

Private Schools Called a Check on 'Monolithic Education'

It is "unthinkable" that the Catholic school system will be completely discontinued, a Washington priest educator said in Rochester Tuesday night, but he insisted that Catholic educators need to re-examine priorities and re-assess resources.

Msgr. James C. Donohue, director of the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education of the U.S. Bishops' Conference, termed Catholic schools an essential part of "the teaching mission of the Church," and contended that private education systems are a safeguard against an exclusive "monolithic" public education system which "scars me."

He was principal speaker at a meeting of the Rochester Association of Catholic Laymen in Mercy High School Auditorium. An audience of nearly 300 persons, nearly half of

whom were Religious, attended the meeting.

Robert J. McLaughlin, RACL president, presided at a 10-minute business session, at which association members unanimously adopted the following resolution:

"The Rochester Association of Catholic Laymen commends Bishop Sheen for his request for a democratic consultation with the laity regarding the future of Catholic schools in this diocese, and urges him to implement procedures through which all laymen, including those of RACL, may be sure of having their voices heard. RACL expresses its readiness to help in any way possible with the development and implementation of such democratic procedures."

Msgr. Donohue, former superior

tendent of schools for the Archdiocese of Baltimore, expressed confidence that government officials are increasingly recognizing the Catholic school system's "contribution to a healthy pluralism in education," and that increased federal and state aid to private education will be forthcoming. He also stressed that private schools should look to industry and foundations for financial assistance.

Although optimistic about the future of Catholic education, Msgr. Donohue admitted that the critical situation demands serious re-evaluation and a "Christian community" concept, and that some changes probably will be effected only through "a dedicated younger generation."

In the meantime, he indicated, the Catholic school system may become somewhat smaller but it will be providing "quality education."

A century ago, he said, American Bishops meeting in Baltimore committed themselves to "a dream of an education system to save the Church."

Today, he declared, "we have need of a new alignment — to help save mankind. God helps us all if we don't give that dream a fighting chance!"

Msgr. Donohue touched many bases in suggestions on changes. Among his comments:

• Catholic schools should consider centralization, engaging professional cost accountants and perhaps a "sliding scale" of parish fiscal responsibility.

• Present systems of operation and curricula are not reasonable, and "a complete reorganization of the grading system" might be in order.

• Catholic schools, to justify their existence, must be "leaders in educational excellence." Their students should be the "salt of the earth" — "unique Christians" who could and would contribute to a better society.

• Catholic educators should give extra effort to the poor and disadvantaged in the ghettos — to bring them the Christian message and to help them solve their problems.

• Bishops, many of whom are somewhat "hesitant" to adopt changes, hopefully soon will increasingly recognize the need for new "experiments" in Catholic education.

• Religious orders, particularly those of women, are broadening horizons and "becoming more meaningful," and soon may be able to halt or reverse the drop in vocations.

Scheduled brief "reactions" to the Monsignor's talk were given by James Carey, assistant professor of education at Nazareth College; Thomas McGarry, chairman of the diocesan confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) lay advisory board, and Owen Crumb, lay moderator of the St. Ambrose Parish Youth Group.

All agreed generally with Monsignor Donohue's contentions. Crumb indicated, however, that the Church thus far has faced vital problems with "mere tokenism," and that there is great need "to restore the sense of Christian community" among Catholics, which he described as "a sense of giving rather than taking."

McLaughlin announced that the RACL is preparing a suggested "priorities" paper for presentation at a meeting of the diocesan Priests' Council in Rochester on Nov. 5.

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Funerals Held for Two Priests

Msgr. Donald M. Cleary, Former Cornell Chaplain

Ithaca—Mass for repose of the soul of the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Donald M. Cleary, 65, former chaplain at Cornell University and at Auburn Prison, was celebrated Tuesday afternoon in St. Catherine of Siena Church—the parish which he founded in 1960.

Msgr. Cleary, widely known as "the flying chaplain"—he was a World War II pilot and flying was his principal hobby since then—died of a cerebral hemorrhage Saturday (Oct. 11, 1969) in Tompkins Memorial Hospital here.

Principal celebrant of the funeral Mass was Bishop Fulton J. Sheen. Msgr. Cleary was buried in Ithaca.

In his homily Bishop Sheen praised Msgr. Cleary as a "soldier, intellectual, ecumenist and shepherd."

"As a chaplain in World War II, Msgr. Cleary was distinguished for reading the first Mass said for our airman in Normandy. His work with the troops was brave and zealous.

"On the campus at Cornell, he also was called upon to be a soldier, defending truth and contending with intellectual error."

The Bishop cited Msgr. Cleary for being a pioneer in the Newman Apostolate. Declaring that in the early days of this important work the Cornell chaplain helped establish the Newman philosophy on campuses across the country, the Bishop added:

"He was never simply the chaplain of Catholics at Cornell, but of the entire campus community."

In lauding the deceased priest as a pastor, Bishop Sheen told the sorrowing congregation that they could be proud of the zealous transition Msgr. Cleary had made after 25 years of campus life to the general family relationships required in parish life.

Serving with Bishop Sheen as principal concelebrants of the Mass were Father John S. Maloney and Father Michael Daly. Assisting were Msgr. Joseph L. Hogan and Fathers John S. Hayes, James L. Callan, David W. Connor, John T. Walsh, Charles Reynolds and Richard Torrey.

Msgr. Cleary's broad experiences included 25 years' as Catholic chap-

lain at Cornell; four years with the U. S. Air Corps, including service in England, France and Germany; three years as a prison chaplain, and nearly nine years as a pastor.

During the 1920 Auburn Prison riots he was liaison between the governor and prisoners while the warden was held hostage, and he was credited with playing a major role in their settlement.

From 1942 to 1946 he was chaplain with the 36th Fighter Group of the Ninth Air Force. He was one of the few chaplains in the Air Corps permitted to wear pilot's wings, allowing him to pilot any plane except in combat. He rose to major rank, and was awarded the Bronze Star, two battle stars and three Presidential Unit Citations.

His military service interrupted his Cornell chaplaincy, to which he was appointed in 1936. He returned to the campus in 1946 and remained there until he was selected to found St. Catherine's parish.

He is survived by a brother, Father Thomas K. Cleary, pastor of Holy Cross Church, Dryden; a sister, Mrs. Joseph Servas, Rochester; a nephew, Father Michael Daly, Newman Apostolate chaplain at State University College at Brockport, and a niece, Mrs. Michael Sporn of Bethesda, Md.

Msgr. Cleary was born in Rochester Nov. 1, 1903, and attended Corpus Christi School and St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's Seminaries. He obtained his master of arts degree at Cornell, and in 1958 the university awarded him an honorary doctor of laws degree.

He was ordained June 9, 1928, in old St. Patrick's Cathedral.

He first served as assistant pastor of Holy Family Church, Auburn, from 1928 to 1935. While there he was prison chaplain for four years, and for the remaining four he helped found and served as principal of Auburn's first Catholic secondary school, Holy Family High School.

Appointed chaplain at Cornell in 1936, he began a quarter-century apostolate which brought the Newman Club there to one of the largest



MSGR. DONALD CLEARY

and most energetic in the nation. He served several terms as national chaplain of the U.S. Federation of Newman Clubs, and represented that organization at a Newman Centenary Conference in London in 1945.

During his years at Cornell he counseled thousands of students, student families and faculty. He established a Newman Oratory adjacent to the campus, and was kept busy with administration of the sacraments, concert work, and evening classes in ethics, apologetics, philosophy and history. His "parish" during his later years there numbered more than 1,600 souls.

On leaving the university chaplaincy he was honored by hundreds of administration officials and students for "outstanding contribution to the religious life of Cornell for the past quarter century."

He was not destined, however, to leave his many university friends in 1960. Bishop James E. Kearney appointed him to found St. Catherine's parish not far from the campus, and many of his parishioners were on the university's administration, faculty or staff.

Parishioners conducted a campaign for funds, obtaining a total in cash and pledges of \$133,562 — \$58,000 over the goal. A 10-acre plot was purchased on Hanshaw Road, and the new church building was dedicated by Bishop Kearney on Apr. 30, 1962.

Msgr. Cleary was raised to the rank of papal chamberlain in 1952 and to domestic prelate in 1962.

At the time of his death he was dean of the Tompkins-Tioga Deanery.

Fr. Reinhart To Describe Mission Trip

Visits to missions on these continents will be described by Father Joseph F. Reinhart, new director of the diocesan Society for the Propagation of the Faith, at a concelebrated Mass at 11:30 a.m.

Mass is scheduled Sunday, Oct. 19, in Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Principal celebrant will be Bishop Fulton J. Sheen. Also concelebrating will be Msgr. John F. Duffy, new pastor of St. Mary's Church, Danville, who will be turning over the Propagation directorship to Father Reinhart on that day.

Msgr. Duffy, who has headed the Propagation office for the last eight years, will speak at other Masses on Sunday in the Cathedral.



Mooney Students Aid Hurricane Victims

Pictured are three of several trucks loaded with nearly 100 tons of paper last Saturday by students of Cardinal Mooney High School in drive for funds to aid rebuilding of a school in Waveland, Miss., destroyed by Hurricane Camille. Net proceeds are expected to total nearly \$1,000.

Fr. William M. Thomas, New Pastor

Elmira — Mass for repose of the soul of Father William M. Thomas, 43, newly-appointed pastor of St. Catherine's Church, Addison, was celebrated Tuesday morning in St. Patrick's Church here.

Father Thomas was found dead in the Addison parish rectory Saturday, Oct. 11, three days after he had assumed his first pastorate. He had had a heart condition.

Bishop Fulton J. Sheen was principal celebrant of the funeral Mass. Father Thomas was born in Elmira Oct. 30, 1925, son of Mrs. Mary Ellen Cronin Thomas and the late Henry D. Thomas. He attended St. Patrick's School, Elmira Catholic High School and St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's Seminaries.

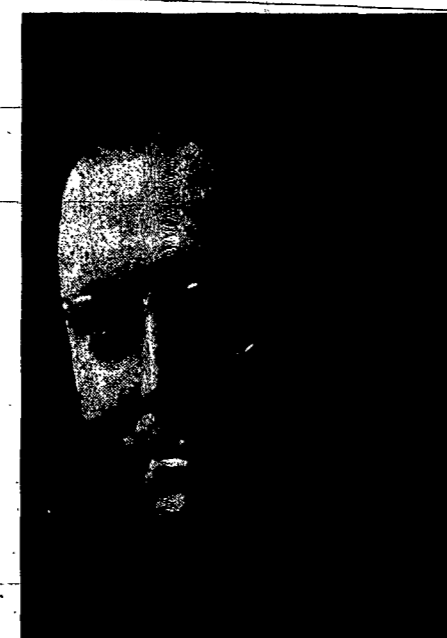
In his homily Bishop Sheen drew a parallel between Father Thomas' priesthood and Christ's crucifixion.

"When Christ died upon the cross," he said, "there was something finished about it all. But there also was something unfinished. His work was still to be done.

"So Father Thomas, in continuing the life of Christ, has something finished — he was a pastor of souls — and something unfinished."

"In the sudden but not unprovided death of Father Thomas, this became the truly great event of his life. And perhaps God is speaking to us in this and other events of sudden death. He is saying: 'Be loyal; be faithful.'"

Concelebrants of the Mass included Auxiliary Bishops John E. McCafferty and Dennis W. Hickey, and Fathers Emmett Halloyan, Otto Vogt, Robert C. McNamara, John Conley, Eugene Yarnock, James Gaughan, Joseph Keynouse, James Ruddy, Vincent Kilpatrick and James Larkin. Bishop McCafferty officiated at the graveside rites.



FATHER WILLIAM THOMAS

He was ordained June 3, 1950, by Bishop James E. Kearney in Sacred Heart Pro-Cathedral, Rochester.

His first assignment was as assistant pastor of St. Augustine's Church, Rochester. In June, 1955, he was appointed assistant at Immaculate Conception Church, Ithaca.

Five years later, in June 1960, he was named assistant at St. Vincent de Paul Church, Corning. While there he was chosen as moderator of the Corning Council, Rochester Diocesan Council of Catholic Women.

In June, 1965, Father Thomas was transferred to assistant pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Brighton, and on June 30, 1967, Bishop Sheen named him assistant at his home parish of St. Patrick's in Elmira.

Two weeks ago the Bishop appointed him to the Addison pastorate.

Effective date of the appointment was Oct. 8.

Father Thomas is survived by his mother in Elmira, and by a sister, Sister Mary Caroline, RDC, a Sister of the Divine Compassion serving in Somers in the Archdiocese of New York.

St. Bernard's To Be Host To Ministers

St. Bernard's Seminary will play host Sunday to 200 ministers and laymen invited by Colgate Rochester Divinity School/Bexley Hall.

Dr. Gene E. Bartlett, president of the latter, said the meeting was called because "so many things are happening on the campus... We need to know what people are thinking."

The guests will be encouraged in small group discussions to ask questions and express opinions, he explained, on such matters as "new black participation" and "pooling of resources in a theological center which involves St. Bernard's."

Father Joseph P. Brennan, seminary rector, said many of the people interested in Colgate Rochester probably had had no acquaintance with St. Bernard's, so he had grasped "a good opportunity to give them a first-hand look."

The meeting will begin at 8:30 p.m., with dinner at 6. The St. Bernard's faculty and several students will participate, with faculty, trustees and students from the divinity school.

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