

Many Hammer Blows for Image of Christ

My dear People of God,

No masterpiece was ever completed in a day. A great statue like that of Moses by Michelangelo required many blows of the hammer to knock off huge chunks of granite, then more refined touches, until finally the brush of a hand was only needed to bring out the beauty of the figure hidden in stone.

Dying is also a masterpiece; it requires many blows of the hammer on the hard marble of our egotism and selfishness, then multiplied choppings away at our other vices until the image of Christ in the soul finally appears.

Lent is the season in which we hold rehearsals

for death by little "dyings". The reasons for a special season for self-denial are the following:

1. The life of Our Lord is the pattern to which we must conform. As we unite ourselves with His passion and offer up the trials of our life with His, we thus become assured of the glory of Resurrection. "Those who belong to Jesus Christ have crucified their old nature with all that it loved and lusted for." (Gal. 5/24)

2. The reason rivers are crooked, is because they follow the line of least resistance. So, too, our sinful nature gravitates downward unless we make efforts to check it. Dead fish float downstream; it takes a live fish to run against the currents. In which direction are you moving? Any direction that is not toward God is toward decay.

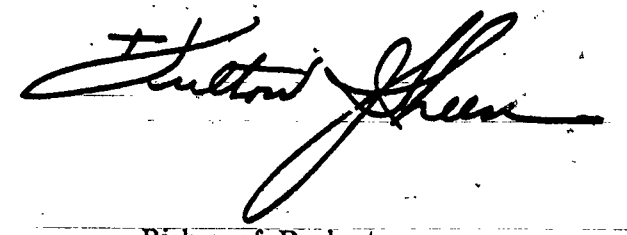
3. Never be discouraged if you fall in your struggle to sanctify yourself. The closer we live to God, the more we see our imperfections and our unworthiness. Under a candle, a painting may seem to be perfect, but under the light of the sun all of its imperfections are revealed. In the light of God, we seem to be failures, but so long as we are struggling, doing penance and fighting, we are on God's side. As gardeners of our souls, we keep pulling away at weeds, and even though they grow fast, in the end we will have a beautiful garden.

For penances I recommend the following: visit the sick and shut-ins; give alms to the missions; show extra love to those who seem so unloveable; have pati-

ence with our own family; attend daily Mass; do reading of Sacred Scripture and good books; sacrifice time that would ordinarily be given to watching television to meditate at least fifteen minutes a day.

Also, kindly pray for me as I do for you.

Your devoted Shepherd in Christ,



Bishop of Rochester

Wanted — Love and a Home

Seven youngsters, none more than three years of age, need a mother and a father.

So far nobody wants them, not one of them.

Each is healthy and alert, anxious for affection.

There must be a catch?

Each of the seven is "mixed race"—a product of a couple one of whom is white, the other Negro, and as you've probably already guessed, not married.

The parents have turned their child over to the diocesan Catholic Charities officials to find a home but it takes courage as well as compassion to adopt a child like this.

WHERE ARE the children in the meantime?

Two are lodged with Mr. and Mrs. Robert Puff of St. John the Evangelist parish in the town of Greece.

They also have three children of their own.

Why did they take on two more?

"I was a foster child once myself," said Mrs. Puff, "and I want to help these children as I was helped."

But she said she and her husband don't feel they can accept the responsibility of adopting their two young charges because their own family size might increase and they're not so affluent they can provide for so many.

Miss Catherine Wobus of the Catholic Charities said the children at present "are too young to be aware of any differences. . . they fit into any normal



Mark and Michael — waiting for a door to open.

home without an emotional disturbance." But they need a permanent home soon or they will "sense a rejection" and "then we face the behavior problems" which can ruin them emotionally for life.

"So many people tell us they'd like to be able to do something practical for the poor

—I don't know anybody who needs anything more than a child needs parents and a home and love," she said.

If you'd like to open your heart and your home to a youngster in need of love, phone the Catholic Charities office and they'll give you further information.

Eight Baltimore Churches Pool Strengths to Aid Poor

Baltimore — (NC) — A Catholic parish here has entered into an "interfaith corporation" with seven neighboring Protestant churches in a move to help people from the area in educational, social and economic matters, and to rejuvenate community life — especially in the churches.

St. Ann's parish here has found its congregation rapidly diminishing, according to Father William Burke, an assistant at the parish. St. Ann's is in a neighborhood that was 80% Catholic; now it is about 10% Catholic, he said.

Most of the Protestant churches in the area have also found themselves with "absentee congregations," since most of their members now live in the suburbs. At the same time, the area is largely inhabited by people in a low-income bracket, with little or no training for an occupation.

Under the new corporation, it was reported, all the churches involved are combining resources to help alleviate these problems and to reactivate community spirit. St. Ann's, for ex-

ample, is "offering to the common group the services that we offer here in the parish," Father Burke stated.

These services include a teenage recreation program and an adult education program, he said. A teacher is paid and provided under the Adult Education Program of Baltimore, and the School Sisters of Notre Dame from St. Ann's also teach these classes.

"It is just a beginning," Father Burke declared, "but we offer something according to each capacity. We are naturally interested in problems concerning jobs for these people."

St. Ann's has also opened its Saturday morning Bible school to non-Catholics. Father Burke stated that out of the 70 to 100 who attend, approximately 50 are non-Catholics.

Father Burke describes his purpose in this endeavor as an "effort to combine the work of the Confaternity of Christian Doctrine and to reach non-Catholics. I see it as a very good means of furthering the work of the Church."

The Catholic COURIER

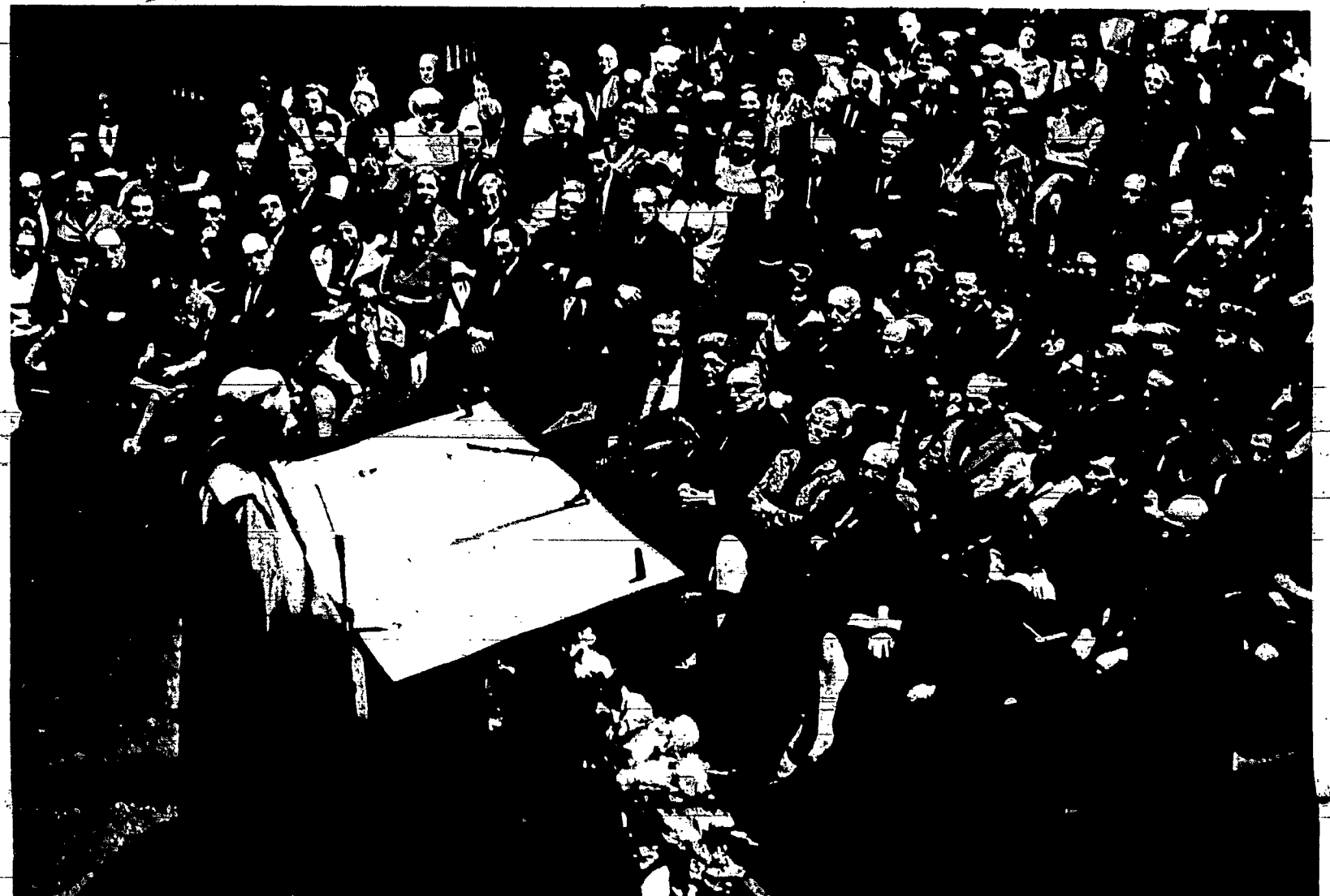
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—Lou Ouser Photo

Bishop Sheen was the only one to wear a "yarmulke," traditional Jewish skull cap, as he spoke to close to 2500 persons in Temple B'rith Kodesh Monday evening. The yarmulke custom is not generally observed in liberal Jewish synagogues.

Fish Again On Fridays!

We're back to old-fashioned Fridays for eight weeks.

The Fridays of Lent revert to the no meat regulations previously in force for all Fridays.

Ash Wednesday, next Wednesday, Feb. 8, and Good Friday, March 24, are days of fast and abstinence, the only two days left in the year when Catholics are to abstain from meat and also fast from all food between meals.

CCD Program For Priests

Monsignor Albert H. Schnacky, diocesan director of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, has scheduled four informative sessions for priests of the Diocese to bring them the "full story" of what a total CCD program should be and can be in parishes.

Sessions, beginning at 10 a.m., are scheduled at the CCD office, 50 Chestnut St., Rochester, Thursday, Feb. 9, and Tuesday, Feb. 14, at the Auburn Inn, Thursday, Feb. 16, and at St. Mary's parish hall, Elmira, Thursday, Feb. 23.

Seminary Test Feb. 4th

St. Andrew's Seminary will accept applicants at an enrollment test Saturday, Feb. 4, at 9 a.m., at the seminary, 1150 Buffalo Rd., Rochester. Monsignor Richard M. Quinn, rector, announced this week.

He said seminary applicants may also take the entry test at Notre Dame High School in Elmira or at DeSales High School, Geneva.

Like St. Paul at Ephesus Synagogue

Bishop Sheen said he felt like St. Paul at Ephesus . . . where the great Apostle, Scripture says "used to go to the synagogue and speak confidently holding discussions."

The Bishop, for the first time in his life, went to a synagogue Monday evening to speak—and he had an audience as big as if it were September's Yom Kippur, one of the great holidays of the Jews.

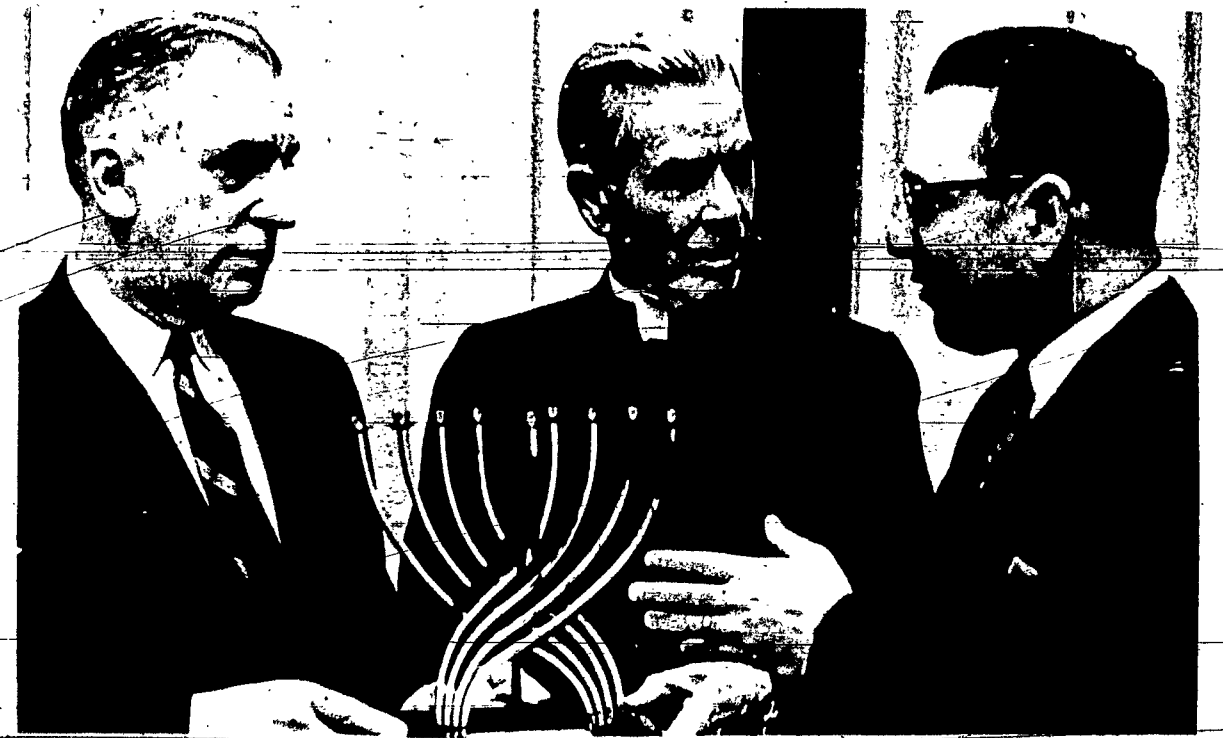
More than 2,300 persons packed Rochester's Temple B'rith Kodesh to hear him, filling every seat, standing in the aisles and out in the adjacent auditorium.

The Bishop praised the Jewish people for their works of mercy for the poor and told them that the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob was also the God of the Christians too—the God of a second chance—who is willing to be a Father to a man no matter how weak he is.

Not only was this Bishop Sheen's first visit to a synagogue, it was the first time any Catholic prelate had attended a Rochester synagogue to speak to its congregation.

Monday's rite was arranged by the Rochester Jewish Community Council to welcome Bishop Sheen to the city and to introduce him to his neighbors of Jewish faith.

Rabbi Herbert Bronstein, in introducing the Bishop, said "To find a precedent for this we must go back deep into our history, beyond the middle ages, to find an occasion when an important leader of the Catholic Church appeared in a synagogue under such happy circumstances as these — back to St. Jerome in the fourth century who consulted rabbinic scholars in his preparation of



—Lou Ouser Photo

Leon H. Sturman, Jewish Community Council president, and Rabbi Herbert Bronstein, at right, presented Bishop Sheen a menorah, as gift to welcome him to Rochester following Bishop's talk at Temple B'rith Kodesh.

the Vulgate Bible, the first official translation of Scripture into Latin.

stances has now risen to dispel these shadows."

Rabbi Bronstein said "deep and tragic shadows" had clouded Catholic-Jewish relationships in many subsequent centuries but "the sun of new circum-

He pointed out Bishop Sheen's repeated efforts to bring to the attention of "comfortable and affluent Americans the grinding misery in which so many people live throughout the

world" and that his words and decisions in his first weeks in Rochester have already "sought to contribute directly to the amelioration of the great social issues of poverty and inequity that confront our time and threaten the fabric of our society."



FATHER O'BRIEN



FATHER DAILEY

Two Vicars Appointed

Two priests have been named by Bishop Sheen to be episcopal vicars — one for the southern tier area of the Diocese and one for pastoral planning.

Vicars are new type Church officials who are authorized to act on their own in the areas they're appointed to, without needing the Bishop to review their decision.

Appointed this week were Father Bartholomew J. O'Brien, pastor of St. Mary our Mother Church, Horseheads, to be Vicar for the Corning-Elmira-Waverly area, and Father Joseph W. Dailey, diocesan vice chancellor, to be Vicar for Pastoral Planning, a new position to determine needs and locations of new parishes and possibilities of all-new approaches to parish life. Bishop Sheen's letter to Father Dailey is on page four of this issue of your Courier.

A Senate of 20 Priests

Priests of the Rochester Diocese have gone to the polls a second time within a month — this time to vote for representatives to a priests senate to aid Bishop Sheen in administration of the Diocese.

The senate, according to directives of the Vatican Council, will be a major step toward democracy in Church government.

The diocesan senate will have a membership of 20 priests, twelve elected according to age groups and others representing religious orders and other groups of priests.

Bishop Sheen announced formation of the senate in a letter sent priests this past week. He said he will have some priests help him count the ballots because counting the first set for diocesan leadership positions took him 14 hours to count by himself.

Priests Survey OKs Changes

Maryknoll, N.Y. — (NC) — Changes in the Church initiated by Vatican Council II were endorsed 14-1 in a survey of priest-readers of World Parish, a monthly service bulletin for priests published by the Maryknoll Fathers.

The priest-readers in the United States responded overwhelmingly in favor of the question, "What is your opinion of Vatican II, and the new changes in the Church?"

Out of nearly 1,100 replies, only 63 responded negatively to the question.

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.