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Bishop's Easter Message

From the empty tomb of the first Easter morn the Christian of every age derives his faith, his hope and the joy of his being. For that is his vocation — to be like the Apostles — living witnesses of the victory of the Risen Christ. St. Augustine expressed it beautifully in his definition of a Christian: He is an Alleluia from head to foot.

This world of 1970 so filled with darkness and despair stands in desperate need of the strong witness of Alleluia people. The challenge of the Risen Christ is this: "Do you believe that I am the Resurrection and the Life? Do you believe that I can show you a life that you will want to embrace now and live eternally?"

(Bishop going to South America, see Page 7)

For to live the fullness of the Easter message means to arise now from the death of our doubts, our sorrows, our resentments and our complaints. These form the heavy stone of selfishness that must be rolled away if we are to be liberated from our own entombment to which we seemingly cling so tenaciously.

For if we believe in the Resurrection of Christ we have to believe in our own resurrection. The victory of Christ is the source of faith not in a future life, but in life eternal. And if it is eternal, we must already be living it.

The measure of our joy this Easter is the degree of our willingness to die in a portion of ourselves in which we are too much alive — our agitations, our fears, our interests and our egotisms, and to rise to the portion of ourselves in which we are too dead—peace, faith, hope, pardon, love and joy.

Yes, we need Alleluia people who can give witness that it is possible to die and to rise again. For how can we expect this world to understand the Resurrection of Christ except by seeing our own resurrection? We bear the burden of proving the Resurrection of Christ. Let us fill the world with the Alleluias of our joyous hearts!

Joseph P. Hogan
Bishop of Rochester

Bishop Hogan Schedule for Holy Week

Bishop Hogan will officiate at Easter rites on Friday, Saturday and Sunday in Sacred Heart Cathedral and also will celebrate the Easter Mass for Shut-ins, broadcast from 8:30 to 9 a.m. over WHEC-TV (Ch. 10). The schedule at Cathedral:

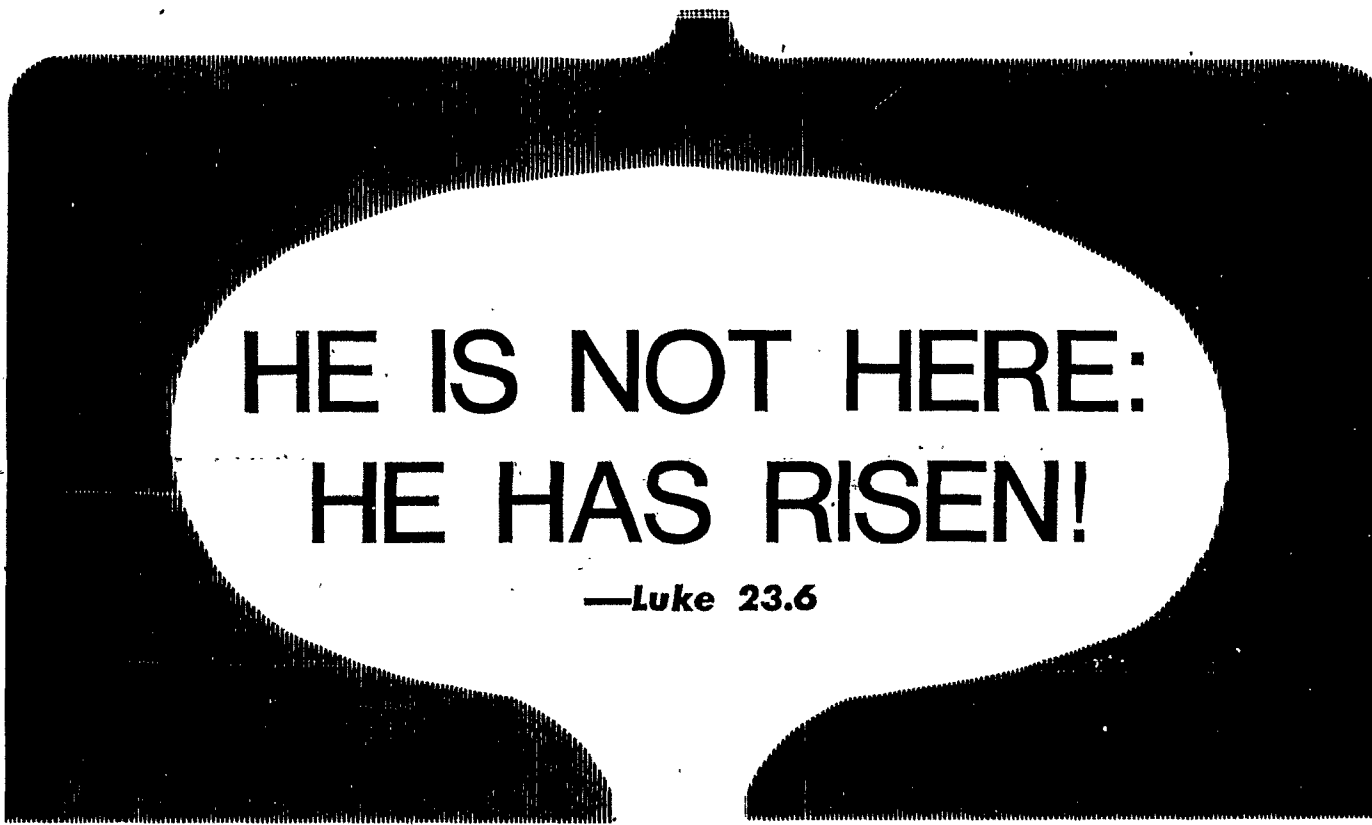
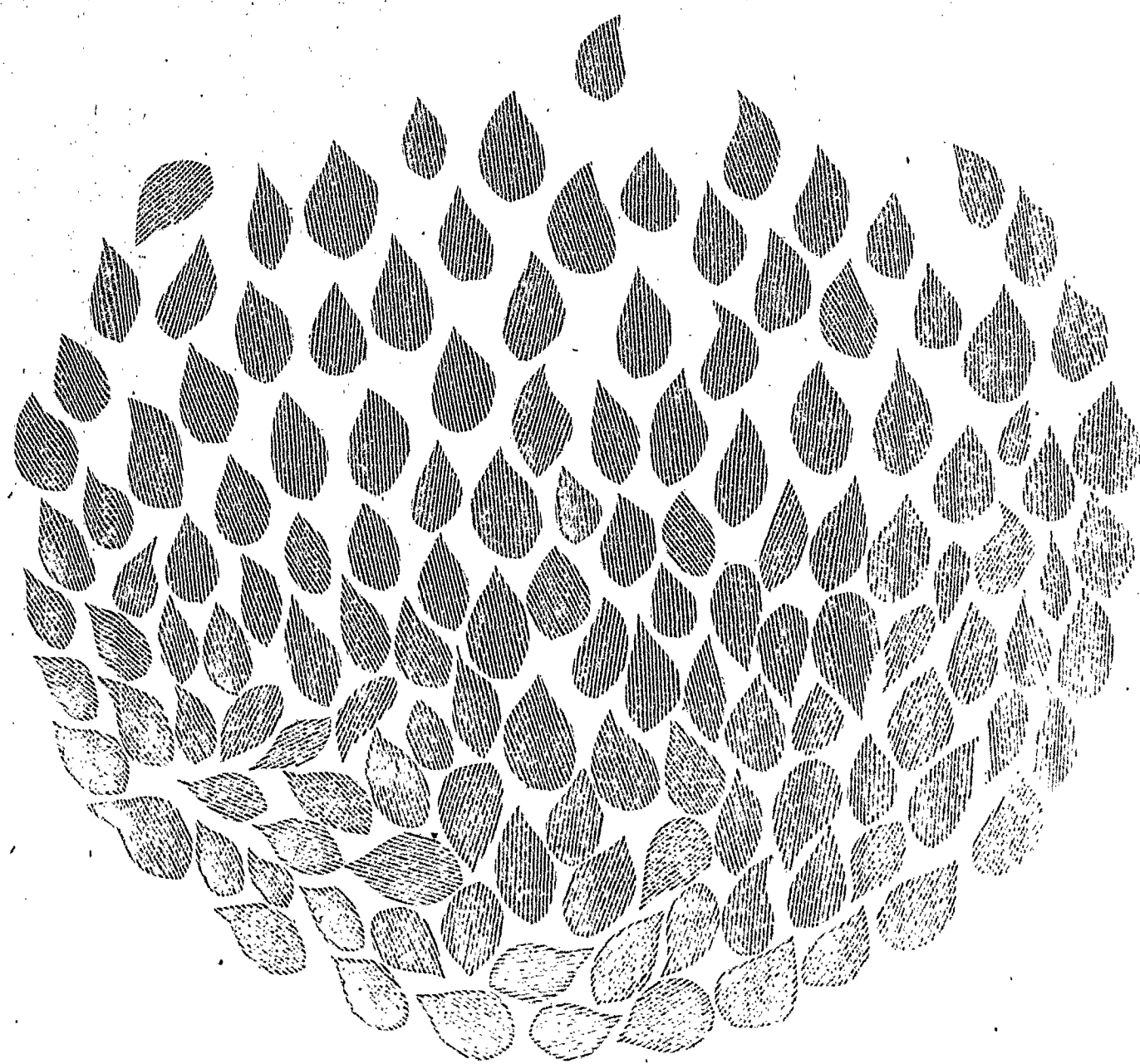
Good Friday — Liturgy, 1:30 p.m.; Holy Saturday — Easter Vigil service, 7:30 p.m.; Easter Sunday — Mass of the Resurrection, 10:15 a.m.

At the Easter Sunday Mass the Cathedral Boys' Choir, under direction of William Ferris, will perform works of Palestrina, Billings, Bach and Sowerby.

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.



Easter Art by John Dash

Parishes Asked to Stress Need for Better Housing

Plans to broaden interest in better housing throughout the diocese, particularly through expansion of the Bishop Sheen Housing Foundation, were announced this week by Bishop Hogan.

The Bishop stated that a board of directors for the housing foundation is being formed to include representation from all geographic areas of the 12-county diocese. The foundation, he said, will "expand its services to include the underprivileged in every part of the diocese whether urban or rural."

Bishop Sheen organized the foundation more than two years ago to help families in Rochester inner city districts secure adequate living quarters which offered better home environment. It provided motivation to families, including more than 100 responsibilities of home ownership if given financial assistance. Eighteen families, including more than 100 individuals, have been aided to date.

In a letter to pastors, Bishop Hogan stated that "it is only with the help of all parishes that we can hope to

move our society to provide decent homes." He listed five points by which pastors may help achieve this task:

- Acquaint your parishioners with the real need for better housing which exists in all parts of the diocese.
- Change personal and community attitudes toward implementing fair housing with appeals to the "Christian Brotherhood of Man" which makes us all "our brothers' keepers."
- Help to remove reluctant legislators who block housing legislation by being most articulate in your objections.
- As a parish, give financial support and assistance to the Bishop Sheen Housing Foundation. This support is most essential and crucial to its continuation.
- Encourage parishioners to be willing to serve when called upon to do special committee work or to become really involved by joining the special groups who do home visitation work.

Courier Adding Many New Features

When the Courier-Journal is transformed from its present standard size to a tabloid format with its April 8 edition there will be more changes than directly meet the eye.

In addition to the easier-to-read, magazine style of the tabloid and the new delivery date of Wednesday, there will be many new features.

One of the additions will be a weekly "Know Your Faith" feature written by some of the leading lights of the Church who will explain the Church's role in view of contemporary issues as well as age-old moral positions.

Several columnists will join the paper, including

Frank Morriss, one of the most reasoned voices of Catholic journalism.

Widely known as a lecturer and author, Morriss is former editor of the National Register and was founding editor of Twin Circle. He has written six books and has been honored twice by the Freedoms Foundation.

The Courier-Journal is lining up a wide range of other columnists in an effort to provide clear and balanced information for its readers.

The paper also plans more extensive coverage of diocesan events and special photo-journalistic features weekly.

Another important change will be moving up the delivery date from Friday to Wednesday to provide a more convenient reading time.

Abortion Repeal Fate Rests with Assembly, Rocky

Albany — The abortion repeal bill approved last week by the State Senate was scheduled for Holy Week action by the Assembly.

If the Assembly follows the Senate lead the bill will then go to Gov. Rockefeller for his signature. The governor previously has stated that he favors changing the abortion law.

A legislative spokesman in Albany said that "unless there is a lot of mind-changing the bill will blow right through the Assembly."

Meanwhile, the state's 25 Catholic bishops have told members of the legislature that "fundamental moral principles" compel them to speak out on abortion because "the overriding moral consideration . . . is human life, its dignity, its quality."

In another development, the State Medical Society through a newsletter concerned with legislative happenings repeated its opposition to the bill presently at issue.

The medical society fears a lack of medical safeguards makes the legislation dangerous. The stand was read during debate in the Senate which passed the bill, 31-26.

After the Senate action, Charles J. Tobin, secretary, New York State Catholic Committee, stated:

"This bill attacks the child instead of the problem. The problem is not solved by the destruction of the child in the womb, but by a concerted effort to help those women who need help in ways consistent with the human individual's right to life.

"Under our present system the legislature is charged with working for the good of all people. Abortion works for the death of some people — the voiceless and defenseless. What needs attention, the Catholic Committee believes, are the problems which bring about the desires of some mothers to do away with their unborn children."

The bill would enable a woman to obtain an abortion after consultation with a physician. It places no provisions on when and where an abortion may be performed. Opponents claim it permits abortion on demand, since no grounds for abortion are stipulated in the measure.

The bill provides that if a pill is developed which could induce an abortion, its use would be legal if prescribed by a licensed physician.

The bill placed no time limit on

when an abortion may be performed; has no provision about where an abortion may be performed; has no residence requirement, which permits an expectant mother of any age to come to the state for an abortion.

The bill would permit an expectant mother to abort a child without reference to the wishes or desires of her husband, or the child's father.

'A Tragedy,' Bishops Say

Albany — The Catholic bishops of New York State issued a scathing denunciation of the action taken by the State Senate in passing the abortion repeal bill last week.

"We are shocked and alarmed at such action by the majority of the Senate," the bishops declared.

They termed the action "a great tragedy" and urged the Assembly to "repudiate this action promptly."

They warned:

"Such legislation will not only destroy the right to life but will contribute greatly to the future decline of morally within our society."

The prelates added:

"We affirm the principles expressed in the United Nations' Declaration on the Rights of Child that the child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care including proper legal protection before as well as after birth. Government must safeguard and preserve the right of innocent human beings to life. It comes from God himself."

Unit Attacks 'Taking of Human Life'

The local committee of the national Right-to-Life Committee issued a statement agreeing with those senators who opposed the new abortion legislation on grounds it sanctioned the killing of a human being.

Headed by attorney Robert J. Edelman and Dr. Thomas Sweeney and coordinated by Father L. John Hedges, the committee stated it could not condone the taking of another person's life and most especially deplored the taking of a defenseless child's life.

In a statement to the Courier-Journal, Dr. Sweeney said:

(Continued on Page 3)

How They Voted

These area senators voted for the abortion repeal:

Sen. Theodore D. Day, R., 49th District.

Sen. Thomas Laverne, R., 50th District.

Sen. James E. Powers, D., 51st District.

Sen. William T. Smith, R., 48th District.

Voting against repeal was:

Sen. Thomas F. McGowan, R., 54th District.



Here Comes The Band

Drum Majorette Pat Conlon strikes up the Bishop Kearney High School Band at St. Vincent's School, Glasnevin, Ireland, during the band's St. Patrick's Day tour. At right is Ray Shahin, band director. The 110-member band, 11 majorettes and 11 color guards marched for the second time in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin, Ireland. They were reported to have drawn the most applause along the route. Last week the Kearney band returned home with the award for overseas parade participants for the second year in a row.