



Open Windows Ivy leaves growing across the screen of an open window make a simple summertime motif.

Photo by Laurence E. Keefe

AOH Hears Lynch

IRA Violence Is Assailed

Dublin (RNS) — The problem of Northern Ireland loomed large over the 76th national biennial convention of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) which has just concluded here. It was the first time the convention had assembled in Ireland.

More than 2,000 members, with their wives and families, heard Prime Minister Jack Lynch tell them that the immediate issue in the North is to bind up the wounds, to find some sense of community, and to bring conviction that the gun does not bring unity.

Lynch said that a settlement of the Northern Ireland problem must leave the way open ultimately to "a new and more comprehensive Irish identity." That "identity" must bring unity in diversity, but would need changes in concepts of being Irish, and changes in Ireland's political institutions, he said.

The Prime Minister also attacked the Irish Republican Army (IRA) "Provisionals," whose actions, he said, were anathema to the men of the old IRA, who fought for freedom over 50 years ago.

"As a result of the efforts of the men and women of half a century ago," he added, "we have a sovereign independent

Parliament with jurisdiction over four fifths of our land.

"Almost the entire complement of these men and women decided that future progress could be made only by peaceful means and by using and building on these institutions to advance our economy and speed the day of reconciliation.

"The violent men in the North and those who support them undermine our institutions, destroy our economy and retard the day of reconciliation."

During the three-day convention a resolution calling for a United Ireland and an end to violence in the North was passed by the Hibernians.

Another proposal to boost the

Irish economy by investing AOH funds in Irish businesses has been referred to the national board.

AOH vice president Jack Keane of St. Louis, one of the backers of the proposal, said he felt the order had been neglecting its obligation to Ireland, that the original aim of a "Free United" country had been forgotten. He said that if Ireland had the money it could afford to take in the six counties of the North, now divided off by partition.

President Eamon de Valera attended a Mass in St. Mary's church, which opened the convention. The Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Dermot Ryan of Dublin, and Bishop Vincent M. Leonard of Pittsburgh, Pa.

'Pedal for the Puddle' Set by Holy Ghost Kids

Holy Ghost's Youth Club will sponsor a bicycle hike to raise money for the Elmira-Corning Relief Fund.

Adults as well as youths are invited to "Pedal for the Puddle," Aug. 27, Sunday, 4:30 p.m. at Holy Ghost's parking lot, 220

Coldwater Road in Gates.

All proceeds will go to the Elmira-Corning Relief Fund.

Sponsor sheets can be obtained from the Holy Ghost Rectory. A rain date is set for the following Sunday, Sept. 3.

Group Anointing of Sick Is Held Experimentally

Orlando, Fla. — (CPF) — An experimental mass anointing of the sick and the aged was conducted in a parish here recently.

More than 500 members of St. James parish — plus many other sick and elderly people from nearby parishes — were anointed and prayed over during a votive Mass for the sick concelebrated by the parish priests.

The ceremony was approved by Orlando's Bishop William D. Borders and based in part on a 1969 anointing ceremony sanctioned by the Vatican for use at Lourdes.

During the liturgy, one parishioner told his fellow worshippers

that he believed the Lord had healed him of a weeklong internal hemorrhage, the source of which had mystified doctors.

After the priests had offered the Church's traditional prayers for the sick and the elderly, the people filed up to several places at the entrance of the sanctuary for the anointing on the forehead and hands with the oil of the sick.

The priests and lay servers then distributed a flower to each person who had been anointed.

Because the Church forbids the anointing sacrament to be given more than once for the

same illness, the priests met with the people before the Liturgy to ascertain who wished to be anointed and to have them fill out cards for the church's records.

In addition, the Sacrament of Penance was available before the Mass.

Father Robert Traupman, diocesan liturgical coordinator, noting that the anointing sacrament is normally given privately, said he believed that "the community setting is perfect because it is a welling up of prayer of praise."

"What we experienced today," he said following the special

liturgy, "was this community's recognition that God is always doing things for us and we therefore live in an expectancy that He will continue to lift us up."

Father David P. Page, pastor, told his parishioners during the week preceding the special service that "the anointing is specifically for healing of the body and so should be administered, not at the last moment before death, but rather as soon as the sickness is determined to be serious."

In fact, one of the priests who celebrated the Mass said just before it ended that anyone who

believed they had been healed should contact one of the parish priests so that such testimony might be used at future services.

One parishioner, upon leaving the church after the unusual ceremony, remarked:

"For the first time, I saw a different kind of Church. I saw the suffering Church, the weak and sick Church. For these two hours, we were united in a special way — expressing sorrow, giving and receiving forgiveness, admitting our dependence upon and our trust in our common Father and acclaiming that He could and would heal us."

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — A leading Catholic Church spokesman here declared that "most Catholic Christians are not sufficiently enriched by what they hear from Church pulpits" and urged priests in America to address themselves to a renewal in Gospel preaching.

Advocating attendance at the upcoming National Congress on the Word of God Sept. 5 to 7 at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, Bishop Joseph L. Bernardin said the nation's priests and all the People of God must "come together to witness the power of the Word of God to resolve the crisis of faith."

The prelate, who is general secretary of both the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the U.S. Catholic Conference, noted that "the thrust of the Congress is toward a theology of Biblical preaching — preaching . . . rooted in revealed truths rather than in human rhetoric . . ."

Bishop Bernardin said Pope Paul set the stage for the Congress several years ago when he observed: "If the faith fails to find any believers, is this because it is taught in an old, abstruse way, cut off from life and contrary to the tendencies and tastes of today? Ought we not to renew the kerygma — the announcement of the Christian message — if we want to find hearers and

followers." The bishop went on:

"Scriptural, theological and historical evidence argue that preaching is the foundation of the Church's life of faith, but the sobering fact is that most Catholic Christians are not sufficiently enriched by what they hear from Church pulpits, their major channel of contact with Christian truth."

Speaking directly to "brother priests," Bishop Bernardin urged participation in "this great celebration of the Gospel message and the renewal of its preaching; the Congress seeks to make specific application of revealed truths to the life of the Church."

The Congress will feature several well-known homilists at the Masses or as principal speakers during Congress general sessions. Among these will be Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, former bishop of Rochester.

HUD HELP

Elmira — People whose homes were ruined by the flood were reminded this week that they may qualify for temporary housing supplied through the U.S. Department of Urban Development. (HUD).

The agency still is taking applications at three centers here, and has an information number — 734-1854.