

# The Roman Holy Year Churches:

By Father Robert F. McNamara

When the first official Holy Year pilgrimage was announced in 1300 A.D., the thousands of pilgrims who came to Rome were required to visit not four, but only two of the major basilicas or churches. But these were the obvious choices: one was the church of St. Peter, the other the church of St. Paul. Here were buried the founder of the see of Rome and his apostolic associate, St. Paul. If the see of Rome is called the "Apostolic See", it is because these two greatest of apostles worked and were martyred here.

Let's have a look today at the basilica of St. Paul, usually referred to as "St. Paul's - outside-the-Walls." (In older English this was translated "St. Paul's - without-the walls"; but "without" can be too easily misinterpreted!) It is actually some distance outside the ancient walls of Rome, and for a reason. Peter was executed near Vatican Hill and buried close to the place of his death. Paul was beheaded over three miles outside the walls on the road leading to Ostia, at a place now called Tre Fontane. The faithful apparently could not bury him at this site, so they brought the body back a couple of miles to where there was already a cemetery and en-

tombed him there. This is the location of the present basilica.

Even during the period of the Roman persecutions, the popes were able to build a little chapel over the tomb of St. Paul to serve as a memorial to him. When peace came to the Church after 312 A.D., the Emperor Constantine himself erected a small church whose altar rested above the Apostle's tomb. I say "small" church: the distance between the tomb and the Ostian Highway was too short for a long church, if the church were to face east, as was customary.

But St. Paul, apostle to all the world, surely deserved a big church. Therefore the Roman emperors Theodosius and Honorius between 386 and 395, erected a great basilica on the present floorplan, now facing west. It had four rows of internal columns and an over-all length of 411 feet. The central nave terminated in a "triumphal arch," decorated in 440 with the mosaics that are still in place. Among the decorations of the old basilica there was also a frieze of portraits of each of the popes, which has been continued to the present.

In 1823, the roof of this great church, now over 1400 years old, accidentally caught fire. The fire

ruined most of the building, and its treasures, reducing even the vast white marble columns into crumbled dust. Pope Pius VII lay dying at the very moment of the fire. Originally a monk in the monastery attached to St. Paul's, he would have suffered a great shock had he been informed of the disaster; so it was not communicated to him.

Pope Leo XII, who succeeded Pius VII, began the movement to reconstruct. The new St. Paul's, following the same lines and incorporating what was left from the old basilica, was solemnly consecrated by Pope Pius IX on Dec. 10, 1854 — two days after he had defined the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. Today it still looks "new," compared to some of the older churches in the Eternal City.

Like the other basilicas, St. Paul's has many memories of saints. St. Bridget of Sweden used to pray here before a medieval crucifix which is still venerated in one of the chapels. St. Frances of Rome came here, on Lenten weekdays to associate with the poor and give them alms. St. Ignatius Loyola, founder of the Jesuits, and his first companions in that order, made their solemn profession here in 1541.

The center of attention,

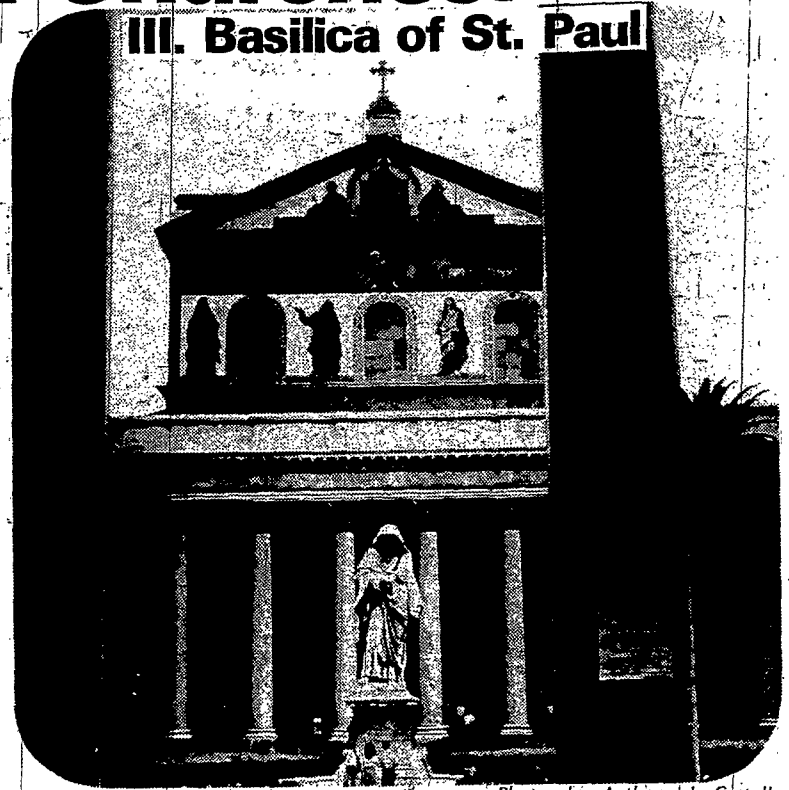


Photo by Anthony J. Costello

however, is the altar of St. Paul. Under a 13th Century Gothic marble canopy, stands the altar that surmounts the Apostle's grave. The tomb itself is marked by an inscription from the fourth century: "To Paul, Apostle and Martyr."

Let us enter this "new" basilica, in spirit, across the great square

colonnade that fronts it, across the threshold of the pilgrims' Holy Door, along the forest of granite pillars, to pray gratefully at the tomb of the martyred apostle, who described himself as "Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles." We are the Gentiles. We owe our faith and our gratitude to his chains.

## Priests Council Covers Wide Range of Topics

A number of topics came under the scrutiny of the newly-seated Priests Council last week ranging from the Attica indictments to the representation of religious orders on the council, from world hunger to a revision of marriage guidelines in the diocese, from the National Catechetical Directory to the Church's celebration of the nation's bicentennial.

The council, which meets once

a month, formally promulgated Process A to parishes. Process A is a program of conflict resolution in diocesan decision making.

In other action, the council decided to retain two representatives of Religious order priest in the diocese and to vote to include two more.

Father Robert Collins, director of the Family Life Office, presented the council with a

revision of diocesan marriage guidelines, which the body has sent out to priests for comment.

In social actions, Fathers Winfried Kellner, John Mulligan and Ronald Stacy presented information and resolutions to the group.

Father Kellner gave a report on world hunger with information to be disseminated throughout the diocese. Bishop Joseph L. Hogan

will be reviewing data and suggestions returning from the diocese to determine the local Church's response to the problem.

Father John Mulligan presented a resolution calling, basically for joint personnel planning. He requested the Bishop to call a meeting of personnel boards to work out a procedure for joint planning in ministries.

Father Ronald Stacy presented the council with a resolution calling for the dropping of indictments in the Attica Prison riot case.

These two resolutions have been distributed to the priests for discussion. Father Stacy hopes for a vote on the Attica resolution at the May meeting.

Father Peter Bayer, diocesan director of planning, presented a document on a procedure for closing of convents. And Father Robert Kanka and Sister Mary John Van Atta, SSJ, discussed the need for inter-discussion between the diocesan Sisters Council and the Priests Council.

Father Douglas Hoffman, director of Pastoral Ministry, brought Study B of a project resolving long range ministerial needs to the group's attention.

Materials on the developing National Catechetical Directory and on plans for the nation's bicentennial also were presented.

According to Father John Hempel, council secretary, the meeting was characterized by the reactivation of issues unresolved by preceding priests councils.

## COURIER-CALENDAR

**St. Augustine** — Bread baking seminar, 9:30 a.m.-noon Saturday, April 19. No charge. Reservations today with Chris Schramm, 235-4863; Mary Maher, 235-5085.

**St. Boniface** — Cub Pack Circus, 7-9 p.m. Friday, April 18.

**St. Louis** — Guild luncheon fashion show, 11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 26, Locust Hill Country Club. Mrs. John Mallett in charge. \$4.50.

**St. John's, Spencerport** — Marriage Encounter information night, 8 p.m. Friday, April 18, rectory PAC room. For further details: Jack and Elaine Kovaleski, 352-0338.

**St. John's Spencerport** — Budget Boutique open to public Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. in white schoolhouse across from church; used clothing bought and sold, under auspices of Christian Women's Club.

**Holy Name of Jesus** — Our Lady's Guild, 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 22, recreation building. Speaker from Chamber of Commerce, on safety on the streets; election of officers.

**St. Stanislaus** — Rummage Sale, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday, April 19. 7-noon Sunday.

**St. Margaret Mary** — Discussion on drugs, alcohol, with Dr. Douglas Evans of Rochester Mental Health Center and David Grossi, Irondequoit police investigator, 7:45 p.m. Wednesday, April 26, school library, 401 Rogers Pkwy. Sponsored by human development committee. Public.

**Our Lady of Good Counsel** — Garage sale Saturday, April 19, sponsored by Parents Club.

**St. Charles Borromeo** — Spring dinner dance, 6:30 p.m. Friday, April 25, Braemar Country Club, Ridge Road West. Tickets after Masses April 19, 20.

**Legion of Mary** — Actes ceremony rescheduled to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, April 20, Good Counsel Church.

**Church Women United** — Hunger Task Force meeting, 9:30 a.m. Monday, April 21, Episcopal Church of the Annunciation, 1957 Five Mile Line Road, Penfield; Father Daniel Tormey speaker.

**Nazareth Hall Parents Club** — Monthly meeting, fashion show, 8 p.m. tomorrow, 180 Raines Park; Mr. and Mrs. William Milne in charge.

**80th Seton Branch** — Meeting tonight at 8:30 with Mrs. William Taylor, Dauntion Drive.

**Southwest Golden Age Group** — Meeting at 34 Monica St., 1:30 p.m. Friday, April 18.

**Antiques** — 26th annual show and sale, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 13 Vick Park B, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. tomorrow, April 17; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday, April 18. Admission \$1. Lunch served 11:30-1:30.

**Arts and Crafts** — Senior Citizens' show and sale of their own work, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Sunday, April 19, 20, Rochester

Museum's Eisenhart Auditorium, 657 East Ave.; demonstrations and talks on various crafts.

**Next-to-New** — Annual sale, Allendale-Columbia schools, 519 Allen's Creek Road, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, April 23, 24; 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Friday, April 25; 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, April 26.

**Service for Unemployed Persons** — Free workshop 10 a.m. every Wednesday on preparing resumes, interviews, available benefits; Webster Presbyterian Church, 550 Webster-Nine Mile Point Road.

**Ariosto Night** — Celebration in the name of Ludovico Ariosto, Renaissance poet, 7:30 tonight, Basil Hall auditorium, St. John Fisher College. Readings from Orlando Furioso; slides, music, reception in Haffey lounge, sponsored by Italian department and Italian Club. Free.

**'Chain - To Life!** — Award-winning documentary on a century of Jewish life in Russia and Poland, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Sunday, Jewish Community Center, 1200 Edgewood Ave. Free.

**Who Killed Kennedy?** — Lecture by Mark Lane, author of Rush to Judgment plus Zapruder film of the late president's assassination, 7:30 p.m. tomorrow, Basil Hall auditorium, St. John Fisher College. Free.

**Letter Carriers Show** — Featuring Phil Foster and LIFE group, 8:30 p.m. Saturday, April 19, Rochester War Memorial; Len Hawley's band for dancing. Tickets \$5 per couple at box office, for Letter Carriers Benevolent Association.

**The Death and Life of Sneaky Fitch** — Irondequoit Community Players production, 8:30 p.m. Friday, Saturday, April 18, 19, Eastridge High School, 2350 E. Ridge Road.

**Fine Arts at SUC Brockport** — Student art show, fine Arts Gallery, April 18-May 11. Theatre in der Josephstadt performances: Das Konzert, by Herman Bahr, 8:30 p.m. tomorrow; Six Characters in Search of an Author, by Luigi Pirandello, 8:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 18, 19, Fine Arts Theatre. Student dance concert, 8:30 p.m. April 18, 19, Hartwell Auditorium; Clarinet Choir concert, 8:30 p.m. Sunday, April 20, Fine Arts lobby.

**Upstate Artists** — Portraits by Tamara Bogdanovich, Margaret Christiana, Christopher Baker at Muggleton Gallery, 7 William St., Auburn, through May 3, weekdays 10-5, except Wednesdays; Sundays 2-5.

**Murray Louis and Company** — Male dancers, 8:30 p.m. April 18, 19, Nazareth Arts Center.

**Sew and Show** — Spring and Summer fashions, fabrics, sewing demonstration, 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 23, Kearney Auditorium, St. John Fisher College; sponsored by Seton Branch 68. \$1.25, benefit of St. Mary's Hospital.

**Israel's 27th Anniversary** — Zvi Zeitlin, violin, accompanied by chamber orchestra; intermission talk by Azaria Rapoport of Consulate General of Israel in New York. Tonight at 8, Temple Beth El, 139 S. Winton. Free.

### Deadline

Calendar items should be mailed to the Courier-Journal Calendar Desk, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. Deadline is Wednesday noon, one week ahead of the publication date.

## Sisters Look Critically At Attica Prosecution

The Diocesan Sisters Council has endorsed the view that justice cannot be accomplished by continuing the prosecution of the Attica riot cases.

Carolyn Micklem of the Judicial Process Commission brought the matter to the Sisters' monthly meeting Saturday at the Mercy Motherhouse.

The commission, an agency of the Genesee Ecumenical Ministries, has been seeking public support for its opinion that "the books should be closed on that tragic series of events" that took place in September, 1971. The Sisters voted their support after Mrs. Micklem explained the basic arguments presented last June to the governor and the attorney general. Delays caused by the state constitute a denial of the constitutional right to a "speedy trial," she said, and the prosecution has had "unfair advantages of money, staff and access."

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan spoke to the council on the long-range problems involved in world hunger.

He told them also about the joint executive committee that he will convene for the first time on June 20. The committee, drawn from the bishops' consultative bodies, is expected to deal chiefly with the agendas of these bodies,

with a view to improving communications among them. Members are the president and two members, plus liaison persons, of the Priests Council and the Sisters Council, and three members from the Pastoral Office. The bishop said the committee probably would meet four times a year.

### RAC SERVICE

St. John Fisher College will participate in a part-time faculty reference service sponsored by the Rochester Area Colleges. The reference service will attempt to locate part-time faculty in all academic and technical skill areas for St. John Fisher College and other members of the RAC group. The 15 members of RAC employ more than 1,100 part-time faculty members during each semester of the academic year. Because of changes in needs and because of normal personnel turnover, these institutions seek about 300 new part-time faculty members each semester.

### CORRECTION

A Feb. 26 Courier-Journal story on plans by St. Mary of Horseheads to build a new church referred to 1,600 parishioners there. Actually the parish has more than 1,600 families.