

# Easter Faith Found on the Emmaus Road

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### Bishop Sheen's Easter Message

## Newness for our Souls

If we saw a crowd running down the street laughing, shouting and tooting horns, we would ask: "What is the celebration?" Strange, if they should answer: "We do not know."

One sometimes wonders, when we see everyone at Easter running to stores, buying new hats, shoes, clothes, ribbons and bows, if they really know why at Easter there should be so much stress on what is "new". Could we be celebrating the feast while forgetting the festival? Could the great miracle of the ages have become so secularized that we kept the celebration and forgot what we were celebrating?

Actually, the passion to appear in a "new outfit" on Easter is the worldly side of the spiritual Feast of Easter, which affirms the "new man", because the death of Christ became "clothed" in immortality.

Because we, who have faith, know the meaning of Easter, we are assured that the inside man is more important than the outside man; that the clothing of the body is of less value than the clothing of the soul. We could be like the king with a thousand changes of costume. Remember, he had a fashion show of all his regal dress, hunting attire, sport clothes, formal outfits. Hundreds passed by, each in one of his garments. A young boy watching the dress parade pointed to the king saying, "He is naked". With all of his finery and wardrobe, he had nothing on.

At Easter then, while we dress up on the outside, let us not be naked on the inside. Rather let, "what is mortal be swallowed up by life". (2 Cor 5/4)

"Be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and put on the new nature, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness." (Eph. 4/24)

For the present moment, our newness is in the soul, not in the body. That will come later, for as we are conformed to the "death of Christ, so we will be conformed to the glory of His Resurrection" (Rom 6/5)

Applying this to our lives

1. Since the Son of God is alive and in Heaven inter-

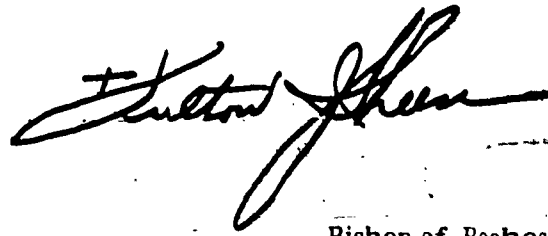
ceding for us, we cannot leave Him out of our lives, our politics, our social affairs, our business. Therefore, in your homes, in schools, in your reading, study the life of Christ as revealed in the Gospels.

2. Many young men feel a kind of a stirring of their dead selves; they sense an emptiness and fed-upness when they do wrong, and a peace when they do right. This may be the resurrection-thought of the Risen Saviour. If any young man would like to consult me, who is a Junior or Senior in high school, about such a call or vocation of God to His Service, call Father Hogan, my secretary, and I will see the young man personally.

3. All who are dead in sin, wearing the rags of the Prodigal, have confidence in the Risen Christ who is in Heaven making intercession for us. There are many men and women who are dead in despair and anguish which sin brings. Have confidence in the Christ who brings the dead to life.

In conclusion, Easter means that Goodness can take the worst the world has to offer and still overcome it. Never was the world and its spirit more powerful than on Good Friday; then it used all its nuclear weapons of evil, and wore the full panoply of war. Since it was beaten in its most powerful moment, never again despair. Goodness can be laid in a tomb, but it will rise again. Remember what the Gospel says: "There was a garden in the place where they crucified Him" (John 19/41) A garden blooms — even where there was the fertilizer of death.

My love in Christ to each of you.



Bishop of Rochester



*I arose and am still with you! The Church uses these words of an ancient psalm at Easter to express our Lord's great victory of Resurrection. It is also our act of faith that Christ's life and words can shape our life and hopes today.*

### Women Told

## If You Want Equality, Work for It

New Haven — (RNS) — The role of women in the church — as passive or active lay members, nuns or even clergy — was explored in a lively day-long session at Albertus Magnus College here in which Roman Catholics and Protestants joined in sponsorship and participation.

Father Bernard Haering, C.S.S.R., Weigle Professor at Yale Divinity School, traced the expansion of woman's role in the church since the days when St. Paul admonished wives to "be subject to your husbands as to the Lord."

"The role of woman in the urban, industrialized society is totally different from the role she had in the old society and culture at the beginning of the Christian era," he said.

But while urging, on the one hand, that the church examine "in perspective, the role of women in the whole life of the church," he warned that "the question must not be confined or concentrated on the one problem: 'Can women be ordained priests?' In my opinion, that question is not yet mature."

This assertion was branded as "lamentable gradualism" by a member of the panel commenting on the German theologian's lecture.

Said Dr. Elizabeth Farians, professor of theology at Sacred Heart University, Bridgeport, Conn.: "The church should be a leader in human rights. In the meantime, back in the real world, some women are hearing a call from the Spirit—they know it is a vocation to be a priest—they are ready to respond but the question is not yet 'mature' for the theologians who tie the hands or wings of the Holy Spirit."

A capacity crowd of 600 lay

men and women, clergy and religious attended; 300 more had to be turned away but watched the proceedings over closed-circuit TV. The session was sponsored jointly by the United Church Women of New Haven, the New Haven Council of Catholic Women, the New Haven Ecumenical Committee and Albertus Magnus alumnae groups.

One of the nation's top women executives in Protestant Church circles, Mrs. Theodore O. Wedel, maintained that women themselves must take the lead in assuming a more meaningful role in the church. Mrs. Wedel is associate general secretary for Christian unity of the National Council of Churches and the wife of an Episcopal clergyman.

"If women are to have their share in the renewal of the church, I believe it is largely up to women themselves to make it possible." The first thing we need to do is to grow up in our faith. Far too many modern lay people—well-educated and keeping up with the events of the world—still have the most elementary notions of what Christianity is all about."

### Better Than A New Hat for Young Women

Young women will have more than new spring clothes to talk about... they'll be talking about sprucing up their spiritual life too.

Bishop Sheen will conduct a three-day congress at Rochester's Auditorium Theater for young women of post-high school age, whether college students, or working, married or single, April 5, 6 and 7.

Theme of the congress is "Christ, Women and the World."

The Bishop will speak each day of the congress at 12:30 noon, 3 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Mass will be celebrated at Corpus Christi Church Wednesday and Friday evenings at 7:30 p.m. and he will narrate a description of the Mass rite Thursday at the Auditorium at 3 p.m.

### Nixon Confers With Pope

Vatican City—(RNS)—Former Vice President Richard Nixon of the U.S. was received by Pope Paul VI in a private audience at the Vatican.

Mr. Nixon, a Quaker, later reported that he and the Pope "had a really good talk" during the 45-minute audience. He said that Vietnam was "one of the major areas of discussion."

Pope Paul, according to Mr. Nixon, has an "amazingly wide knowledge" of international affairs.

### Catholics, Protestants

## Together, into Inner-city

Catholics and Protestants will plunge together into two inner-city projects this summer—in Rochester and in Elmira.

The two projects mark the first ecumenical apostolates set up jointly and officially by Catholic and Protestant churches in the area of the Rochester Diocese.

The Rochester project is titled "The City, the Church and the Structures of Decision."

Project workers will be college students — 25 or 30 of them — who are now being recruited.

The Elmira project will enlist 16 students as workers.

DETAILS of the Rochester project were given at a press conference this week.

Father David Finks, Bishop Sheen's vicar for urban ministry, Rev. Herbert White, director of the board of urban ministry of the Rochester Area Council of Churches, and Rev. William E. Gibson, the council's director of campus ministry, outlined the aims and methods of what they termed their "working seminar."

Rev. John Messerschmitt, Protestant chaplain at the State University College at Brockport will also work with them in the project, scheduled to run June 18 to August 20.

Most of the student workers will staff several cooperative church programs — others will "inter" political, social welfare and other poverty-related jobs.

Students will be housed at Rochester Institute of Technology dormitories and hold their study sessions at St. Luke's Episcopal Church Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings.

"Resource people" from government, churches, schools and social agencies will meet with the students at the seminars to discuss problems they encounter on their jobs.

The project workers will range in their services from religious instruction in ecumenical vacation schools to sports and recreation programs.

Areas where the students will work include Rochester's southeast section — the St. Boniface parish area and neighboring Protestant churches; east-side section — near Corpus Christi Church, particularly in the area of "Engine Nine" — former firehouse; the Main Postoffice section—St. Simon's Episcopal Church and nearby Catholic parishes; and "the no-church oasis of the southeast loop-section" — with Christ Church Episcopal Cathedral as the nearest available church.

WHAT GOOD will all this poverty kick do the Church? we asked the clergymen at the press conference.

"The Church is supposed to do good to the people!" Father

Finks replied emphatically, "not the other way round."

"Too many people these days are leaving the city in anguish — we've got to help them find

God in the city and take part with Him in His creative work there," he said.

Mr. Gibson added, "This summer project will raise the

sights of the students — to give them "a translation" into reality of such books as Bagdikian's 'In the Midst of Plenty' or of Jacobs' 'Death and Life of Great American Cities' and other readings in urban church problems."

Mr. White said, "In Rochester we have a whole laboratory to deal with concrete situations. It's a tremendous task to teach our people to approach the city with joy rather than escape from it into suburbs."

Father David Mattie of St. Peter and Paul's Church, Elmira, is working with Rev. Donald R. Hoff in a similar cooperative project for Elmira's eastside poverty area.

Clergy in both Rochester and Elmira pointed out the student workers they're looking for need not be seminarians.

Mr. White said, "We want as much diversity as possible."

Students who'd like information about the program may apply to any of the clergy mentioned in this article.

### Old, New Highlight Easter Celebration

The ancient and the new will highlight celebration of Easter in the Rochester Diocese.

Age-old rites will commemorate the Saviour's Resurrection, climaxing at Easter Vigil ceremonies Holy Saturday evening and Sunday morning Easter Masses.

The "new" will be in evidence as parishioners move into new St. Charles Borromeo Church in the Town of Greece.

First service in the just completed edifice will be the Vigil ceremony Saturday at 7:45 p.m. Sunday Masses in the new church will be at 6:30, 8, 9:30, 11 a.m., 12:15 noon and at 5 p.m.

Bishop Sheen will preach at the 10 a.m. solemn Mass and the 1 p.m. Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral Easter Sunday. Monsignor Wilfred T. Craugh, former rector of St. Bernard's Seminary, will celebrate the solemn Mass. Bishop Sheen will celebrate the 1 p.m. Mass.

The Cathedral's Men and Boys Choir and the St. Bernard's Seminary Choir will sing the solemn Mass, composed by Cathedral organist and choir director William Ferris. Handel's Halleluiah chorus will conclude the solemn Mass ceremony.

SEE INSIDE

What's the younger generation coming to? See 'Adventure in Responsibility'—Page Four.

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.

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