

Father John Napier

Following is the text of the sermon given by Monsignor Robert A. Keleher at the funeral Mass for Father John E. Napier in St. Dominic's Church, Shortsville, Monday, August 17. Father Napier died Thursday, August 13, 1964.

"Now I send you to the people to open their eyes that they may be converted from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a lot among the saints." Acts XXVI-18.

Your Excellency, Bishop Casper, Rt. Rev. Monsignors, Rev. Fathers, dear Sisters, relatives of Father Napier and my dear friends:

The text which I have chosen is from the words which our Lord spoke to St. Paul on the day of his miraculous conversion from Judaism to Christ. These words contain in fact the key to St. Paul's astonishing activity in all directions, they contain also the program which every priest, called by St. Paul "a man of God", must consider his own. Paul felt that he was a man of God in a high degree. He wished each of his fellow workers to be such also; that is to be a man especially favored by God, one particularly entrusted with God's work, and therefore, one who is bound to God in a particular manner.

Paul recognized that his conversion and all the great gifts of God that he had received were the work of God; therefore he said: "By the grace of God, I am what I am." This showed the true humility of the great apostle. But every Catholic priest is a great work of God. Every good parish is a marvel of grace. The priest walks like Peter on the stormy waves, he is held up by God's almighty power.

Consider the priest in his official capacity—a priest who commands sin to vanish, hell to be a way and heaven, even the Son of God, to draw near. Creation is astonished at such a work of God. Consider the priest's position in the world, his influence in spite of so little material power. Consider the reverence shown him despite his few purely external qualifications. People look up to him with confidence and respect, and from him expect help when other powers are of no avail.

What is it that gives him this position? It is the fact that he stands among the people as a "man of God," and therefore, the reverence they give to God is in part paid to him, who is God's representative. As a man of God, he upholds God's rights, gives out God's commands and ensures God's protection. As long as mankind needs God, it needs his herald, the man of God, the priest.

Father Napier, whose remains lie in death before us, was such a worthy man of God. Fifty-two years ago as a young man he dedicated his life to the service of God. Because of his excellent qualities of mind he was

Historic Fort To Be Rebuilt

Midland, Ont. (NC)—In a project planned strictly as a tourist attraction although the site is steeped in heroic Catholic missionary history, the first Fort St. Marie, a Jesuit mission post built in 1639, will be reconstructed here.

Premier John Roberts of Ontario was on hand (Aug. 12) to turn the first bit of sod for the painstaking project scheduled to be completed by 1967, Canada's centennial year.

Minister of Tourism and Information, James Auld, who is classed the project as a tourist attraction, said the restoration already has been in progress for some time under Wilfrid Jury, honorary director of the University of Western Ontario's museum of Indian archeology.

The Jesuits built the fort originally while serving as missionaries among the Huron Indians—and Jury has engaged in archeological research in Huronia for some 20 years.

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Orvieto Greet Pontiff

Orvieto—(RNS)—Pope Paul VI acknowledges the warm greeting from crowds as he arrives in Orvieto, after a 75-mile helicopter flight from the papal summer villa at Castel Gandolfo. The auto slowly winds its way to the cathedral where the pontiff celebrated Mass and preached. The services marked the 700th anniversary of the Feast of Corpus Christi, instituted throughout the Church by Pope Urban IV on Sept. 8, 1264. Pope Paul's helicopter flight was the first ever made by a Pope. He returned to Castel Gandolfo by car.

Spiritual Food In Communion

Orvieto—(RNS)—During the Mass he celebrated here to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the institution of the Feast of Corpus Christi, Pope Paul VI exhorted the Catholic faith to renew their faith in the presence of Christ in the Eucharist and in the importance of the Eucharist as a supernatural food to nourish their souls.

Pope Paul offered the Mass in the ancient Cathedral of Orvieto after a trip by helicopter from the papal summer palace at Castel Gandolfo some 70 miles away.

Preserved in the cathedral is a relic of the famed "miracle of Bolsena." It is a corporal on which, according to tradition, drops of blood fell during a Mass in a church at Bolsena in 1263 after the celebrant had become best by doubts regarding the validity of transubstantiation.

"Let not the man of today," the Pope said, "believe that he can find other food for his insatiable hunger of life outside the faith and in communion with Christ Our Lord."

"Let not the man of today believe that to gain the bread he needs for his temporal life he must make it an alternative to searching for the bread of religious life, with loyalty to Catholic tradition."

"Let not the man of today believe that the treasures of faith and beauty handed down to him by history and Christian civilization have by now become of a mere archeological and folkloric value. Nor let him think of them or preserve them just as precious heirlooms worthy to be kept, indeed, but void of truth and interior content. For in that case, they would be only ashes in his hands."

"Let not the man of today, on the other hand, believe that

Priests Needed

Washington—(NC)—Phillipine Ambassador to the United States Oscar Ledesma told the biennial supreme convention of the Daughters of Isabella that his country has far too few priests and new vocations are not closing the gap.

Ledesma told the nearly 2,000 delegates that his country has one priest for every 6,400 Catholics, as opposed to one priest for every 700 Catholics in the U.S.

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COURIER JOURNAL
Thursday, August 20, 1964

Track And Field of Santa Clara, Santa Clara, Corvallis, Ore.—(NC)—Felix Calli, has been elected president of the U.S. Track and Field Association.

GOP Advises Birth Control Aid Abroad

Washington—(NC)—A Republican policy group has asked the federal government to take an active part in birth control education and to make research in the area of population control available to foreign countries.

The report declared that the rapid rise in population is creating acute problems in underdeveloped nations and among "disadvantaged" Americans.

The report recommends "substantially increased research on population control" by the National Institute of Health, and urges that the latest information on the subject be made available to any foreign nation upon request.

The task force which prepared the population report was directed by Lewis L. Strauss, former chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission.

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