

Chastened Nation Resumes Its Tasks

From Tears...

"... Pay any price... bear any burden... meet any hardship..."

These words rang out in eloquence on that brisk Inaugural day.

This week they came back like the toll of a bell. President Kennedy has paid the price, borne the burden, met the hardship of our nation's highest office.

He knew the task he set for himself — and us — would not be finished in the first one hundred days nor in the first one thousand days — and hardly had that thousandth day finished when his part in this endeavor came to its abrupt and tragic end.

He died as he had prayed he might — supported in that hour in the strong arms of the sacraments, the absolving words said over him, the holy oil signed and sealed him and his desire was granted to die as he lived — in the faith, in the Church, in God's service and in His love.

And his wife said Amen to the prayers.

"Greater love than this no man has..." said another young Man who also died to serve those He loved.

Many spokesmen have said all that needs to be said to mourn President Kennedy.

Now it is no longer a time to speak but to get on with that task in which so many of us failed him so totally.



... To Deeds

The tragedy of these days is not that so good a man died — God has a reward exceeding great for those who work to undo the heavy burdens and let the oppressed go free.

The tragedy is that he died knowing so many Americans just didn't care to involve themselves in the issues of our time — peace and freedom, the rights of all citizens no matter what their creed or color, the needs of other nations and the needs of our own citizens who are poor and aged and sick and the unemployed.

The tears we shed, the prayers we said as we witnessed the rites of his funeral are in vain unless they spur us to begin to do now what he asked us to begin two years and ten months ago.

What he once told us is still true — The tasks before us are vast, the problems difficult, the challenges unparalleled. But we carry with us the vision of a new and better world, and the unlimited power of free men guided by free governments. We believe, as he did, that our ultimate success will make us proud to have lived and worked at this historic moment.

There is, of course, a tribute due not just to the man but to his wife, Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy. Scripture asks, "Who shall find a valiant woman?" Scripture now has its answer.

And a conclusion — President Johnson asks our help and God's. God never fails. May we not fail a second time.

THE CATHOLIC Courier Journal

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE

75th Year. ROCHESTER, N. Y., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1963. PRICE 10 CENTS

Liturgy Reforms Voted

Vatican City — The Fathers of the ecumenical Council in a momentous week completely approved a charter of sweeping liturgical reform and saw Pope Paul VI intervene to provide for reorganization of the Council commissions.

Meantime they manifested virtually a solid front in favor of a document seeking to strengthen the ties that bind all Christians together.

The finalization of the whole liturgy scheme provides for major reforms designed to lead the people to full participation in the Mass and other services of the Church. The schema was passed Nov. 22 — only hours before the Council Fathers were plunged into grief by the slaying in Dallas of President Kennedy.

The schema was approved with only 19 nay votes out of a total of 2,178 cast. One vote was invalid.

Prolonged applause from the Council floor greeted announcement of the tally.

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Center of Great National Devotion

My dear People: On this Sunday, the first Sunday of Advent, you are asked to contribute to the annual collection for our share in the support of the Catholic University in Washington.

The Diocese of Rochester is indebted to the Catholic University in many ways. Fifty-five years ago the University granted me my degree in Theology and Canon Law. Our own Diocesan Tribunal, Department of Education, Catholic Charities are directed by priests trained for their special work at the Catholic University. Many of our teachers on every level of education have been trained there. The University has honored me with membership on the Board of Trustees and also for a term on the Executive Committee.

When the bishops of the United States authorized the erection of a great national shrine of the Immaculate Conception, it was one of the happiest moments of my life when I was chosen a member of the Committee for the National Shrine, an honor which I still enjoy.

Thus, the University is not only a great seat of learning, a citadel of academic freedom and, I might add, of academic courage, it is also the center of a great national devotion to the Mother of God, the shrine of the Immaculate Conception. As one approaches this majestic fane from any direction in the National Capital, one recalls the words of Lord Byron as he approached the Eternal City of Rome:

"And lo! the dome, the vast and wondrous dome"

This majestic dome crowns America's great prayer of love created in enduring stone to the honor of the Immaculate Mother of God.

Millions of pilgrims travel each year from all over the United States to the University Shrine to honor the Mother of God, to thank her for the blessings she has won for our beloved country and to ask her guidance and protection in the trying present and the problem-ridden future.

May I ask, then, that you keep in mind the fact that your donation on Sunday is not merely a gift to a great university, but also a tribute of devotion to the Immaculate Mother of God. The linking of my name with the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception has been one of the happiest and proudest experiences of my life. I feel that my flock shares that pride and happiness. I am sure Our Lady will reward your generosity as she alone can.

With a grateful blessing, I am

Your devoted Shepherd in Christ,

James E. Kearney
Bishop of Rochester

P. S. The Catholic University Collection must be taken up as a special separate collection on Sunday, December 1.

SEE INSIDE
Monuments and Markers for Holy Sepulchre. The better way to choose a monument is to see our indoor display. You will appreciate our no-agent plan. TROTT BROS., 1120 MT. Hope, GE 3-3721 — Adv.

Cardinal Cushing's Eulogy of President Kennedy.....page 4

When President Died.....page 3

The Torch is Passed to new President... First page, Second Section

Bishop Casey Reports from Rome

Priests to Give Pope's Blessing

Parish priests will give Pope Paul's blessing to Catholics of the Rochester Diocese at all Masses Sunday, December 8, feast of the Immaculate Conception or the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The Pope authorized priests to give his blessing to the people when the U.S. bishops at the Vatican Council visited him recently.

At the audience which Pope Paul VI gave the bishops of the United States, Friday evening, November 16, Cardinal Spellman asked the Holy Father to grant the priests under the bishops' present permission to give the Papal Blessing to their people after the council had adjourned.

Pope Paul graciously granted his request.

Bishop Kearney has designated the feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, as the day when the Papal Blessing will be given to the people at each Mass in the parish churches and the various religious institutions of the Diocese.

To gain the Plenary Indulgence attached to the Papal Blessing, the following conditions are required:

1. Confession — within eight days preceding the day on which the Papal Blessing is imparted or sometime within the following eight days.
2. Holy Communion — on the day immediately preceding the day on which the blessing is imparted or at some time within the following eight days.
3. Visit to a church or a public chapel.
4. Prayer for the intentions of the Sovereign Pontiff (any form of vocal prayer is sufficient, at least an Our Father, Hall Mary, and Glory be to the Father).

If a person is accustomed to go to Confession at least twice a month, or to receive Communion daily, a special Confession is not necessary to gain this indulgence.

BISHOP CASEY in a special report to the Courier Journal described the audience which the Holy Father granted to the 150 bishops of the United States attending the Council as follows:

The bishops were strolling into the Sala Clementina about 5 p.m. The ancient meeting hall in the Vatican has an area of fifty by one hundred feet and had no retinue with him. The faces and paintings on the walls and high vaulted ceiling were at least four hundred years old. The bishops' chairs were arranged in a semicircle around the temporary papal throne. Four gilded chairs near the throne were reserved for the American Cardinals, Spellman, McIntyre, Meyer and Ritter.



Vatican City—(RNS)—Pope Paul VI is shown as he led members of the American hierarchy in prayer during a special audience in the Clementine Hall of the Vatican Palace. Some 180 U.S. bishops attended the audience. Bishop Casey describes the audience in the accompanying article.

The Holy Father walked in a side door at 5:35 p.m. and strode briskly to his throne amid the handclapping of the bishops. Last year, Pope John had a retinue of six bishops and chamberlains attending him, and his throne was placed on the elevated steps leading to his permanent throne. We noted the contrast this year modulated Pope Paul's chair was placed on

the floor level, right in the midst of the bishops and he talking over with us the religious situation in our country.

The bishops are supposed to remove their red skull caps in the presence of the Pope, and he motioned to his own white skull cap as a gesture to "put yours back on" but no one did. Such was the respect of the bishops for the Year of Christ that Cardinal Spellman, dean of the American hierarchy, thanked the Holy Father for his courtesy in granting the audience. Last year, with Pope John the Cardinal used Italian, but this year he spoke in English about the Catholics of the United States and what they mean to the Church.

THEN THE POPE began to speak to us in an easy, conversational tone (this is a less modulated voice). There he was, right in the midst of us.

The Holy Father spoke first in Italian without notes. I could grasp the general ideas. Bishop Leach of Harrisburg led me on the details later. Pope Paul brought out the point that his remarks about American Catholics were not based on hearsay or on personal observation. The Holy Father made a special visit to the United States and was the guest of Cardinal Mooney of Detroit a close friend for a week in 1962.

The Holy Father paid tribute to the hard-working clergy of the United States and emphasized that they were in close touch with their people. He quoted a remark of Pope Pius XII about the Sisters, stating that Pius has described the "austerity of spirit" despite material prosperity.

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Catholic Charities Ask Christmas Aid for Poor

Christmas is a time of happiness and joy. You can bring this happiness into the lives of the poor by helping your Catholic Charities provide baskets of food, clothing and toys to many worthy families.

Donations may be sent to Catholic Charities Christmas Fund, 50 Chestnut Street, Rochester, New York, 14604.

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