



FATHER WEINMANN  
'carry on'



SISTER LILLIAN MARIE  
... no greater love

Smoke pours from St. Philip Neri Church at height of Monday-noon fire which wrecked the 38-year-old structure. A priest and nun were, at moment of photo, trapped inside. Chalices and other sacred vessels of the church are scorched, bent and partially melted.

Should Confession  
Be Revised Too?  
Vatican Council  
Says Yes  
See Page Four

# The Catholic COURIER

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE

Journal

78th Year

ROCHESTER, N.Y., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1967

Price 15 cents

## 'Carry On... No Matter What Happens'

That oft-stated advice of Father George J. Weinmann, voiced again from his hospital bed, will spur parishioners of fire-gutted St. Philip Neri Church to hold together as a religious family in the days of sacrifice ahead.

Their little wood-frame church is a burned out shell of a structure, a sad picture for the thousands who pass it daily on Clifford Avenue.

A snowstorm the day following Monday's noontime blaze shrouded the ashes in white but passersby still saw it as the pyre where a young nun died, and where an elderly priest was pulled from the flames barely alive.

The two had plunged into the burning structure — the priest to "rescue" the Blessed Sacrament, and the nun to rescue him.

### His Sacrifice Is Complete

A priest is made for sacrifice, the Catholic ordination ritual states.

Few priests, however, make that sacrifice so total as to become themselves a holocaust victim.

Such a crown now is Father George J. Weinmann's.

The 77-year-old pastor of St. Philip Neri Church clung to life three days longer than the young nun, Notre Dame Sister Lillian Marie, who perished in the blaze which wrecked the 38-year-old wood frame church Monday noon.

Both were found close to an exit. They had made a valiant but vain attempt to bring the Blessed Sacrament from the church.

Bishop Sheen will offer Father Weinmann's funeral Mass at St. Ambrose Church Monday, Feb. 27, at 10:30 a.m.

Father Weinmann, who would have marked his 50th anniversary in the priesthood next year, has long been known as the friend and companion to the poor. He chose to do many of the chores about the church and rectory to save money for the school he hoped to build for children of the parish.

This dream came to reality in 1962. His next goal, a church, will now someday be his memorial.

### Catholics, Jews God's People

Catholics and Jews—together as the People of God sent to heal the world's wounds—was the topic of a daylong colloquium Wednesday at St. John Fisher College and Temple Britt, Kutztown.

Bishop Sheen and Rabbi Marvin Tarneshour, noted Jewish spokesman, addressed more than 1500 persons at the Elmwood Avenue temple to climax the day's program. A report will be made in next week's Courier.

Sister Lillian Marie McLaughlin, 26, was termed a "martyr" by Bishop Sheen who arrived at the fire scene moments after the tragedy.

"Martyrs belong to our own times and in most unexpected moments," the Bishop told reporters.

"Greater love than this no woman hath," he said, paraphrasing a text of the Bible.

Sister Lillian Marie apparently entered the burning church to see if any children might possibly be there. She then spotted Father Weinmann at the altar and tried to help him to an exit.

Rochester Fire Chief Edward Traugott said—the two were found by firemen only a few feet from the front door. "They almost made it," he said.

Sister Lillian Marie, a second-grade teacher at St. Philip Neri parish school, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William McLaughlin of Elyria, Ohio, and a member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Her funeral Mass is to be offered this morning, Friday, at Holy Redeemer Church at 10 a.m.

### WHAT DOES the parish do next?

Father Leo J. Mans, curate, said, "We're going to try to carry on as Father Weinmann would want us to do. We'll continue with the full schedule of services at the regular times in the school hall. Father Weinmann wanted a good size hall when he built the school. Now we see how far-sighted he was."

DO YOU NEED anything, we asked Father Mans.

"All our sacred vestments and vessels were lost in the fire. We need vestments, the vestment cases, candlesticks, candles, just about everything. We've already had several offers but we still need lots more."

St. Bernard's Seminary promptly provided an altar which has already been set up in the school hall.

## A Battle You Can Help to Win

Today the war in Vietnam commands the attention of most Americans. During the 1950's it was the Cold War. Two decades ago it was World War II.

These are the wars that history records, the ones this generation knows of and hears about constantly. Yet, down through the centuries, man has been engaged in a war more devastating than those of his own making. And the toll has been greater and more awesome.

Hunger, poverty, deprivation, disease, ignorance, social abuse and injustice — man's age-old enemies! Still so dominant that they have shackled two-thirds of the world's population.

On March 5, Laetare Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Lent, the Bishops of the United States will ask American Catholics to join against these ruthless foes of mankind. The 21st annual Catholic Bishops' Overseas Aid Fund Appeal will be conducted throughout the United States during the week of February 26-March 5, culminating with a special collection the more than 18,500 Catholic churches across the nation.

This annual appeal, first made in 1947, has enabled the bishops' overseas aid agency, Catholic Relief Services, to grow into the largest voluntary overseas agency in the world, helping more needy people in more countries with more services than any other agency in the history of American voluntary overseas aid.

With an American supervisory staff of 162 program directors — both priests and laymen — stationed around the world, assisted by hundreds of local employees and volunteers, Catholic Relief Services is able to render aid in 80 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, the Near and Middle East and Latin America, benefiting an estimated 40 million poverty-afflicted men, women and children, entirely without regard to race, religion or color.



No time for school if you have to work when you're five.

Support of last year's Catholic Bishops' Overseas Aid Fund Appeal enabled Catholic Relief Services to distribute food, clothing, medicines and relief supplies that totaled over one and a half billion pounds and was valued at well over \$135 million, a record total for the agency.

Naturally, much of this aid was concentrated in the areas of greatest need: war-torn Vietnam; the newly-emerging African nations troubled with tribal strife and conflict; famine-plagued India and regions

where natural disasters took their toll of life and property.

U. S. Government-donated foods, clothing contributed by Americans to the annual Catholic Bishops' Thanksgiving Clothing Campaign, medicines and other necessary supplies were given by Catholic Relief Services to the survivors of the floods in Italy, the earthquakes in Turkey and Peru, fires in Colombia and Philippines, and Hurricane Inez in the Caribbean, to mention only a few of the emergencies.

School lunch programs, "Food

for Work" projects, leper colonies, and refugee camps were sponsored by the bishops' overseas aid agency as well as numerous services and supplies provided to hospitals, clinics, orphanages and various other institutions for the ill and elderly.

More and more socio-economic development and self-help projects were organized by Catholic Relief Services to help the impoverished become self-sufficient, self-reliant and attain self-dignity.

Throughout Africa, the infant mortality rate from malnutrition and undernourishment is startling and those under the age of five that survive are left mentally and emotionally scarred for life. To counteract these shocking conditions, the bishops' overseas aid agency devised a pre-school health plan to feed nutritious foods to the children and to teach mothers and expectant mothers proper food preparation and dietary habits.

Wells were dug and irrigation canals constructed to bring water to drought areas, food was brought into famine areas, roads built to make inaccessible villages open to urban market places, schools constructed to increase literacy rates.

These are the "battle zones" for Catholic Relief Services. And on each "front" there stands a dedicated American Catholic—perhaps a lad or girl from your own hometown—manning his station, bringing arms — the arms of mercy and charity — from Americans to the poor of the world.

Still, the victory is far away in the future. But we can bring it a bit closer through our support of the 1967 Bishops' Overseas Aid Fund Appeal.

The 1967 Catholic Bishops' Overseas Aid Fund Appeal special collection in your church on Laetare Sunday, March 5, is the recruiting station. Please join up!

### Lithuanian Ritual Text

Vilna—(RNS)—The first Roman Catholic book of rituals published in the Soviet Union has just been issued here under the auspices of the Catholic bishops of Lithuania.

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.

## Expect U. S. Funds if No State Aid

New York—(RNS)—Promotion of a vast expansion of federal aid to education programs could result if New York State's Constitutional Convention fails to abolish the provision which bars aid to church-related schools, a Roman Catholic educator said here.

Msgr. Raymond P. Rigney, superintendent of schools of the Archdiocese of New York, made the prediction in an address before the Women's City Clubs of New York.

He said that if the convention fails to abolish the so-called "Blaine amendment," which prohibits use of public funds

for parochial schools, one outcome "will be a vast expansion of federal aid to education programs."

"This will be promoted to substitute for the 'tainted' state and local funds," he stated. "I wonder if we are prepared to

accept a federally-administered educational system as a substitute for the one we now have."

In April, 188 delegates will convene in Albany to modernize New York's constitution.

A poll of elected delegates to the convention, taken by a group fighting for repeal of the Blaine amendment — the predominantly Catholic Citizens for Educational Freedom, which has Protestant membership — showed that more than 50 per cent of the 186 elected delegates favored repeal. A total of 102 delegates indicated in the poll that they wanted a change in the amendment.

Article XI, Section 3 of the state constitution deals with use of public funds for parochial schools. Referred to as the "Blaine amendment," it prohibits the use of public funds for "any school or institution of learning wholly or in part under

### Church-State, A Key Issue At Constitution Convention

Albany — (RNS) — Separation of church and state will be one of the key issues which will come before the State Constitutional Convention, the Capital Area Council of Churches was told here.

The Rev. Theodore Conklin, associate executive secretary of the State Council of Churches, reported that "Article 11, Section 3 (the so-called Blaine amendment) will probably be the most vital issue of the state convention."

He held that the provision was enacted into state law in the 1840s at the urging of the Catholic Church because Protestant devotional services were being conducted in public schools. It was incorporated into the State Constitution in 1890.

the control or direction of any religious denomination . . ."

Msgr. Rigney stated that "The question that is bound to be asked at this Spring's Constitutional Convention is namely what to do about the 'Blaine amendment'?"

"The answer I propose," he said, "perhaps a bit naively, is — let's do away with it!"

He stated that the convention should abolish the provision because "It's a throw-back to an era of bigotry and narrow-mindedness that has no place in our enlightened society."

At the time of the passage of the "Blaine amendment" — in the state convention of 1894, Msgr. Rigney pointed out, a delegate to that convention declared, "It would be next to impossible to elect a Catholic President of the United States

or Governor of the State of New York. Where a candidate gains one vote for being Catholic he will lose three."

However, Msgr. Rigney said, "we have grown sophisticated enough to remove these barriers and we have allowed Catholics to sit, not only in the Governor's mansion in Albany, but also to occupy the presidential chair."

Msgr. Rigney then pointed out that certain consequences could result if the convention failed to abolish the current aid ban. "These are some of the certain outcomes. Students in New York State's non-public schools will be deprived of essential services and facilities, service and facilities required for their educational attainment."

He then predicted great increases in federal aid to education programs.