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The Catholic COURIER Journal

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Lenten Spirit Revealed In Voluntary Self-denial

My Dear People:

The traditional impressive ritual of the blessing and bestowal of ashes again, this Wednesday, opened the sacred season of Lent. The Lenten law has been modified and mitigated, but the Lenten spirit can become ever more vigorous by our voluntary acts of self-denial and penitential prayers.

The Church can never dispense from the need of penance; she can never still the words of Christ:

"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. Through them, every Christian man joins with the Saviour in atonement for the sins of all mankind. There is no better way to grow in the spirit of Lent, than daily to take part in the Masses of this holy time. We will hear and ponder the Father's word to us; we will grow to the measure of His Son, whose body is broken for us; we will be filled with that Spirit Who was sent by the Father and the Son, that we may live, not to ourselves, but to God.

With a blessing, I am

Your devoted Shepherd in Christ,

James E. Kearney
Bishop of Rochester

New Fasting Laws Assure Uniformity

The new fast and abstinence laws for Catholics, as announced by Pope Paul last week, will mean virtual uniformity around the world in a matter where near chaos was developing.

Fast and abstinence regulations often varied from diocese to diocese, sometimes even from day to day.

Most "Fish Days" as indicated on calendars—such as next week's Ember Days or any Vigil days—can now be disregarded.

All that the new law requires is this:

No meat on any Friday of the year for anybody 14 years of age or over.

No meat and no eating between meals on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday for those who are 21 to 59 years of age.

All other restrictions are eliminated.

Also eliminated are "special privileges" long enjoyed by some nations, Spain, Portugal and their colonies for example, were free of Friday abstinence, a favor given them at the time of the Crusades. Now they'll have to step in line with other Catholics.

Technically, Catholics in the U.S. armed forces also lose a similar dispensation in effect since 1941. Pope Paul left it up to the bishops, however, to adapt even the new laws to local circumstances such as "meals taken in common"—quite obviously the case of the military.

The Pope also indicated the present limitations on Friday may eventually be lifted—he kept them in force, he said, "for the time being."

Pope Paul made it clear that easing the Church's laws on fast and abstinence didn't change the need for Catholics to do penance.

He said "prayer, fasting, charity" are a package which together make up the Christian concept of penance.

He emphasized the preeminent interior and religious character of penance, and warned against "the real and always recurrent peril of formalism and pharisaism."

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Harold Coleman, founder of Daily Mass League, assists Bishop Kearney at Mass launching membership drive. John Prendergast receives Holy Communion.

'Central Truth' Unchanged

Recent changes in the rites of the Mass have only underlined its central truth — "the Real Presence of Almighty God on our altars," stressed Bishop Kearney in a sermon to Daily Mass League members last Monday. He spoke at the noonday Mass he offered to start the annual Daily Mass Crusade.

The Bishop acknowledged that these changes have disturbed many Catholics, partly because of the options offered by Vatican Council decrees, in contrast

to the uniform practice of the past.

He mentioned such options as the direction of the altars, Holy Communion standing or kneeling and the language of the Mass.

"The Church is permitting these options," he noted, "hoping that the final result will be a greater love for Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament."

The changes have all been in matters which have been sec-

ondary, he went on, but they only illumine the central truth — "Christ's presence on our altar."

"That's what the Church teaches, has taught, and will teach," he emphasized, "until the end of time."

The Daily Mass League, a laymen's organization, is currently seeking new members — only requirement is to try to attend Mass every day. The League's headquarters are at Our Lady of Victory Church, Rochester.

Fight on School Buses Looms in New Jersey

Trenton — (NC) — Here in the state where the famous Everson school bus case originated and led to a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that transportation for parochial school students is legal, an attempt is being made to widen the scope of the bus law.

Into the legislative hopper went a bill to make it mandatory that parochial school students be given completely equal treatment.

It was introduced by Assemblyman John Skevin from Bergen County, where there has been considerable agitation for expanding the law.

His bill would end the requirement that transportation

for parochial school students must be provided along existing public school routes. Under this rule, critics say, if the route passes no closer than a half mile away from a parochial school, for instance, that is where parochial school students are dropped off.

Traditionally, the law has been interpreted, but not by the courts, which have never been asked to rule on this exact issue, to mean that transportation may not be arranged to suit the needs of students at parochial schools themselves.

However, this has been challenged in recent years, most notably in West Milford, N.J., where a group of parents successfully fought for the extension of bus routes to serve parochial schools directly.

Pope Advises 'Confidence'

Vatican City — (NC) — Speaking of a "sentiment of uncertainty" which has taken root among the clergy, Pope Paul VI has exhorted priests to wholehearted confidence in their vocation, to confidence in the Church's teaching power, to inner renewal and obedience.

He said the sense of inner security "is one of the incomparable and characteristic gifts of our vocation . . . of the awareness of the inestimable grace of having chosen well, of knowing—despite the inner and outward defeats—that we are on the right road."

"Nothing seems to be less in conformity with the psychology of a faithful priest than an oppressive doubt regarding the goodness of one's own vocation and ministry," he said.

Pope Asks Aid for Children

(Other stories on food crisis, page two)

New York — (NC) — Pope Paul this week pleaded with the more than 5 million youngsters in U.S. Catholic schools "to help your less fortunate brothers and sisters, living in areas of need throughout the world" by making sacrifices during Lent.

The Pope reminded U.S. youngsters that "in other parts of the world, there are children with lined and sorrowful faces, looking old before their time, their little bodies racked by disease and wasted by hunger, with no medicine to relieve their pain, no food to satisfy their hunger."

The appeal was made in the traditional Ash Wednesday radio broadcast by the Pope, which inaugurated the school children's phase of the 19th annual Bishops' Overseas Relief Fund Appeal. In recent years, the U.S. school children have raised more than one million dollars annually for the fund through Lenten contributions.

The general appeal to adult U.S. Catholics is scheduled for March 13 to 20. It will culminate with the customary Laetare Sunday, March 20, collection in parishes throughout the nation. The campaign goal is \$5 million. The fund is the chief means of support of Catholic Relief Services overseas relief agency of U.S. Catholics and the largest private agency of its kind in the world.

U.S. Catholics Up Aid To Feed India's Poor

Washington — (NC) — Catholics of the United States have given \$100,000 to help relieve famine in India, especially among children.

At the same time it was announced that Catholic Relief Services—the U.S. bishops agency to aid the world's poor—will increase its food program in India by more than 50 percent and will cooperate with Church World Service, aid agency of the World Council of Churches, in relief programs.

The Catholic agency has upped its feeding program in India from 132 million pounds of food to 200 million pounds.

It was also reported that a special shipment of 22 million pounds of flour is being sent to the six areas the Indian government has designated as famine regions.

Donations Pour into Rome To Aid Famine Victims

Vatican City — (RNS) — Donations have been flooding into the Vatican in response to Pope Paul VI's recent appeal on behalf of famine sufferers, especially in India.

During an audience to members of an Italian organization which provides transportation for physically handicapped pilgrims to the Lourdes shrine in France, the Pope disclosed that within a matter of days contributions had amounted to some \$500,000.

He made special mention of the fact that one Italian archdiocese—Taranto—had donated close to \$2,500 through its head, Archbishop Guglielmo Motolles.

The Pope said the flow of contributions "greatly encourages faith in the inherent goodness of people everywhere."

197 in Diocesan High Schools Win N.Y. State Scholarships

Twelve Catholic High schools in the Rochester Diocese counted a record total of 197 New York State Regents scholarship winners this week.

The total, up 36 from last year, was swelled by two schools which have their first graduating classes this year — Cardinal Mooney High School in Greece and Bishop Kearney High School in Irondequoit.

Bishop Kearney High School had the highest individual total with 37 award winners.

St. Andrew's Seminary had one of the highest averages of winners in the entire state—seven of the 19 graduates, 37 per cent of the class, were awarded the state scholarship grants.

The scholarships for college education will vary in amount from \$100 to \$500 according to the individual student's needs.

Highest possible score in the scholarship test was 90.0. Ralph J. Caruana of Mt. Carmel High School, Auburn, with a score of 267, was highest scorer in the diocesan schools.

Following are the names of the scholarship winners. Total number of winners is listed after the name of each school. Highest scorer in each school is listed in bold face type:



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These are the top scorers in diocesan high schools who were recently awarded New York State Regents scholarships.

Aquinas Institute, Rochester, 24—Harry Aceti, Terrence Ackerman, James Byrnes, Don DePrez, Martin Drilling, Gerard Duffy, Edwin Graham, Paul Helberg, Bruce Hickey, David Hill, Ronald Hoenig.

Stephen Karnisky, Mark Killenbeck, Paul Lindsley, William MacDonald, Robert Marsh, Albert Mercury.

David Miller, John Ortolani, Thomas Pesar, Steven Reisinger, David Reynolds, Joseph Saliante, Michael Walsh.

Cardinal Mooney High School, Greece, 19—James Astrella, Mary Brea, Louise DeNeve, Kathryn Dittman, Margaret Gosling, Michele Guider, Daniel Kavanaugh.

Barbara Koerner, Andrew McBride, Joseph Menard, Peter Mercurio, George Pettrone, Peter Salber, George Shayler, Catherine Smith, Marsha Smith, Susan Veness, John Vermeire, Jean Wagner.

St. Agnes High School, Rochester, 17—Catherine Cunningham. (Continued on Page 6)