his many duties allowed him, he found relaxation by working geometry problems, writing poetry or playing the flute.

Countless anecdotes reveal his love for children—his many nephews and nieces, the youngsters of the parish school and the children of the neighborhood.

He particularly delighted shopkeepers who knew Monsignor Hart made generous purchases of toys, candy—and clothes and food for the needy — not just at Christmas time but frequently throughout the year.

He once proudly displayed to his curates a new "unbreakable" toy which he said was "just right" for the not so gentle hands of some children. He demonstrated the item by holding it high and letting it fall—and it smashed into a dozen pieces.

He liked good music and had an extensive record collection and often accompanied the recorded selections with his own flute.

He was a pioneer in what is today called "ecumenical" programs which link religious leaders of all denominations in projects of community interest. He was also well known for his many civic activities. Unrecorded in this world's annals but well remembered in many hearts are his numerous errands of mercy to aid needy families and individuals especially during the trying times of the depression era.

This diocesan paper is particularly indebted to his constant concern. He was its editor-in-chief from 1939 until 1958 when his final illness began and forced his retirement from this office. For the two decades he headed the Courier Journal, his weekly editorials were a feature of the paper and widely quoted. He also provided emergency funds to permit the paper's survival at a time when subscriptions and advertising were a scant fraction of their present totals.

ASSISTING Bishop Kearney in the Funeral Mass were Rt. Rev. Msgr. James C. McAniff, assistant priest; Rt. Rev. Msgr. John E. Maney and Rev. William Hart, deacons of honor; Rev. Richard Hart, deacon; Rev. Neil Goodman, subdeacon.

Very Rev. Msgr. Edward McAniff and Rev. Francis Feeney were masters of ceremonies.

Other officers included the Rev. Fathers John Malley, Leo McMannus, Thomas McVeigh, Roy Morphy, Charles Reynolds and Charles Connell.

A priests choir directed by Rev. Robert Smith chanted the Mass.

ATTENDING the Mass were the Rt. Rev. Monsignors Francis Burns, Charles Shay, John Randall, Wilfred Craugh, Frank Hoefen, George Eckl, Maynard Connell, Frank Mason, John Ball, John Drury of Providence, John Duffy, Gerald Lambert, John McCafferty, Richard Burns, Leo Schwab, Edward Ball, Dennis Hickey, George Schmitt and the Very Rev. Monsignors Emmett Murphy, George Cocuzzi, Donald Cleary, Patrick Flynn, Richard Quinn and Joseph Sullivan, and more than 150 priests.

Clergy of the Diocese chanted Vespers of the Dead at Corpus Christi Church Sunday evening.

Monsignor Hart is survived by two brothers, James and Felix, and a sister, Mrs. Neil Goodman, all of Rochester, and many nieces and nephews including Rev. William Hart of St. Bernard's Seminary, Rev. Richard Hart, chaplain at DeSales High School, Geneva, and Rev. Neil Goodman, curate at Immaculate Conception Church, Ithaca.

Burial was in the Priests' Plot at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Arrangements by John M. Hedges Funeral Home.

East German Reds Scoff at Yule Cheer

Berlin — (RNS) — The East German Communist press, in cynical commentaries, rejected a plea by Protestant authorities to permit West Berliners to visit relatives in East Berlin during he Christmas holidays.

The plea was made by Fritz Fuehr and Martin Helbich, Superintendents General for East and West Berlin, respectively, of the Evangelical Church of Berlin-Brandenburg.

Red newspapers denounced the appeal as a cold war propaganda maneuver to undermine the East-West border under the disguise of a "hypocritical humanitarianism."

They said churchmen should not be involved in such a request and that West Berlin authorities should enter into official negotiations with the East German government in such a matter.

Sunday Closing Law Upheld

St. Louis — (NC) — A three-judge federal court ruled here, 2 to 1, that the Missouri Sunday closing law is constitutional. The suit against the 136-year-old law was begun early this year by the Cardinal and Leader sporting goods firms, which maintain concessions in two St. Louis County stores of the Government Employes Mart (GEM) company.

They brought suit after county authorities began enforcement of the law and arrested a number of persons working in GEM stores on Sunday. Named as defendants were Missouri Atty. Gen. Thomas F. Eagleton, St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney Norman H. Anderson, and Col. Raymond W. Hensley, superintendent of the county police department.

A COMPANION case was brought by GEM and two associated firms as a challenge to the method of procedure under the law. In that case the federal court ruled unanimously against GEM.

(The GEM firm recently established a store on Mt. Read Blvd., Rochester, but is not open for business on Sundays.)

In their majority opinion upholding the constitutionality of the Sunday closing law (Nov. 14), Chief U.S. District Judge Roy W. Harper and U.S. District Judge John K. Regan rejected the argument that the law had the effect of establishing a religion.

They wrote: "The legislation on its face, by the selection of Sunday as a day of rest in a Christian society, and by the exemption in favor of persons who observe another day of the week as the Sabbath, undoubtedly gives legislative blessing to individual observance of religion, but, at the same time, conscientiously seeks to avoid 'establishment.'"

Arrested Priest Dies

Catamarca — (RNS) — Msgr. Arturo Melo, a Catholic newspaper editor who was placed under house arrest earlier this year in this Argentine provincial city, died here after a lingering illness. He was 54.

Cuba Madonna At Guantanamo

Guantanamo Bay — (NC) — Cuba's patroness, Our Lady of Charity of Cobre, has a place of honor in the U.S. Naval Station's chapel here. A copy of a 300-year-old statue at Cobre stands on the left side of the chapel's sanctuary near the altar rail. Every day, many of the Cuban refugees and workers here pray before the statue.

Last year, on December 8, the feast of Our Lady of Charity and of the Immaculate Conception, 200 Cuban workers made a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Charity in the naval station's chapel. They made the pilgrimage here because it was impossible for most of them to visit the statue at Cobre since they were refugees from the Castro regime. They brought with them a small statue of Our Lady.

The pilgrimage suprised Father (Lt.) Thomas J. Hilferty who was then the station's chaplain, but it gave him an idea.

With the help of Msgr. Nestor J. Aquilera, Vicar General of the Ponce, Puerto Rico, he ordered a copy of the statue of Our Lady of Caridad from Spain.

THE STATUE arrived in time for the feast of the Nativity of Our Lady (Sept. 8) this year. Msgr. Ricardo A. Surinach, a chaplain in the Puerto Rico National Guard, spoke at the unveiling of the statue. Rear Admiral E. J. O'Donnell, commander of the naval station, and a Catholic, unveiled the statue.

The story of Our Lady of Charity of Cobre goes back to the beginning of the 17th century. Three men set out in a small boat from Santiago del Prado o Real de Minas to get salt from the mines at Nipe, 48 miles north. After being held up for three days by rough seas, the three set out early on the fourth day. They saw through the morning haze what looked like a sea gull flying just above the water.

As they came closer, they found that the object was actually a 16 inch statue of the Blessed Virgin holding the Child Jesus in her left hand and a gold cross in her right. An inscription on the base of the statue in Spanish said, "I am the Virgin of Charity."

Rocking Chair Study of Encyclical

Cincinnati — (NC) — An editor and author recommended that Catholics organize "rocking chair seminars" with their Non-Catholic neighbors to discuss the Mater et Magistra encyclical of Pope John XXIII.

Philip J. Scharper, editor for Sheed and Ward, publishers of New York, told a Xavier University Forum session here (Nov. 5) the encyclical is "almost as important as the ecumenical council in its intrinsic significance."

"It is a charter of Christian revolution that could change our world — if taken seriously," Scharper said. He charged that American Catholics "by and large have not taken this document of human dignity with real seriousness." He said "the most practical thing that all of us can do would be to read the encyclical and make every effort to understand it."

"By Mater et Magistra," Scharper said, "Pope John made it quite clear that the Church understands the grave problems posed not only by the Church but to mankind in the present world, in which one out of every four persons is Chinese, one of every two Christians is not a Catholic, two out of every three persons have not had the Gospel preached to them, and one out of every three persons live under communist rule."

Two Bishops For Newark

Vatican City — (RNS)—Msgr. John J. Dougherty, president of Seton Hall University in South Orange, N.J., and a noted scholar, writer and speaker, was one of two Auxiliaries to Archbishop Thomas A. Boland of Newark, N.J., named by Pope John XXIII.

The other was Msgr. Joseph Arthur Costello, who has served as vice-chancellor of the Newark archdiocese. Msgr. Dougherty was named Titular Bishop of Cotenna and Msgr. Costello Titular Bishop of Coma.

Bishop-designate Dougherty became president of Seton Hall in 1959 after having previously served as professor of Sacred Scripture and Hebrew at Immaculate Conception Seminary, Darlington, N.Y. Since 1946, he has been a frequent speaker on the National Council of Catholic Men's radio and TV "Catholic Hour" in the U.S. Besides many scholarly articles, he wrote a widely hailed book, "Searching the Scriptures."

Bishop-designate Dougherty has also served as regent of the Institute of Judaeo-Christian Studies at Seton Hall, as an associate editor at various times of The Catholic Biblical Quarterly and The Advocate, weekly newspaper of the Newark See. He holds several decorations and is a member of the Catholic Biblical Association of America, and the American School of Oriental Research.

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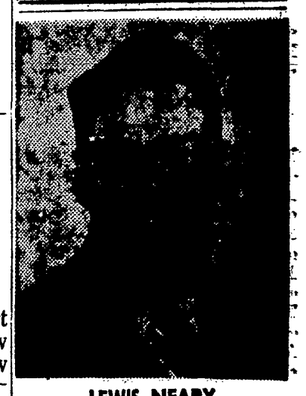

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