

Heart of Dutch Capital Rich in Catholic History

(N.C.W. Feature)

Amsterdam—A treasure trove of Catholic history unfolds itself within easy walking distance in the heart of this long-time bastion of the Reformation.

The focal point of the ancient Catholic life of Amsterdam is a hidden—but easily accessible courtyard which is one of the most beautiful spots in a city renowned for its beauty. An island of silence in this capital's extremely busy downtown shopping district, it is the Beguinhof—Beguines' Court—named after the semireligious sisterhood established there in 1346.

The Beguines, who were numerous in the Netherlands and in France from the 12th through the 14th centuries, were usually widows and young women who took up community life in order to pursue spiritual and charitable activities. They took no vows, and were free to hold property of their own and to leave the sisterhood to marry.

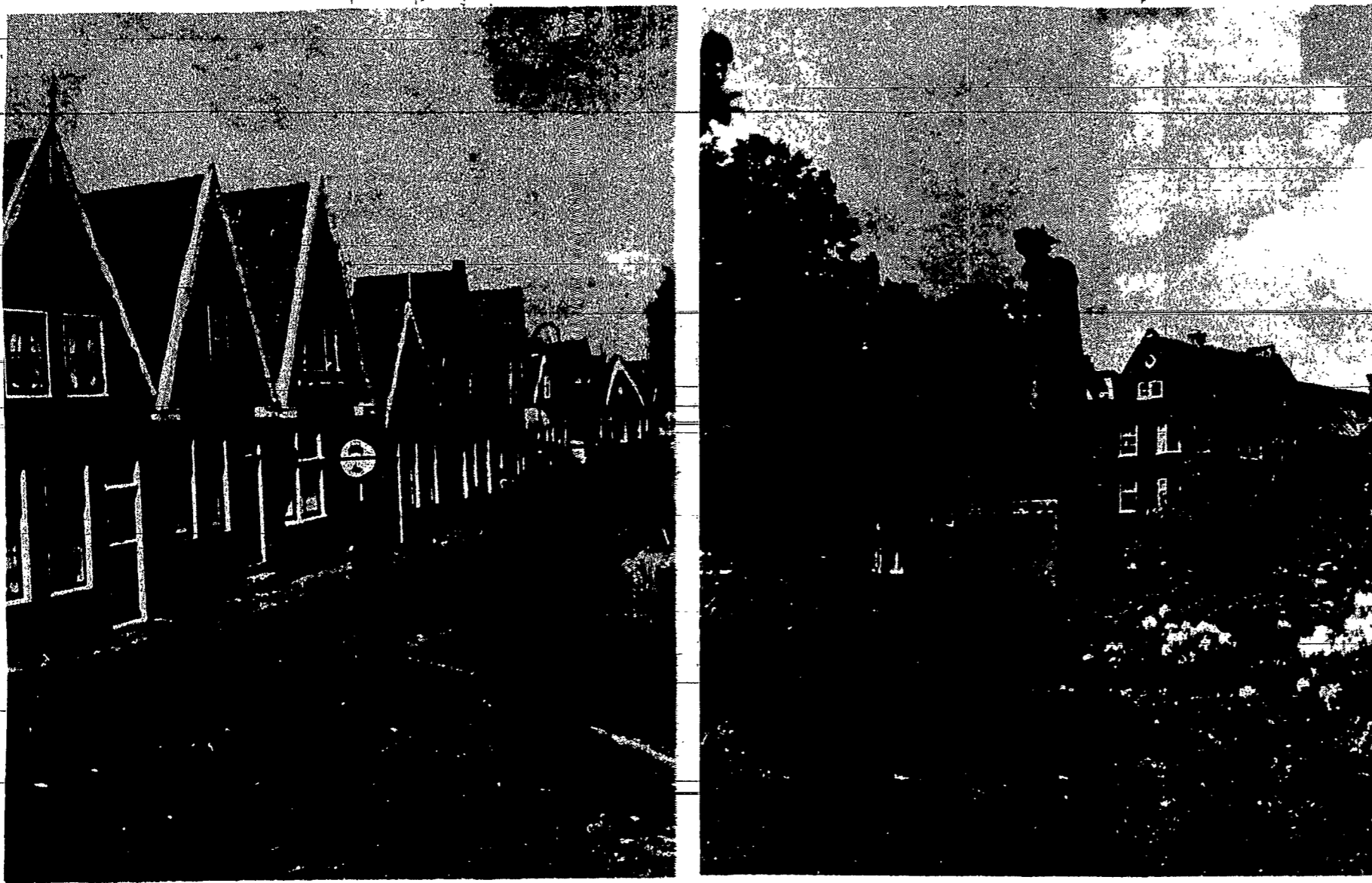
The Amsterdam Beguines' Court is surrounded by houses and chapels, many of them used by the sisterhood in medieval times. The women were esteemed for their devotion to caring for the sick, and were able to stay on even after Amsterdam went over to the Reformation in 1578. During the persecution of Catholics in the 17th century, they served as "kloppers," announcing to the faithful when and where secret religious services were to be held.

The original Beguines' chapel, which is now restored in its old glory, was confiscated by the municipal authorities in 1578 and handed over to the Church of England in 1607. It is still an Anglican church and services are held there every Sunday in the rites of the Church of England.

Most of the facades of the houses in this courtyard, are from the 17th and 18th centuries. Several fine stone-carvings adorn the house fronts, all of them depicting religious scenes. Among them: "The Flight from Egypt," "St. Ursula" and "St. Willebrord," or St. Willibrord, as the Dutch call him. Close to the Anglican church, in the gutter, is an old tombstone. Here a Beguine lies buried. She chose this resting place, humbling herself even after death to obtain from heaven the grace that any Catholicism would be restored in Amsterdam.

Nearby a bronze effigy preserves the memory of Willem Cardinal Van Rossum, who was the papal legate at the International Eucharistic Congress held at Amsterdam in 1924. The Dutch cardinal at one time was the head of the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith in Rome.

Next to this monument is the wooden porch leading to the present Catholic church on the Beguines' Court. In 1771 the then existing houses on the



Spotless streets, neat houses next to a canal are typical of Holland. Rembrandt statue in its flowery setting is in heart of Amsterdam.

spot were pulled down and the foundation of the new Catholic church was laid. The plans were made by the famous Amsterdam architect Philip Vingboons, who also designed many fine houses along the Amsterdam canals.

Here the tradition of the "Miracle of the Blessed Sacrament" of six centuries ago is still kept alive. The Blessed Sacrament is exposed for perpetual Adoration. This is the starting point for the "Stille Omgang," or Silent Procession, held yearly by men on four successive Saturday nights in March in honor of the Blessed Sacrament.

As chronicled locally, the "miracle" took place in Passiontide in 1345. A man lay ill and wanted to receive Holy Communion. A priest was called and brought him the Sacrament. But shortly afterward the sick man coughed up the Host. The woman who nursed him threw the Host into the fire. The next morning when the woman stirred up the fire she suddenly saw the immaculate Host unimpaired amidst the flames. The Host was taken out of the fire, wrapped up in a clean cloth and locked in a chest. The clergy was notified and the Host was taken in solemn procession to the parish church.

This procession of 600 years ago is still repeated yearly in the "Stille Omgang."

In the course of the centuries many miracles are said to have confirmed the first miracle. For all these reasons the Catholic church on the Beguines' Court is now considered a holy site.

At No. 35 of the Beguines' Court the Catholic Orientation Center for Foreigners is situated. Here all foreigners, Catholics and non-Catholics, can be provided with all information regarding Catholicism in the Netherlands. The center is open to the public every day from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Leaving the gate of the Beguines' Court is the Spulde across the canal there is a Catholic church called the Krijtberg (the Chalk Hill). The name recalls the time when Catholics in Amsterdam were not allowed to profess their religion openly. They assembled in the warehouses such as "De Star" (The Star), "De Papegaai" (The Parrot)—now at the Kalverstraat—"De Posthoorn" (The Post Horn) and "De Duijf" (The Pigeon), now at the Prinsegracht. The names of these clandestine churches are

still given to the sanctuaries of today. The people of Amsterdam still speak of going to Mass in The Pigeon or in the Parrot.

In the "Krijtberg" there is a permanent exhibit of objects connected with the only Dutch general of the Society of Jesus, Johan Roothaan, S.J. (1785-1853), whose canonization process has been introduced in Rome.

To the right, in front of the bridge is the Heiligeweg, the Sacred Road. As its name indicates, this was the way pilgrims followed when entering the town on their way to the site of the "Miracle of the Blessed Sacrament."

At No. 37 is the house of the Open Door, a new form of apostolate introduced by the Missionaries of the Holy Family. Anyone may enter it any time of the day or night for a friendly talk with one of the priests.

At the church called The Parrot at the Kalverstraat every afternoon at one o'clock a short religious service is held: "Fifteen minutes for God," says a sign at the entrance of this church on the busiest shopping street in Amsterdam. Here modern man can find a moment's rest from the bustle of daily life.

Opposite the Central Station one finds St. Nicholas Church, built in 1887. Catholics arriving by train in the morning can conveniently attend Mass here.

At the Nieuwmarkt in the old Weighing House (Waagebouw) the tourist could pay a visit to the Jewish Museum.

Walking along the Oude Zijds Voorburgwal is a building of particular interest, No. 40, called "Onze Lieve Heer op Solder" (Our Lord in the Attic). In former days Catholics used it as a church and Masses were said in the attic. Later on the house was rebuilt and became a real church, "Het Haantje" (The Cock).

In 1887 the Amstelkring Society bought the house and

Bazaar Listed in Bloomfield

Annual Chicken Barbeque and Bazaar will be held on St. Bridget's Church grounds, East Bloomfield, on Saturday, Aug. 20, according to James Collins, Parishioner of St. Bridget's and St. Joseph's Churches are sponsors. Serving will begin at 5 p.m. Mrs. Erdle is kitchen chairman.

A midway will be highlighted by a fish pond, turtle races, stuffed toys, baked goods, homemade candies, white elephant table and hand crafts.

Tickets are available through parishioners or the door, according to James Mariani, chairman.

CELLAR WALLS WATERPROOFED
 WE GUARANTEE A DRY CELLAR
 Free Estimates
 General Mason Work and Repairs
 DRAIN TILE INSTALLED
 A. J. ARIENO BE 5-4371

Physical Tests Set at Mooney

Physical examinations for Cardinal Mooney students who will be trying out for football and cross country this fall will be held at the high school. All sophomores, juniors and seniors will report on Monday, August 15, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. All incoming freshmen will take their physicals on Tuesday, August 16 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Final make-up dates for those who are unable to attend the above time will be held at Arcadia High School on August 24 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and at Olympia High School on September 1 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Germany

Over the Hump In God is Dead

Berlin—(RNS)—The death-of-God theology, built in large part on the beliefs of some German philosophers and the "misunderstanding" of others, is losing ground in Germany today, one of the country's top Protestant leaders believes.

"We believe we are over the hump in the God-is-dead debate," was the view expressed by the new Evangelical Bishop of Berlin-Brandenburg, Dr. Kurt Scharf, when interviewed by Religious News Service.

The bishop added: "The movement, of course, really originated in Germany. Not only in the writings of Nietzsche and certain naturalistic theologians of the 19th century, but more recently in the misunderstanding of Bullmann, Bonhoeffer, and Tillich, on the part of the English (Anglican) Bishop, Dr. John Robinson of 'Honest to God' fame, and a group of American humanists.

"For some years our younger German theologians were preoccupied with the writings of the younger Heidegger. In his early work 'Being and Time,' Heidegger ignored history and found the basis for living in human existence. But our younger theologians today in both parts of Germany have discovered the mature Heidegger whose book, 'Time and Being' emphasized history as the basis for living, including Biblical history.

"In East Germany this turn to the mature Heidegger was made even before it won wide acceptance in West Germany. Under Communist domination the existence of man provided no firm foundation; something deeper was needed. The East German theologians have found this ground of ultimate reality in the existence of the Christian man, his witness of Biblical truth and the goals of faith."

Julius Cardinal Doepfer of Munich, in a recent conversation with Bishop Scharf, observed:

Priests to Vote for Consultants
 Wichita—(NC)—Bishop Leo C. Byrne has invited all priests in the diocese to aid in selection of members for a new board of consultants to advise him on administration of the diocese. Four priests will be selected by vote of diocesan clergy and four will be selected by the bishop.

Edith Murphy Requiem Held

Solemn Funeral Mass for Edith A. Chestney Murphy of 126 Fillmore St. was offered in St. Augustine's Church, July 18. She died July 14, 1968.

The Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated by Father Foster Rogers, a grand nephew, with Monsignor John M. Duffy, deacon and Father Richard Nangle, subdeacon.

She was a member of St. Augustine's Rosary Society. Surviving are several nieces and nephews.

Father Rogers gave the blessing at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Arrangements by Joseph A. Murphy Funeral Home.

SMOOTH AS SILK
 This is all you need to know about Kessler...
 the rest is pure enjoyment.
 \$4.99 quart

Kessler the Smooth as Silk Whiskey. Full 86 Proof.
 Julius Kessler Company, Lawrenceburg, Indiana. Blended Whiskey, 86 Proof. 72% Grain Neutral Spirits.

10 COURIER-JOURNAL Friday, August 12, 1968

Deanery Plans Year's Program

A planning meeting of the Chemung-Schuyler Deanery, Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, was held recently at the home of the president, Mrs. Raymond G. Granston, in Watkins Glen.

First deanery meeting will be hosted by a Chemung County parish and will feature a display by the Organization and Development chairman on Monday, Sept. 26 at 8 p.m.

MODERNIZE Your KITCHEN

"THE EASY WAY"
 PACKAGED KITCHENS
 One contract covers the complete job.
 Add beauty and convenience, light work, free estimates. We feature GE Kitchens and ELKAY Bathrooms.
WEIDER PLUMBING
 789 South Ave. GR3-2224
 Open Tues. & Thurs. Even. 'Til 9

INSTANT WATER HEATER SERVICE!
 Metzger & Brayer Co.
 Since 1898 GL 8-8000

MOVING? Profit by our EXPERIENCE

CALL
 GEO. M. CLANCY JR.

Geo. M. Clancy Carting Co., Inc.
 8 Circle Street GR 3-3120
 Agent for NORTH AMERICAN VAN LINES

John's FIRST PRIZE MEAT FOOD PRODUCTS
PORK SAUSAGE & SCRAMBLED EGGS
 GREAT day's starter

ZING!
 Enjoy that REFRESHING NEW FEELING

 BOTTLED UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE COCA-COLA COMPANY BY ROCHESTER COCA-COLA BOTTLING CORPORATION

E.O.P. Sale!
 End-Of-Production
 Last of the 166 PONTIACs

CATALINAS				
COLOR	MODEL	EQUIPMENT	LIST	SALE
Turquoise	4-Door	A-BA-C-L-WW	\$3602.00	\$3095.00
Monte Carlo	4-Door	A-BA-C-L-WW	\$3602.00	\$3095.00
Candle Lt. Cr.	4-Door	A-BA-C-L-WW	\$3602.00	\$3095.00
Marine Turq.	Sport Coupe	A-BA-C-L-EZ-WW	\$3708.00	\$3182.00
Burgundy	Sport Coupe	A-BA-C-L-WW	\$3639.00	\$3122.00
Fontaine Blue	Sport Coupe	A-BA-C-L-WW	\$3639.00	\$3122.00

STAR CHIEFS				
COLOR	MODEL	EQUIPMENT	LIST	SALE
Marine Turq.	4-Door	A-BA-C-L-EZ-WW	\$3840.00	\$3312.00
Marine Turq.	4-Door	A-BA-C-L-EZ-WW	\$3840.00	\$3312.00
Cameo Ivory	2-Door	A-BA-C-L-EZ-WW	\$3912.00	\$3335.00

BONNEVILLES				
COLOR	MODEL	EQUIPMENT	LIST	SALE
Palmetto Green	2-Door	A-BA-C-L-EZ-WW	\$4108.00	\$3467.00
Turquoise	2-Door	A-BA-C-L-EZ-WW	\$4137.00	\$3520.00
Ivory & Blue	4-Door	A-BA-C-L-EZ-WW	\$4211.00	\$3562.00
Burgundy & Blk	Convertible	A-BA-C-L-EZ-WW	\$4304.00	\$3670.00
2-Tone Blue	Convertible	A-BA-C-L-EZ-WW	\$4322.00	\$3700.00
Baige & Black	Convertible	A-BA-C-L-EZ-WW	\$4360.00	\$3752.00
Candle Lt. Cr.	4 Dr. HT	A-BA-C-L-EZ-WW	\$4450.00	\$3852.00
Solid Ivory	4 Dr. HT	A-BA-C-L-EZ-WW	\$4410.00	\$3740.00

TEMPESTS				
COLOR	MODEL	EQUIPMENT	LIST	SALE
Burgundy	2-Door	A-BA-WW-Sprint	\$2748.00	\$2482.00
Burgundy	2-Door	A-BA-C-WW	\$2897.00	\$2527.00
Marine Turq.	Station Wag.	ABA-C-DC-WW-4 cyl.	\$3040.00	\$2670.00
Barrier Blue	Custom 4-Dr.	A-BA-C-WW-8 cyl.	\$3036.00	\$2664.00

Choose The Equipment You Want From These Symbols:
 A—Automatic R—Radio SA—SA 5 J C
 B—Heater & Defroster WW—White Sidevalvs Radio, Heater and Defroster, Two-Speed Wipers
 C—Power Steering OM—Outside Mirror EZ—Tinted Glass Windshield Washer, Oil Filter, Custom Team seats
 W—Windshield Washer DC—Custom Moldings
 EW—Power Windows CON—Console

NO MONEY DOWN
 OPEN 'TIL 9 PM TONITE

PIEHLER
 1560 LAKE AVE. Opp. Kodak Park
 GL 8-4540

Educational By Not

Sister Maryvisor, and Sister Mary Family School, National Conference of Sisters of Notre Dame, at Notre Dame College, Mequon, Wis.

As members of the Inter-Provincial Sister Beatrice and Sisters of the 22 representing eight of the teaching congr

Mother General brosia is expected to Rome to attend the

The theme of the "The Approach to the Renewal of the Sc

CAROSO
 Tile & Marble
 Real Clay
 Rubber - Asphalt
RE 2-0
 414 W. SEC

Stephen Bedna
G.H. & J.T. K
 ELECTRIC ENGINEER
 CONTRACTOR
 Plumber and
 415 WEST FIRST
 RE 3-91

Thomas M. I
 Funeral Dir
 113 WALNUT ST
 RE 3-62

FINE V CARR
 404 W. Was

ARROW
 7
 BOTANY 500

KELL
 "ABOV
 HAV
 PRES
 227 HOFFM

KALE
 705 E. CHUI

TRIPLE S STAMPS
 AT
 GAS - OIL - ACCESSOR
 DAVIS and S

ARR
 The

Oper
 Always a

RUC
 CHOOSE F
 BAR
SHOP

Digi
 RE 2-9982
 Route 328
 Westingho