

## Father Francis J. Reilly

Following is the text of the eulogy for Father Francis J. Reilly, preached by Father Roger F. Switzer at St. Mary's Church, Horseheads, on February 2. Father Reilly died January 29, 1965.

"If any man wishes to be and long suffering. He was first, he shall be last of all and servant to all." "O God, who didst raise Thy servant, Francis, to the dignity of priest in Thy Apostolic priesthood, grant we beseech Thee, that he may be joined in fellowship with Thine Apostles forevermore."

This the liturgy of the Church inspires us to pray. Today, we have come to bury our pastor, our brother, our friend, our confessor. We have come to pay tribute to his exemplary priestly life and to pray for his soul. "Eye hath not seen, nor hath ear heard, nor hath it entered into the mind of man to conceive of the treasures which God has laid up for us in heaven." Therefore, we dare not attempt to describe the treasures which an almighty, an all-wise and all-seeing God has laid up for His humble servant, Francis.

We are not afraid, however, to say in God's Holy Presence that Father Reilly was God's humble servant. The book of Proverbs tells us: "Where humility is, there is also wisdom."

IN EULOGIZING Father Reilly's priestly existence — at least the nearly 46 temporal years of it — may we begin by being mindful of his outstanding humility. For that's what his humility was — outstanding. Were we to most briefly summarize Father Reilly's life, I think we might simply and honestly say that he was a good, humble and kind priest.

He came from humble stock; he was born in the village of South Waverly. Orphaned at an early age, God and His Blessed Mother were truly the only Father and Mother that he ever knew — how fitting for a priest! They were the models of his priestly humility and meekness. Christ who had no place on which to lay His head chose the orphan, Francis, Mary, the truly human personification of humility, also chose Francis. In truth, Father Reilly learned from Christ Who said: "Learn of Me for I am meek and humble of heart."

In the course of his priestly career, Father Reilly was largely responsible for the establishment of two Catholic schools, institutions which undoubtedly have and will have a tremendous spiritual impact on this community. After some brief years in parochial life in Rochester, Waterloo, and Seneca Falls, out of obedience to the Bishop of Rochester, Father Reilly became an educator. With limited resources — financial or otherwise, he was commissioned to begin Elmira Catholic High School, predecessor of Notre Dame High School. Only God knows the momentous obstacles that had to be overcome to make this school possible.

In the vigor of his youth, fortified by a strong faith and a courageous sense of duty, Father worked and prayed this institution into existence. The present beautiful edifice on Maple Avenue in Elmira stands as a result of Father Reilly's modest beginnings of a secondary school in part of old St. Peter's grammar school.

In the latter years of his priesthood, when a small country parish was turned into a thriving suburban community, his foresight and zealous attention to the things of God made this very unique center of worship and education possible. Neither of these gigantic tasks changed him from his course of humility.

A PRIEST has been often and ably described as a person who brings God to the people and the people to God. How aptly these words apply to him whom we are burying this morning! This parish in which Father Reilly spent almost thirty years of his life is a geographically large one. And until recent years, it was even geographically larger. But when the territory was made smaller, the population itself increased.

Administering the sacraments, preaching the word of God, caring for the sick, looking after the aged, instructing the young, counseling the doubtful, consoling the sorrowful, leading the convert, giving strength to the weak and all the many other priestly duties were tasks performed by Father Reilly in an unassuming way. Simplicity was more than a word to him — it was a way of life.

More than one spiritual writer has pointed out that a sense of humor was a necessary requisite for becoming a Saint. The dryness of Father Reilly's humor was a constant source of enjoyment to those who knew him well. I think he detected the wisdom of God in every situation in which he found himself — even the humorous ones.

The priest is above all else a man of prayer. The success of his many priestly duties depends upon his attachment to prayer — above all the official prayers of the Church — Holy Mass and the recitation of the Divine Office. As a young priest I can candidly say that Father Reilly inspired me with the importance of prayer — by his own doing rather than what he said. Characteristic of his attitude toward prayer, a letter I received from him a week before he died concluded with the words, "I remember you daily at the altar."

A man of frail health for a good share of his life, he practiced the virtues of fortitude

and long suffering. He was never one to complain of the responsibilities that were placed upon his shoulders. He accepted them in a spirit of obedience toward his bishop and toward his God.

HIS KEEN sense of justice was manifested by his insistence on infinite detail. In this regard, he taught many a lesson to a brother priest. Such was his sense of duty that he rarely took a vacation in all the years that he was a pastor of this community. He was generous to a fault — giving away almost everything that he possessed.

His tastes and pleasures were extremely simple. Mindful of our Divine Lord's admonition, he worried less about what was going into his mouth than what was coming forth from it. And in this matter public speaking was a chore for him, yet he made a noble effort, and what he said was always worthwhile. He forthrightly insisted on the instruction of people entrusted to his care. As the parish grew, he was especially concerned over the proper religious instruction of the young people.

His reputation for fairness and honesty in this community and in all of the Diocese is unblemished. I can vouch for experience that the concern for his people was always the uppermost thing in his mind.

The virtues and philosophy of life that I have briefly and inadequately tried to sketch for you this morning were real and they were really associated with Father Reilly's priesthood. He was ever conscious of being a priest — a leader of the people of God. It is impossible to separate the priest from the man, and when we speak well of the man, we eulogize the priesthood in him. I speak from intimate association with him, and I know that the priesthood was his life. As his life was, so his priestly work was a priestly work of humility, charity, kindness, patience, meekness, obedience and justice. I knew him well. He was a man who brought God to the people and the people to God.

HIS WISH in death would be that I or you would speak well of him, but rather that you and I would pray for his soul. A favorite passage of mine became, by association a favorite passage of his, and I think that he was able to speak to us in parting today. I think that he might legitimately borrow from Tennyson's "Passing of Arthur" and say to us:

"The old order changes and yields place to new, lest our good customs should corrupt the world; Comfort thyself — what comfort is in me? I have lived my life and that which I have done, may He within Himself make pure, but if thou shouldst never see my face again, pray for my soul. For more things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of. Wherefore, let thy voice rise like a fountain for me night and day. For what are men — better than sheep or goats that nourish a blind life within the brain — if knowing God, they lift not hands of prayer for both themselves and those who call them friend. For so the whole round earth is every way bound by gold chains about the feet of God."

Prayerfully, let us commend to God the priestly soul of His servant, Francis. May God's Holy Angel receive him at his coming. May God grant him rest eternal. Amen.

**Blood Appeal**  
Worcester, Mass. — (NC) — Nearly 400 parishioners in 21 Catholic and 17 Protestant parishes here volunteered to donate a pint of blood for use in area hospitals in response to an appeal by Bishop Bernard J. Flanagan of Worcester and area Protestant leaders.



## Student Turmoil in Vietnam

Saigon — (RNS) — South Vietnamese paratroopers seal off from the rest of Saigon the "Bo-De" Buddhist School which has been a center of anti-government activity. Unable to leave, students crowd the school's balconies. Latest action in the country's internal crisis was the ouster — in a bloodless coup — of the civilian government headed by Premier Tran Van Huong. Military leaders took control of the government under Lt. Gen. Nguyen Khanh.

## New Cardinal, Adviser to Four Popes Wishes to Continue as Parish Priest

Vatican City — (RNS) — One of the Princes of the Church recently named by Pope Paul VI will continue, at his own request, in his work as a parish priest in northern Italy.

Father (Cardinal-designate) Giulio Bevilacqua, 83-year-old

confidant and adviser to four Popes, also will forego the rich robes of the College of Cardinals, although he will be one of its members.

VATICAN RADIO confirmed that Pope Paul VI has agreed to permit his old friend and counselor to retain his pastorate at what, only 15 years ago, was a ramshackle, abandoned church at Brescia.

When Father Bevilacqua said his morning Mass for parishioners at Brescia on Jan. 26 (the day following his nomination to the Sacred College), he told his flock:

"I will stay here with you and will continue to wear the simple cassock."

After Mass he greeted his flock and assured them that the black beretta he wore upon his head would remain there. He will receive the Red Hat of his new rank from the hands of Pope Paul on Feb. 22.

While Father Bevilacqua has won fame throughout Italy for a series of television talks on problems of the Church, and has earned intra-Church prestige because he has been an adviser or confessor to four Popes (Pius XI, Pius XII, John XXIII and Paul VI), he is distinguished in northern Italy for his work at the Church of St. Anthony at Brescia.

## Vatican 'Beat' Police Lauded

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope Paul VI greeted the Italian policemen whose "beat" is the Vatican and said it was a great consolation to know they were around.

Answering an address of homage by Inspector General Oreste Corsetti who was accompanied by other officials and members of the force, the Pope said he is grateful for the "zealous, expert, generous and selfless work in which you display your integrity as distinguished state officials and your dedication as faithful sons of

Burial was in St. Mary's cemetery, Horseheads.

Father Reilly is survived by one sister, Mrs. Mary Reilly Weber of Holy Rosary parish in Rochester.

## 10 Per Cent Of Clergy To Missions

(Continued from Page 1)

Any awakening toward the needs of the Church must take place at the parish — even the family — level, Cardinal Ritter said. "People must be trained from childhood to understand that devotion to the world apostolate, dedication to genuine respect and concern for all men regardless of their race, color, or creed is a foundation stone of all Christian life."

Simple appeals to individuals will not secure results, he said. "There must exist a formulated directed force, educational in nature, clearly accepting its mission in and from the Church, fired with zeal for this mission, working through proper authority, possessed of a carefully designed program, reaching down to the local community level, the parish."

Cardinal Ritter said that in the past too few members of the hierarchy considered it an "essential duty" for the faithful to concern themselves with both the human and spiritual needs of those in Africa, Asia and Latin America, he said. Catholics or "the Christian millions living as Protestants."

## Chapel Recalls Executed Jesuit

Lampertheim, Germany (NC) — A memorial chapel in honor of a German Jesuit priest executed by the Nazis 20 years ago was consecrated here on the anniversary of his death (Feb. 2).

Bishop Hermann Volk of Mainz officiated at the ceremony. The Protestant President of the German parliament, Eugen Gerstenmaier, a friend of the priest and also an opponent of the Nazis, gave the eulogy at the chapel.

A former inhabitant of this town, Father Alfred Delp, S.J., was imprisoned after the attempt to assassinate Adolf Hitler on July 20, 1944. He was executed by the Nazis on Feb. 2, 1945.

## Catholic Actor Defends Pope's Role in 'Deputy'

Toronto, Ont. — (RNS) — The Catholic actor who plays the role of Pope Pius XII in the controversial play, "The Deputy," defended himself against charges of "disloyalty" in a letter to the Canadian Register.

In writing to the official publication of the Catholic Church Extension Society of Canada and a number of Ontario dioceses, Leo Ciceri said that he wanted to present arguments "which made me regard my decision as responsible and moral."

"Many reviewers of the play and defenders of Pius XII have neither read nor seen the play," he wrote. "Contrary to many articles, the play does not accuse Pope Pius of being indifferent to the Jewish people in their plight, nor of being silent in connection with the persecution of the Jews by the Nazis."

"THE PLAY accuses Pius XII of remaining silent when the

extermination of the Jews had been decided on by the Nazi government and, in particular, when the Jewish families of Rome were arrested and sent to extermination camps.

"Pius XII had some good reasons for preferring his silence. But a Catholic, loyal to the Church, may be convinced he made a terrible mistake."

"Since the play is extremely unsympathetic to Pope Pius, and caricatures him as a man, it's up to the director of the play, the actor playing the role of the Pope, to give more authentic dimensions to this great historical figure."

Mr. Ciceri, starring here in the Canadian production of Rolf Hochhuth's play, added:

"The actor can make Pope Pius more human, more comprehensible, more credible. It must be shown that he made his decision to be silent after a long and painful moral struggle."

FEBRUARY IS CATHOLIC BOOK MONTH  
Look to the Leader

## TRANT'S

CHURCH SUPPLIES AND RELIGIOUS ARTICLES

For the very best in

### CATHOLIC READING

- The Man Is You — Every 4.50
- The People of God — McCabe 3.95
- Contraception and Catholics — Dupre 1.95
- Six Saints for Parents — Houghton 3.95
- Church and Social Justice — Calves 7.50
- In The Redeeming Christ — Darwell 5.00
- Will of God in Other Ways. van Zeller 2.95
- Word of God in the World of Today. Groff 2.95



## TRANT'S

96 CLINTON AVE. N. 115 FRANKLIN ST. PHONE: 454-1818

OPEN DAILY 9 TO 5:30 THURS. EVE. TO 9 P.M.

Time to stock up in Forman's Annual Spring

## ROUND-THE-CLOCK STOCKING SALE

Look! Even all-the-rage textured stockings are included "Night and Day" Textured nylons, reg. 2.00 ... now 1.70 pair

	reg. price	SALE PRICE
Seamless Styles:	per pair	box of 3 pairs
Dress Sheer (Run Guard)	1.50	3.84
Dress Sheer Micro (Run Guard)	1.50	3.84
"Room-at-the-Top" Wear Sheer	1.50	3.84
Dress Sheer Demi-Toe Sandal Heel	1.50	4.23
Dress Sheer Micro Sandal Heel	1.65	4.23
Wear Sheer Comfort Sole	1.65	4.23
Dress Sheer Agilon Stretch	1.95	4.98
Cantrece	1.95	4.98
Full-Fashioned Styles (with seams)		
Walking Sheer Comfort Sole	1.50	3.84
Dress Sheer (Run-Guard)	1.65	4.23
Seamless Nylon and Lycra Spandex®		
Support Stockings, reg. 5.95		now 4.95 pair

Right now, buy for months ahead! Discover, if you don't already know, the joys of Round-the-Clock stockings with the famous Individualized fit. 8 to 12 sizes. Order by mail or phone (our new Order Board number is 325-1800) Stockings, Street Floor, Midtown and Culver-Ridge.

B. FORMAN CO.

## McFarlin's

# The GREAT ODDMENT SALE STARTS MON.!

McFARLIN'S OF ROCHESTER