



Photo by Frank Metha of New Orleans Clarion.

Michelangelo's famed Pieta at the New York World's Fair

## Lent Starts Wednesday

### Stabat Mater, Theme For Lent Meditation

My dear People:

The somber ritual of Ash Wednesday once again opens the sacred season of Lent. When we receive the blessed ashes on our brow, we make an implicit promise to God that the season will be marked by self-denial and penitential prayer. This has always been the tradition of the Church, solidly built upon the words of Christ — words that ring clarion clear through the noisy disorder of a self-indulgent age.

"If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, let him take up his cross, and follow Me."

The ancient prayers of the Lenten Masses daily re-echo this theme. The entire Church joins with her Lord in atonement for the sins of men. With love, she follows Him in His cross-bearing journey to Calvary. With hope, she awaits the saving grace that comes from the Sacrifice consummated by Him on the Cross. With confidence, she looks beyond the Cross to His victory on Easter morn.

In this year, dedicated to Mary, Mother of the Church, let us meditate upon the beautiful hymn, the "Stabat Mater." Let us stand with Mary by the Cross of her son, and through her gracious mediation, may our own sacrifice and prayer be lifted up to Him.

One day we will meet Mary's Son as He comes "to judge the living and the dead." St. Paul tells us that our life is a contest, and we must so discipline ourselves as to merit the crown of victory. "Every athlete denies himself many things. And they do this to win a perishable crown, but we an imperishable one."

Lenten laws have been modified and mitigated, but the Church can never dispense from the need of penance. May these Lenten days see a renewal of the spirit of penance in our lives. In this spirit, let us fight the good fight, let us run the race, let us keep faith with our Lord.

With my blessing, I remain

Your devoted Shepherd in Christ,

*James E. Kearney*  
Bishop of Rochester

### Anglican Nuns' Robes for Pope

London. — (NC) — Anglican nuns at a convent in East London are making a set of white Mass vestments which it is planned to present to Pope Paul VI in April.

Designed in primitive style, they depict early British saints, including Alban and Cuthbert. The decorations will show the Pope's personal coat of arms.

The vestments are being made by the nuns at St. Saviour's priory and are the gift of some 400 pilgrims, including Catholics, Anglicans, Orthodox and others who will visit Rome with the Anglican Bishop R.C. Mortimer of Exeter.

"... you are dust..."

That is the sobering reminder Catholics will hear when the black smudge of blessed ashes is marked on their foreheads next Wednesday.

And with that Ash Wednesday rite, the Church's 40 day period of penance and prayer will begin.

Bishop Kearney, in a letter to be read in parish churches of the Rochester Diocese this Sunday, asks for meditation on the Church's ancient hymn, the Stabat Mater, in this year he has dedicated to the "Mother of the Church."

A significant change in Lenten observance this year will be the Bishop's authorization for Catholics in this Diocese to eat meat at all meals — except for Ash Wednesday and Fridays.

The penitential practice of "no eating between meals" remains in force, however, for people between 21 and 59 years of age.

The Bishop's letter is printed to the left of this article and the diocesan Lenten regulations are on page two.

Also new this year will be the reading of daily Lenten Mass texts in English instead of Latin. Each day in Lent has its own special texts with Scripture readings from Old Testament books seldom otherwise used in Church rites. Most of the texts are new translations and will differ to some extent from missals available for the laity.

Other Lenten devotions will include Stations of the Cross on Fridays and mid-week rites of Rosary, sermon and Benediction or services recommended by the Vatican Council which will emphasize Scripture readings and Lenten prayers.

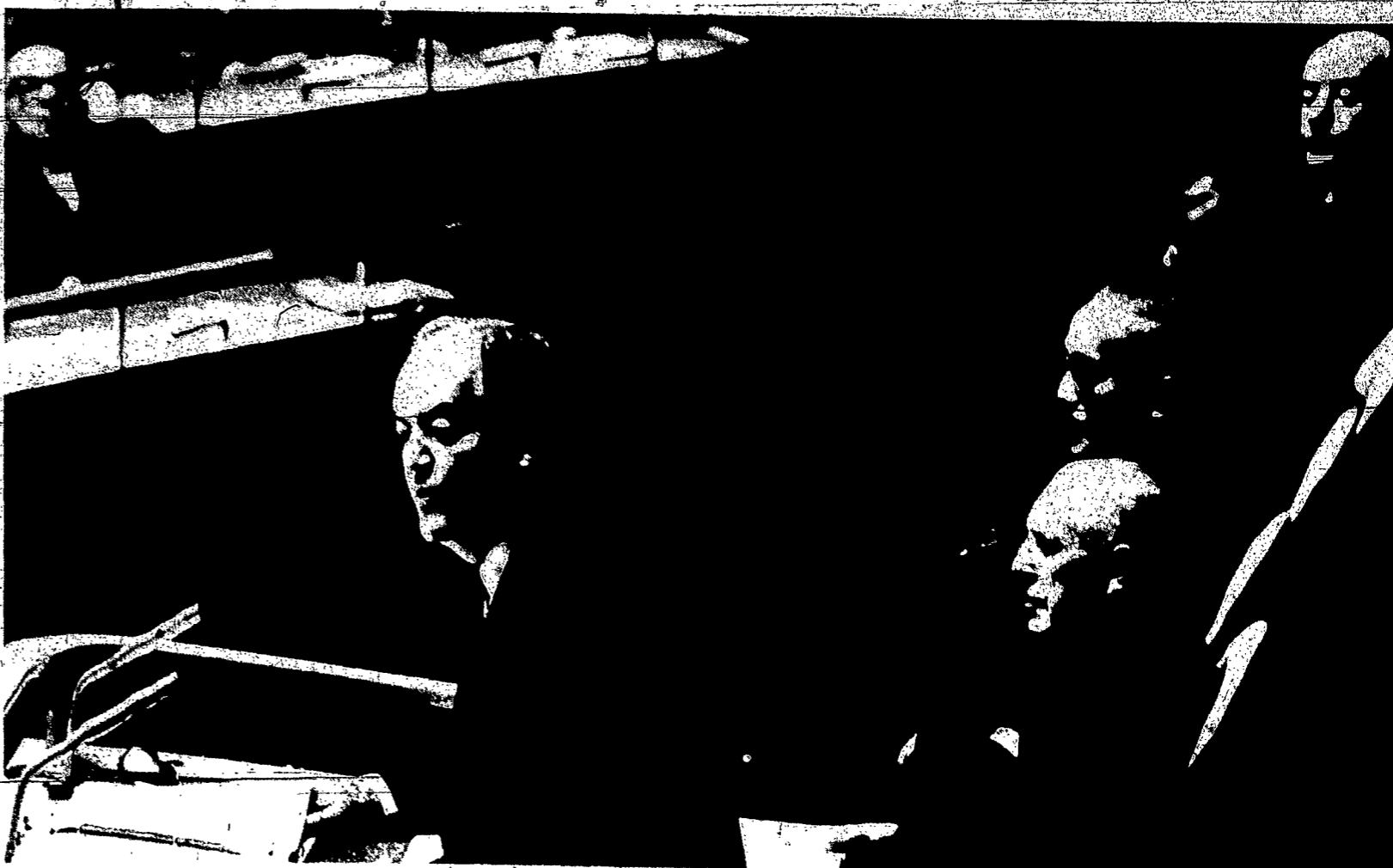
Parish bulletins should be consulted for exact time of daily Masses (most parishes will schedule Mass in the late afternoon or early evening as well as morning Masses) and for other Lenten rites.

The Stabat Mater recommended for meditation by Bishop Kearney is a medieval hymn used at the Mass honoring the Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary but more familiar to Catholics as the hymn sung at Stations of the Cross.

The Courier will present a series of pictures and articles on the role of our Lady in her divine Son's work of redemption in subsequent issues.

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# They Probed for Peace



Vice President Hubert Humphrey at United Nations meeting of world leaders who studied Pope John's 1963 encyclical "Pacem in Terris." U Thant and Adlai Stevenson are at right. Story below.

## The Catholic COURIER

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE

76th Year

ROCHESTER, N.Y., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1965

Journal

Price 15 Cents

## Pope John's Words Still Inspire Hope

By RABBI HERBERT BRONSTEIN of Temple B'rith Kodesh

During the great and historic International Convocation centered on Pope John's XXIII's encyclical, "Pacem in Terris," everywhere and at all times I was aware, above all, of the power of that single individual, Pope John himself. The power of his character, of his spirit; the power of the truths he expressed, the power of the aspira-

tion to which he gave voice; as if speaking for "all men of good will," as well as speaking to them.

From the time that I first read the encyclical a year and a half ago, I had recognized its tremendous potential.

I said then that it was the greatest religious document of the twentieth century and one of the most important religious and political statements in the history of mankind.

But even so, I did not realize how monumental and how powerful it was until the opening session of the Convocation at the United Nations.

Near me, I recognized Nobel Prize winner Linus Pauling, Harold Strosser and Whitney Young of the Urban League.

What was the tremendous power that brought these among the thousands surging into the hall of the U.N. General Assembly, among them, really

recognizable statements of East and West, former presidents of the United States and the American civil rights movement, clergy of all faiths and denominations, scholars and scientists?

What was it that brought these men, as well as leaders of the United States and the United Nations, to the opening of this Convocation?

An image that remains from that Convocation answers this question for me: It was in the spacious foyer outside the great hall where the sessions took place. Inside the hall, an American ambassador sat next to a leading member of the Communist Party in Poland, and he next to the great Belgian statesman, Paul Henri Spaak, and he next to a deputy chief editor of Pravda, all discussing the practical paths to peace as set down in the great encyclical of the leader of the Roman Catholic Church.

Inside that hall, the television cameras swept over the podium where theologians, scientists, practical politicians and writers were to succeed one another, and over the audience where a teaching Sister might be sitting next to the representative of a government agency or an educator from a university in the Eastern Bloc.

But it was the image outside in the foyer that especially remains. Outside in the foyer before and after the sessions, all of these various people excitedly talking to one another, a true conference, for the family of man. (Course, for example, I once again met Monsignor Cantwell, of Chicago, who spoke in my own Temple at the Conference on Religion and Race, and also George Hunter, former president of Hunter College and assistant to the president of Notre Dame, who had also spoken at the Temple.)

And there in the midst of all this sweep of people drawn together by the power of the truths enunciated by Pope John, there in the center of the foyer,

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Dolores Cicconi, Peace Corps worker from Elmira, with Sheella Kelly, a British volunteer worker in Nigeria, and Grace Eruk bon voyage as she was about to leave "bush country" to go to high school in a city more than a hundred miles from her home.

### Too Much Tuition

## By a River in Nigeria

By DOLORES CICCONI Special to the Courier from Nigeria

A few mornings ago, Maria Assunta Daniel Eduok left the school compound and started up the narrow sand-gutted road to the market at the crossroads nearly two miles away.

For three pence, she had arranged with a local villager to tie her belongings to the back of his bicycle and take them to the market ahead.

Maria, however, was walking the distance. The bicycle ride was three pence, and when you've hardly much more, it's a great deal. Anyway, she was in no hurry. Once to the palace, she would simply find some shade under a bamboo stalk, sit beside her large gunmetal grey trunk, her rusty bush lamp used for night study and her equally rusted aluminum pail for carrying water from the stream twice a day.

She would sit with her loads and wait and if she were lucky, a taxi bound for Uyo would pass in perhaps an hour or two, and the luckier still, loads

Miss Cicconi is a Peace Corps worker in Nigeria, a 1962 graduate of Nazareth College. She is the daughter of Mrs. Salvatore Cicconi and the late Mr. Cicconi of Elmira.

and all, she might successfully haggle with the driver to take her for only two shillings (fifty-two cents) for the fifteen miles to Uyo.

Many of her classmates saw her go. She attended Mass in the morning as usual, went to Communion (as she did every day) and did her usual morning duties; sweeping the floor and dusting the pews in the chapel (a job she asked to have permanently).

But when time came to take their pails and trek to the stream across the road and down a deep ravine, her friends missed Maria. Usually she was with them, her pail balanced atop her head, showing the same poise she'd shown from early

childhood when trips to the stream were as much of the day's routine as playing with a wooden image.

But Maria didn't travel to the stream that day. Following her chapel duties, she went straight to her cottage named "Holy Child," where she began packing with the help of a few friends. The night before, she had told them she was leaving. They had heard her crying and had asked what was the matter. She probably would have confided in them anyway; they were Ibibios like herself, fellow tribesmen "sisters."

To somehow say good-bye, one friend gave her a holy card of St. Joseph and the other girl presented her a small mirror with a picture of Natalie Wood on one side.

She didn't tell them why she was going, but they knew, for there could be no other reason.

(Continued on Page 2)

### Birth Control For Unmarried?

Albany — The coordinating agency of the Catholic bishops of New York State has opposed a proposed revision of the rules of the state Board of Social Welfare.

The revision would authorize unmarried welfare recipients to obtain state-paid birth control information and devices.

The New York State Catholic Welfare Committee, the bishops' agency, maintains the proposed change will be an added factor in "the breakdown of the fabric of society which is based on a strong, stable family life."

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