



MRS. NINO TRUNFIO

Birthright Office Established

(Continued from Page 1A)

partment of Social Services, Catholic Family Center, North Haven and hospital clinics. Also available to the mother are a volunteer corps of physicians, willing to give pre- and post-natal care to those eligible for other assistance.

Getting better housing, employment, welfare benefits, and day care service for the mother who decides to keep her child will be a part of the Birthright program.

"It all depends on the needs of those whom we help," Mrs. Jesmer said. "Birthright will be involved in exploring all the avenues of aid possible for both mother and child."

School Rulings To Be Studied, Official Says

With the news Monday that the Supreme Court had declared school aid programs in Pennsylvania and Rhode Island unconstitutional, Charles J. Tobin Jr., secretary of the State Catholic Committee, issued this statement:

"The Supreme Court decisions handed down today constitute another stage in the development of programs of aid to parents and students in non-public schools.

"We will be interested in carefully studying these opinions to find guidelines for future developments in the aid to education field.

"We are aware that Pennsylvania and Rhode Island statutes declared unconstitutional differ significantly from aid programs enacted in New York and in other states in the last several years.

"We continue to be confident that meaningful programs of assistance will prevail within the framework of these and other decisions of the Supreme Court."

COURIER-JOURNAL

Volume 84 No. 39 June 30, 1971

Published weekly by the Rochester Catholic Press Association. Subscription rates: Single copy 15c; 1 year subscription in U.S., \$6.00; Canada and South America, \$8.50; other foreign countries, \$9.50. Offices, 35 Scio St., Rochester, N.Y., 14604, (716) 454-7050. Second class postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.

Courier-Journal

Pension Payments for Laity Begin

(Continued from Page 1A)

to devise a pension plan for diocesan lay employees.

During the administration of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen the finalization of this plan took effect.

In May 1968, in a letter to the people, Bishop Sheen stated: "The Church, in its turn, is mindful of its obligations to all laity who serve the church as employees. To this end, the Diocese of Rochester has founded a Pension Plan to help all lay employees in their retirement. May this be a sign and token of our deep unity as the People of God."

The original projection of the pension plan showed that no employees would be able to be pensioned until five years of funding had elapsed. But through the efforts of Hart & Keenan along with the controller of the diocese, John A. Ritzenthaler, the diocese is able to make payments two years ahead of the original plan.

"It is quite gratifying," Ritzenthaler said, "to Bishop Hogan and his staff that as of July 1, 1971, some 100 faithful and conscientious employees will be receiving a monthly pension from the fund."

"The first payment which has been given to those people amounts to approximately \$3,200," Ritzenthaler explained.

"The minimum payment for those with 20 years or more service is \$50 per month" he continued, "and those having less than 20 years will get a proportionate share, according to their salary and years of service."

The plan works as follows: to be eligible a new employee must have at least three years of service and have attained the age of 25; any new employee past age 50 would have to check with pension administrators for eligibility requirements.

If for any reason service with the diocese is terminated prior to retirement, no income will

be provided unless age 60 is attained with 15 or more years of continuous service, or the applicant has become totally and permanently disabled and continues to be disabled until normal retirement date.

If employees have met one of these requirements upon termination they will be entitled to receive a retirement income,

beginning on the normal retirement date, equal to the full amount of benefit accumulated to the termination date.

Ritzenthaler further commented, "The plan will be completely and continuously analyzed in the hopes of keeping abreast of economic changes to insure that pensions rise with the cost of living."

Courier Q & A

Q. — Is an impure thought or listening to an impure story, really a mortal sin? I think it would help many people if you would list the REALLY MORTAL sins?

A. — The reliable catechism definition that a mortal sin is a serious offense against the law of God included the points that the action, thought or desire, had to be seriously evil in itself, and that the person had to have sufficient reflection on the morality of the issue and give full internal consent to the evil. These criteria still hold in moral theology. But we are more clearly aware today that the individual alone can make a precise indictment of his own inner reflection on and his approval of the evil. So any "objective" listing of mortal sins of thought will always be conditioned by the "subjective elements" of reflection and will-approval. It's wrong to say, generally, that "a bad thought is a mortal sin." Referring to your first sentence: the possibility of the bad thought being fleeting or obscure or unwanted or unexpected would make the case very different from a bad thought deliberately built up, enlarged by concentration, looking or reading, and deeply enjoyed even while conscience might be signalling dangers.

Father Damasus Dies, Founded Monastery

Elmira — Very Rev. Damasus Winzen, 70, founder of the Benedictine monastery at Mount Saviour west of here, was buried today on the monastery grounds following Mass of the Resurrection celebrated by Father Martin Boler, OSB, Prior and superior of the monastery.

Father Martin, who also preached the homily, was assisted by fourteen concelebrants of the Eucharist: Auxiliary Bishop John E. McCafferty of Elmira; Abbot Jerome Burke, Trappist from Piffard monastery of Our Lady of the Genesee; Father Cyril Guise, Carmelite Prior of the Monastery of St. John, Waverly; Abbot Martin Burn, Benedictine from St. Martin's Abbey, Morristown, N.J.; Abbot Leo Rudloff and Prior John Hammond from St. Gabriel's Priory, Weston, Vermont; and other monks of the Mt. Saviour community and diocesan priest-friends of Father Damasus.

Father Damasus, world-renowned for his influence in the liturgical movement in the '40's and '50's, died unexpectedly Saturday, July 26, at the monastery.

He had been retired from active administration of the religious community since 1969.

As the author of several books on liturgy, theology and scripture and as a retreat master for the past three decades, his presence as prior of Mount Saviour for 20 years made the monastery famous.

Born in Hanover, Germany, in 1901, he entered the Benedictines at Maria Laach Monastery in 1921. He was ordained in 1928 following studies at Sant' Anselmo, Rome, where he



FATHER DAMASUS

earned a doctorate in philosophy.

While teaching philosophy at Maria Laach Philosophical Academy, and later serving as Rector there, Father Damasus was active in the German Catholic youth movement just prior to World War II. He came to the U.S. in 1938.

Professor of philosophy at Darlington Seminary from '38-'41, and then founder of St. Paul's Priory near Perth Amboy, N.J., '41-'46, he was chaplain at the Benedictine nuns convent at Regina Laudis near Bethlehem, Conn., from '46-'49.

During this period he also lectured at Manhattanville College in New York City, gave retreats all over the East and wrote "Symbols of Christ" and "Pathways in Holy Scripture."

Father Damasus founded Mount Saviour in the hills of Pine City just west of Elmira in the spring of 1951 at the request of Bishop James E. Kearney and with the permission of Rome.

Basil Vaillancourt Retires in Elmira

Elmira—Basil J. Vaillancourt of West Water Street, the Courier-Journal's Elmira representative for 30 years, will retire July 1, it was announced by Anthony J. Costello, Courier-Journal manager.

Vaillancourt did both advertising and reporting for the diocesan newspaper. For the past few months he had concentrated on advertising, working out of an office in the Robinson Building on Lake St.

David Werner will be the new Courier advertising representative in Elmira.

Vaillancourt came here from Detroit in 1919 and married an Elmira girl, Anna Murphy, the

next year. They celebrated their 51st anniversary on June 14. Msgr. James J. Bloomer, first pastor, officiated at the wedding in St. Patrick's Church, to which they still belong.

An active member of the Knights of Columbus, Vaillancourt served 16 years in local and state offices. He is a past grand knight of Elmira Council and a former district deputy for the 52nd district. A member also of the Elmira Assembly of the Fourth Degree, he was master of the Fourth Degree for the diocese from 1946 until 1956.

He has a brother, Edward, in California and a sister, Mrs. Lloyd Kerbyson of Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Wednesday, June 30, 1971



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