

The Catholic COURIER

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE

Journal

78th Year

ROCHESTER, N.Y., FRIDAY, DEC. 23, 1966

Price 15 cents



—Photo, courtesy of Ithaca Journal

Peace — the message of Christmas was the message Bishop Sheen gave representatives of priests, brothers, nuns and lay people of Rochester Diocese at installation rite at Sacred Heart Cathedral. Photo shows Mercy Sister M. Petrus as she received the ancient ritual greeting.

Characteristics of a Bishop Rock and A River

Bishop Sheen, world-famed for so many achievements, is particularly noted for finding the apt illustration to dramatize his thoughts.

He was at his best in this art on the day of his installation as the new Bishop of the Diocese of Rochester last Thursday.

At Sacred Heart Cathedral, he said, "A new bishop in a diocese is something like a new baby in a family. There is no doubt about the child being loved. The problem is—what kind of a child will he be?"

Bishop Sheen A Firefighter

Bishop Sheen, in a walk around the block after supper Friday evening, stopped in the Chestnut St. firehouse, and told the firemen there, "I'm interested in fire prevention too, you know, — like hell."

The prelate's quip soon made the rounds of the Rochester firehouses and next day the men at the Chestnut St. company received a set of books he has written — apt reading material for a fellow firefighter for their off-duty hours.

Extra Copies Of Tabloid

Extra copies of last week's special two-section tabloid of the Courier with the full-color portrait of Bishop Sheen are still available at the Courier office.

You may order copies of this commemorative edition by sending 50 cents in stamps or cash to the Courier office, 35 Scio St., Rochester, N.Y., 14604.

ORANGE BLOSSOM DIAMOND RINGS. Terms. William S. Thorne, Jeweler, 318 Main St. E.—Adv.

IF YOU MOVE . . . let us know about it so we can keep your Courier coming to you on time. Phone or mail us notice of your change of address. Include your old address and new address and the name of your parish. Courier Journal, 35 Scio St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. Phone-716-454-7050.

Later, at the luncheon following the Mass, Bishop Sheen said the bishop of a diocese must be like "a rock" and like "a river" — two biblical symbols, one indicating stability and solidity, the other movement, freshness and challenge.

These characteristics, Bishop Sheen said, represent ideals — seemingly paradoxical—he will seek to exemplify in his episcopate here.

This was a theme he also used in his farewell sermon at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City a week ago.

The Church around the world, he said, is also confronted with a paradox, a contrast, between "the so-called liberals and the so-called conservatives.

"They are in tension, in opposition and in seeming contradiction," he explained, "but one day the Master Craftsman puts the keystone arch between the two and unites them. In this way, nothing is lost but all tend to unity.

"Those who would keep the Church in the sanctuary and those who would go off to citizens of the foreign country, need to find the keystone Christ and thus have a place in the Father's House. How the two extreme positions are to be reconciled must be sought in the Life of Our Lord."

Speaking of a "disturbed age" and a time of "uneasiness in the Church," Bishop Sheen cited the parable of the Prodigal Son as illustrative of two viewpoints expressed in Catholic life.

The younger son, who left home for worldly delights, he said, represented the radical or liberal, and the elder son, who remained home, the conservative.

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**Installation Sermon
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—Courier Photo by Casper Panrock

'A new bishop is like . . . a new baby . . .'



Historic moment — Cardinal Spellman and Bishop Kearney escort Bishop Sheen to throne in Sacred Heart

By FATHER ROBERT
McNAMARA

St. Bernard's Seminary

One of the most appealing figures in the history of the Diocese of Rochester is Father John M. Maurice, pastor of Our Mother of Sorrows Church, Paddy Hill, Greece Township, 1856-1895.

Unfortunately, our forthcoming history of the Diocese is able to refer only briefly to even its most interesting personalities, so Father Maurice receives one of the shortest notices. The present article, recounting his story more fully will try to make amends.

"Paddy Hill" was a nickname given in the early years of the last century to the country district of Greece Township around Mount Read Boulevard and Latta Road. This is some seven miles northwest of Rochester. Today it is part of suburban Rochester. Father Maurice did not like the name "Paddy Hill," and tried his best to change it to "Lady Hill." But he fought a losing battle.

As the nickname implies, the settlers in the neighborhood were mostly Irish farmers—and farmers, eventually, of some substance. The Irish colony on Mount Read was rather early in its beginnings—the second, third and fourth decades of the 1800's. Felix and John McGuire were among the earliest arrivals, and they had a part in the foundation of Rochester's first church, St. Patrick's which opened in 1823.

Not content with having a church at Rochester, the Paddy Hill Catholics put up a church of their own in 1829-30. It was the forerunner of Our Mother of Sorrows Church, but it was then called St. Ambrose Church. It stood on the present site of the property, and its frame structure subsequently became the present frame rectory.

St. Ambrose had one very special distinction. It was the first Catholic rural church in New York State. And rural it certainly was: almost from the start it was referred to as the "Church in the Wood." According to the ancient custom, it had a graveyard adjacent to the church, and here the forefathers of the community still lie: the McGuires, Reads, Rigneys, Slaters, Flemings, Beates, Dorseys, Flynns — many of whose names are now applied to topographical sites, roads, and streets.

The first recorded Mass was not celebrated until February 5, 1832, when Father Francis O'Donoghue, pastor of the "Salina Mission" (St. John the Baptist Church, Salina, N.Y.—part of the present Syracuse) came up and offered Mass in St. Ambrose Church. The Church in the Wood received a resident pastor only in 1841, in the person of a Father Denis Kelly. Three others followed him up to 1856, with gaps between, during which the church was taken care of from St. Patrick's in Rochester.

One of these pastors, from 1849 to 1855 was Father Joseph

Biggio. He was the first Italian priest to serve in the Rochester diocesan area, so far as we know. He was also quite likely the first Italian resident in the Rochester metropolitan area.

Bishop Timon of Buffalo named as pastor a man who was going to stay put. He was Louis-Jean-Marie Maurice—or, as he called himself in English, John M. Maurice.

The parishioners may not have taken to him too readily when he was first named. They were Irish; he was very French, with a French manner and a French accent. Except for Father Biggio, the Greece Catholics had thus far had only Irish priests in charge of them. But as time went on and they sensed the deep pastoral spirituality of the little man, they came to admire and love Father Maurice deeply.

Maurice was no youngster when he arrived — forty-four. And he had behind him a priestly career which, if not distinguished, was at least interestingly varied.

He was born in the Diocese of Nantes, France, at Corsept — a little fishing village at the mouth of the Loire. The date was August 28, 1812. His family was a notably pious one, and it is not surprising that he studied for the priesthood. But before his ordination to the diocesan priesthood, which he first felt moved to embrace, he became a priest-member of the teaching order of Brothers of Christian Instruction of Ploermel. It was as such he received ordination to the priesthood at Nantes on December 21, 1836.

But he disassociated himself from that religious community almost immediately afterward, and spent most of his first four years of priesthood as a priest of the Diocese of Nantes.

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Priests' Day Of Recollection

The Priests' Day of Recollection at St. Bernard's Seminary on Wednesday, Dec. 28, will be given by Bishop Sheen.

The day's schedule will begin at 9:30 a.m. with a conference by the Bishop, a second conference at 3 p.m. and a concelebrated Mass at 5 p.m. Supper will follow at 6 p.m.

Reservations may still be made by writing the rector, Rev. Joseph Brennan.

FERRY FLOWERS for all occasions. Ethel M. Ferry assisted by Tom Zavaglia, Mgr., Eon Weingartner, Asst. Mgr. 441 Child Ave. PA 9-7723.—Adv.

Bishop Sheen's Christmas Message

'One Gift Which We Alone Can Give'

Christmas is a day when Eternity becomes young, when He whom we thought was "way up there," is really "right down here" in the mud and dust of our lives.

Christmas is not something that happened like the Battle of Waterloo; it is something that is happening like gift-giving.

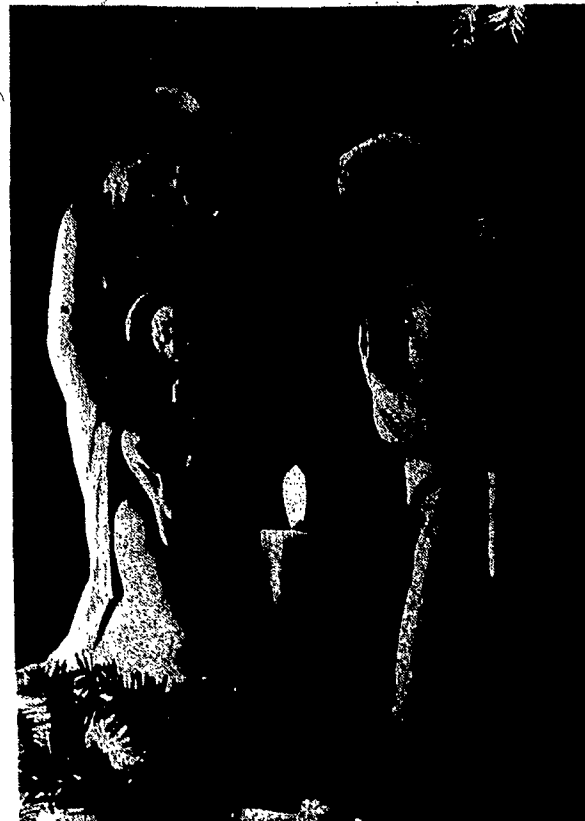
Each of us has one gift which we alone can give and not even God will take it away—the gift of our love.

Any love we have now for one another is but a spark from that Flame of Love which was born in the crib.

Love does not mean to have, it means to be had; love does not mean to own, it means to be owned; love does not mean to possess, it means to be possessed.

Love is the giving of self for others as Divine Love put Himself at our disposal in stable, exile, carpenter's shop, the streets and the cross.

In that Love, I embrace each of you this Christmas, praying that we may see ourselves less pursuing or seeking God, but rather as being pursued. Love



on our part is response. May it be total to the Divine Pursuer.

Mary's Christmas is a Merry Christmas.

John M. Maurice

The Little Priest who Died on Christmas Day, 1895

By FATHER ROBERT
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