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2 Sections



Holy Humor!

Definitely not one of your straight-laced ecclesiastical leaders, Archbishop Michael Ramsey of Canterbury (right) breaks up with laughter during a visit with newly-consecrated Bishop Robin Woods of Worcester. (RNS)

Lenten Thoughts

We Are God's Chosen

This is the second of a series of Lenten messages written for Courier-Journal readers by pastors from throughout the diocese. Father Raymond M. Wuest is pastor of St. Alphonsus Church, Auburn.

By FATHER RAYMOND M. WUEST

Saying "We are Christians" perhaps is as important to many as saying we are Americans, we are Germans, we are Irish, we are Italians. But as every sincere Christian knows and as St. Paul reminds us ("If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation"—2 Corinthians 5:17), to be a Christian means something quite different.

It means that our relationship with God and the whole meaning of life has been radically changed. God's Divine Plan reached its climax in the passion, death, and resurrection of Christ. Consequently,

as a result of this plan, we are no longer mere human beings. We have been raised up to be the adopted sons of God.

By Baptism we are already citizens of God's earthly Kingdom, and have become heirs of His Heavenly Kingdom. Because the Son of God became man, and thereafter, one of us, we have been made brothers of His and sons of God. Since we are sons of God, we have a legal right to eternal happiness and are therefore heirs of heaven. This is an outright gift of God's infinite love, for us. We could have no way of earning in whatsoever.

God had this plan for our eternal happiness in mind before creation began. He put His signature to it and sealed it by the passion, death, and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. At the time of his baptism, each Christian is handed his bill of rights, his guarantee of eternal citizenship, along with the map which shows him the road he must travel to reach his eternal kingdom.

But reading and following

the road map is difficult for many of us. It's the part that many like the least. We let God know that we are thankful to Him for what He has done for us. We are grateful to His Son for offering His life for us that we might have this new life. We are most pleased with the privilege of adoption of God as His sons and the promise of the possibility of having a part in His eternal Kingdom.

But many of us get sleepy along the road and become faint-hearted along the way. We realize that we have been raised above our mere human nature and received a new place in God's relationship. We also know and feel that we are still quite human and naturally attracted to the things of this world.

However, we, at the same time, must understand that we have an obligation to overcome this natural attraction. St. Paul tells us to be reconciled to God. We must resign our wills to His Divine Will.

During the Lenten Season, we have an excellent opportunity

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The Bishop's Back From Alabama

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Major Step

Diocese Joins Ecumenical Unit

The diocese made a major move in Christian ecumenism last week by accepting membership in the Genesee Ecumenical Ministry (GEM), successor to the Rochester Area Council of Churches.

The Diocesan Priests' Senate, in their monthly meeting on March 2 at Becket Hall, voted that "the diocese signify its intention of becoming a full member of GEM."

The Senate urged that Bishop Hogan immediately appoint the six representatives allotted to the Roman Catholic denomination by the GEM constitution and that "they be given sufficient power to act in the name of the diocese in all future discussions."

Bishop Hogan, visiting the hospital and school in Selma, Ala., staffed by the diocesan Sisters of St. Joseph, when the Senate met, immediately expressed his pleasure and gratitude for the vote. He indicated that the GEM board members he would designate would include laity and Sisters with priests.

The Senate resolution specifically noted that GEM's membership of denominations does not reach out geographically to all the 12 counties of the diocese. To forestall concern that diocesan ecumenical activity might be limited to the counties contiguous to Monroe, the Senate added: "The diocese

will continue to participate in other ecumenical endeavors in all regions of the diocese."

This was the third time that membership in the new area Christian association had been discussed by the Priests' Senate.

Bishop Hogan originally presented the proposal last Fall to the Senate which left office in December. When they came to no conclusion, asking for more time to study questions about the GEM constitution and the required financing by the diocese, he held the issue over to the February meeting of the newly-elected Senate.

The Rev. Robert Wainright, pastor of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Rochester, and interim president of GEM, addressed the Senate, accompanied by seven ministers associated with the new organization and made a formal presentation of the invitation to membership.

The Rochester Area Council of Churches, which was structured by some 250 individual Protestant church congregation was disbanded last Dec. 31.

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Why Parochialism?

By GOV. NELSON ROCKEFELLER

Some have asked how we can support more aid to private schools this year with the public schools having such problems. The answer is blunt and pragmatic:

Without help, many of these nonpublic schools face actual collapse.

And when they fail, their burden falls directly onto the public schools.

Far better to give some help to keep these schools afloat than to have their costs descend on already overburdened public schools.

Editor's Note: The Catholic bishops of New York State agree with the governor. They, however, see the Parent-Aid Bill as the best approach, a position the governor does not share.

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Auxiliary Named

It was learned unofficially at press time that Msgr. Francis J. Harrison, pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Binghamton, has been named auxiliary Bishop-elect for the Diocese of Syracuse to assist Bishop Walter Cunningham.

Msgr. Harrison was ordained from St. Bernard's Seminary in 1937.