



A YOUNG BOY (center) FLIES A KITE FROM THE DOMED STONE ROOFTOPS OF OLD JERUSALEM

# Jerusalem - the Holy City

By the REV. C.J. McNASPY, S.J.

After a few turns in the road past Bethany, Jerusalem comes into full view. You are looking west, from the hill of the Ascension and across Gethsemani and the valley of the Kidron. Shining there on Mount Moriah, where Solomon's temple and later Herod's temple had stood, is the golden Dome of the Rock, one of the most impressive buildings in the world.

The Dome of the Rock (also called the Mosque of Omar) is now a Muslim holy place, commemorating the spot from which Allah is said to have carried up Mohammed. It is, in fact, after Mecca and Medina, perhaps the holiest place in Muslim tradition. For Jews, of course, the entire temple area is a spot of glorious and sad memories, where worship was offered to God until the destruction of the temple by the Romans under Titus in 70 A.D.

Jerusalem has been destroyed and rebuilt three times after time during its long history. Consequently, it is difficult to pin down the precise location of many spots sacred to us. The whole of the Old City (surrounded by walls and now in the Jordan sector) is a living shrine, though to the natives life goes on much as in other Middle Eastern cities.

Shops and hawkers aplenty are active even on Friday when hundreds of Christians make the Stations of the Cross. Again, on this holy way, exact spots are not to be identified. Nevertheless, archaeology has shown that the traditional way is approximately correct, lying some feet above the original street, covered over by the debris of centuries of destruction.

THE STATIONS begin at the Church of the Scourging, near the spot identified by scholars as the Lithostrotos of Gabbatha (see John 19:13). You may enter the convent of the Sisters of Our Lady of Zion, who will show you the very stones where Roman soldiers played a game known as "Kings" - doubtless the game they played at Our Lord's expense.

Going along the narrow streets, pushing through the crowd, past idle hawkers and sellers, one is reminded of the first Way of the Cross. Only today the crowds are not hostile; even if their blaring radios make traditional prayer difficult. It lends an intense realism to a devotion normally practiced in quiet churches.

The road moves along, winding and climbing, until you reach the holiest spot in Christendom - the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre. This vast building, added to and cluttered up by

THIS IS THE FIFTH in a series on "the Crescent of Christianity" written by the Rev. C. J. McNaspy, S.J., associate editor of AMERICA, with photos by the Rev. Elmo L. Romagosa of the CLARION. Copyright, Jan. 1967, CLARION Herald.

more than a millennium of pilgrims and their offerings, is in the process of reconstruction and is gradually approaching the solemnity of early designers. Within it is Calvary, once outside Jerusalem, and the place of Our Lord's burial and resurrection.

If you have read older accounts of the Holy Land, you doubtless remember lurid tales of squabbles between Christians of various churches: Orthodox and Catholic. While this was true in the past, following Vatican Council II and Pope Paul's friendly pilgrimage, the spirit of charity and sympathy between the groups has become as edifying as their former hostility was shocking. Every Orthodox priest or pilgrim that you meet today seems eager to express a sense of Christian brotherhood, both here and in Bethlehem.

In the area of Gethsemani, several small churches enshrine the approximate spot of the Agony in the Garden and ancient olive trees will remind you of its other name, the Garden of Olives. Atop the nearby hill, you will visit the small, round Crusaders' church on or near the spot of the Ascension.

Comparatively few pilgrims, however, ever get to see one of the most interesting churches in the Jordan side of Jerusalem: St. Peter in Gallicantu. It is built over an ancient house which many scholars accept as the House of Caiaphas. Just outside the church, slightly below, is a street-stairway, leading down from one part of ancient Jerusalem (Mount Zion), toward the Garden of Gethsemani.

IT IS HIGHLY PROBABLE that this is the very path used by Our Lord and the disciples after the Last Supper, on the way to the Garden.

Yet one other "must" should be mentioned. While you are on the Jordan side of Jerusalem, where the Old City lies, be sure to walk quietly and meditatively through the streets at night. The hubbub of commerce is gone, the shops closed, and a reverent stillness is all about. In some ways this is the most impressive way to see the Holy City.



THE DOME OF THE ROCK is a Muslim temple erected in the area where Herod's temple stood. The Muslims believe this is the spot where Allah carried up Mohammed.

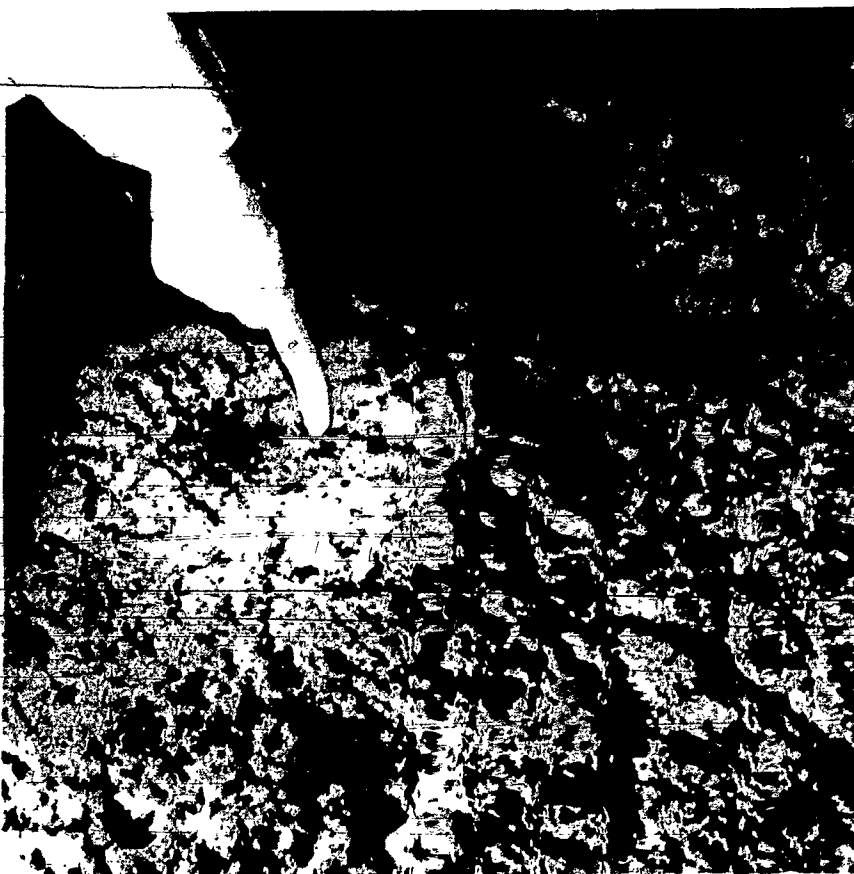


IT IS probable that Christ walked over these stones to the Garden of Olives.



FROM THE Church of All Nations in the Garden of Olives this is the view of the ancient city wall. Through the

wall's golden gate in 629 Emperor Heraclius entered, carrying the True Cross, rescued from the Persians.



LITHOSTROTOS is the Greek word for the stone pavement on which Pilate's judgment seat rested. Markings on this stone were part of an ancient game called "Kings," which Roman soldiers played while Christ was imprisoned within the Fortress Antonia.

THE CHURCH of the Holy Sepulchre encloses the last five Stations of the Cross. Calvary and the Tomb of Christ were sufficiently close by to enable the architects for the present Crusaders' basilica to include both within the design of the Holy Sepulchre church.



## Funeral Services Held For Dr. Thomas Brennan

Geneva — Dr. Thomas J. Brennan, 80, of 40 High St., a prominent local dentist and life-long resident of Geneva, died Feb. 5, 1967 in Geneva General Hospital after a long illness.

Dr. Brennan was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Michael Brennan. He was a graduate of the University of Villanova and of the University of Buffalo. He had practiced dentistry in Geneva for 48 years and retired in 1958.

He was a former member of the Geneva Police Commission on which he served for 12 years. He was organizer of Geneva Dental Society and a past president of the Seventh District Dental Society and life member of the American Dental Assn. He was elected to Pierre Fauchard Honorary Dental Society; was a charter member of Geneva Rod and Gun Club; a charter member of Seneca Lake Country Club; a member of Geneva Lodge of Elks No. 1054; a member of the Third and Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus of Geneva; and a member of Geneva Country Club.

Funeral services were Wednesday, Feb. 8, at the McQuigan Funeral Home and in St. Stephen's Church. Father Henry C. Manley was celebrant of the requiem high funeral mass.

In the sanctuary were Father Arthur J. Hack and Father Robert D. Buckland. Burial was in St. Patrick's Cemetery. Father Hack officiated assisted by Father Manley.

Also acting as honorary escort was a delegation from the Ontario County Dental Society and the Seventh District Dental Society.

## Sylvia Green Requiem Held

Solemn Funeral Mass for Mrs. Sylvia M. Green was offered in St. Monica Church, Jan. 23. Mrs. Green of 296 Brooks Ave. died Jan. 19, 1967.

The Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated by Monsignor Gerald C. Lambert assisted by Father William Barrett and Father Robert L. Collins.

She was a member of St. Monica's Rosary Society.

Surviving are her daughter, Mrs. Thomas (Sylvia) O'Grady; one sister, Mrs. Ben Glaser; several nieces and nephews; three grandnieces and one great-grandnephew.

Burial in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Arrangements by Alvah Halloran and Son.

## McQuaid Moves To Top Spot

McQuaid Jesuit High School's news scholars triumphed over East Rochester High School 145-80 last Thursday to move into first place in WHEC's high school newsbowl.

This win, matched with December's victory over Pittsford High School moved the unbeaten Knight scholars into the top spot. McQuaid has one opponent left to hurdle - the Barons of Brighton High School.

The McQuaid bowl team was composed of Joseph Combs of 1617 Scribner Rd., Penfield; Mark Greibner of 100 Penfield; and John Greibner of 100 Penfield. Coaches are Joseph J. Redman of 114 Southleigh Ct., Rochester, and Kevin Hennessey of 83 Mayfield St., Rochester. All are seniors.

He was a member of St. Stephen's Holy Name Society.

He is survived by his wife Mary Manley Brennan; two daughters, Mrs. James F. (Hilda) Taney of Geneva; Mrs. Edward P. (Jeanne) Sweeney of Floral Park; two sons, Dr. Thomas H. Brennan of Geneva; and Robert J. Brennan of St. Petersburg, Fla., 14 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Also acting as honorary escort was a delegation from the Ontario County Dental Society and the Seventh District Dental Society.

## Two Months 'Hope' Tour Described

Dr. Robert Kennedy, a prominent Rochester ophthalmologist, brought to more than 200 members of Good Shepherd Church, Henrietta, a commentary and slides on his two months in the African nation of Guinea - as part of Project Hope. The talk was the third in a series of four lectures sponsored by the parish's Confraternity of Christian Doctrine Program.

Through the slides that he brought back from Guinea, Dr. Kennedy stressed the great need for advanced medical technology not only in the nation he visited, but by many more in Africa, Asia, and South America.

Father Joseph Sasso, director of the Good Shepherd Confraternity of Christian Doctrine Program presented Doctor Kennedy with a check for \$51 which the children in the program had collected in toy boats symbolizing the hospital ship S.S. Hope.

The final lecture of the series will take place at Good Shepherd on March 2, and will feature Judge Joseph A. Cristofani and the Family Court.

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