

# Institute to Discuss 'Whys'

By FR. ROBERT KENNEDY

Any parent knows that a child's favorite question is only a single word: "why?" Why did she do this? Why is he saying that? Why did this happen?

God's children are also asking the same brief question, especially in their worship of the Father. Why are laypersons distributing communion? Why do we sing the acclamations every Sunday? Why do we have Baptisms at Mass? Why does liturgy seem so disconnected from "real life"?

The Liturgy Institute Aug. 22-23 at Keuka College will try to answer these and many other questions that have emerged from the experiences of planning and evaluating parish worship.

Father John Gallen, SJ, keynote speaker, will address the general sessions on parish worship and on the celebration of the sacraments in the life of the parish community. Father Virgil Elizondo will speak on adapting the liturgy to particular cultural situations.

A "progress report" from the Office of Liturgy will be offered to keep leadership in parish worship up to date on what is happening liturgically in the Diocese.

In addition to the usual general sessions, a new format for the smaller groups is being introduced. Mini-courses are being offered instead of workshops.

Introductory mini-courses include a general overview of Parish Liturgy Committees and their function, Variety of Roles in Parish Worship, and the Practical Use of the Lectionary and Sacramentary. If a parish committee has had some experience already and wants to look deeper, the intermediate courses are: Planning Eucharistic Liturgies, the Prayer of the People of God, and the Sacraments of Initiation in Parish Worship. Advanced mini-courses include Symbols for Celebration, Music in Liturgy, Group Prayer and Social Ministry, and the Sacraments of Initiation in the Spanish Community.

The mini-courses will provide

concerned about emphasizing the ministry of the Church, which is to feed the multitudes with the bread of life. In this ministry, as in the miracle, it is basically Christ who acts and is present in the bread — but through His ministers.

I have been reading the life of Elizabeth Seton, who is to be canonized Sept. 14 as the United States' first native-born saint.

Is it not significant that the first American saint happens to be a convert? One of the most deadly and devastating threats to revealed religion is that of reducing it just to routine — going through motions!

Consider the Eucharist, for instance. Why ever in the world should the Church have had to make a law obliging Catholics to attend Sunday Mass? When Prince Hamlet was walking through a graveyard with Horatio, they chanced upon a gravedigger, who was singing at his work. Hamlet remarked to Horatio, "Has this fellow no feeling for his business that he sings at grave-making?"

Horatio answered, "Custom (habit) hath made it a property of easiness with him."

Similarly, familiarity can breed contempt, even of things so divine as the Eucharist.

It was the presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament that drew Elizabeth Seton into the Catholic Church. When she discovered this truth, she could not get over it. This belief seemed too good to be true. When in Italy, she wrote to her sister-in-law, Rebecca Seton, "How happy we would be if we believed what these dear souls believe: that they possess God in the Sacrament and that he remains in their churches and is carried to them when they are sick!"

After the death of her husband in Italy, when she had returned to New York, Elizabeth sought peace of mind in her church, St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Later, she wrote to a friend about her visit, "I got in a side pew in which I was positioned in such a way that I was facing the Catholic Church in the next street. And I found myself speaking to the Blessed Sacrament in the Catholic Church, instead of looking at the naked altar where I was."

Perhaps we should pray to Mother Seton that we too might rediscover the Presence on our altars that drew her to the Catholic Faith. The miracle of the loaves was meant to teach us that God can do anything with bread. Next Sunday's Gospel shows Jesus walking on water to teach us He can do anything. He pleases with His body — become present even under what looks like bread.

substantial information about the "why" of many aspects of parish worship, offer good practical suggestions, and allow time to pursue questions in some depth.

The experience of parish committees, priests, choir directors, and religious education coordinators over the past ten years of liturgical renewal has taught a great deal. An informed liturgy will continue that progress and success.



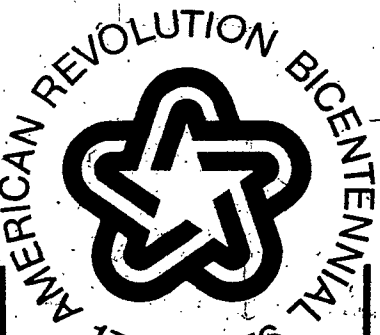
FATHER MCCARTHY

## Fr. McCarthy Coordinator

Father Charles McCarthy, pastor of St. Gabriel's, Hammondsport, and St. Patrick's, Prattsburg, has been appointed coordinator for the Livingston-Steuben Region. The region comprises 24 parishes and 10 missions and several hospitals, colleges and other institutions.

Father McCarthy, a priest for 25 years, has been pastor of the two Steuben County churches since 1968. He has served also at St. Mary's, Auburn; St. Margaret Mary, Irondequoit; St. James, Waverly; Holy Family, Auburn; St. John the Evangelist, Spencerport; St. Joseph's, Wayland, and St. Michael's, Lyons. He is a native of Rochester, from St. Monica's.

The new regional coordinator takes the place of Father Eugene Sweeney, who moved in June from St. Patrick's, Corning, to St. Michael's, Newark, where he is co-pastor.



## Your Heritage

July 28, 1952. Death of U.S. Senator Brien McMahon, pioneer advocate of nuclear power for peace. Brien McMahon (1903-1952) was a Connecticut lawyer who entered federal service in 1933 and became assistant attorney general two years later. In 1944 and 1950 he was elected Democratic senator from his native state. The first atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, Japan on Aug. 6, 1945. Soon afterward, Senator McMahon began his campaign to regulate atomic power and devote it to peaceful ends. Through his efforts, the Atomic Energy Act (The McMahon Act) was signed into federal law in 1946. One of the most statesmanlike and world-minded legislators of his day, McMahon was proposed by the Democrats at their 1952 convention as a candidate for the presidency. A dying man, he graciously declined. — Rochester Diocesan Bicentennial Commission.

# Knights Increase Community Service

New Haven, Conn. [RNS] — A survey has disclosed that the Knights of Columbus expended more than 5 million man-hours in community service and donated \$11 million to charities and benevolent causes during 1974. The organization has 1.2 million members.

Taken in conjunction with the National Fraternal Congress of America of Chicago, an affiliation of almost 100 fraternal benefit societies in North America, the survey involved 68 per cent of the Knights' branches, according to Supreme Knight John W. McDevitt who released the data here.

The respondents included the Supreme Council of the K of C, 40 state councils, 4,126 local councils and 790 Fourth Degree assemblies. The figures announced reflect the activities and contributions of only those units that responded to the survey.

The actual charitable total recorded — \$10,960,727 — includes \$969,875 from the

Supreme Council; and encompasses donations to the needy, sick, disabled and handicapped of \$2.4 million; aid to victims of disasters of over \$212,000; donations to homes for the aged, hospitals and youth facilities of \$1.7 million; donations to welfare organizations, community projects and civic activities totalling \$2.1 million; donations for scholarships, schools and libraries of \$2.2 million; food, clothing and other items valued at \$850,000; and miscellaneous donations of \$430,000.

## St. Rose Parish Council

To update the progress report on parish councils which appeared in the Courier-Journal July 23, Father James Doyle has informed Father Douglas Hoffman of the Office of Pastoral Ministry that St. Rose Church of Lima now has a parish council.

# Deaths

## Sr. Justina RSM

Sister Mary Justina McCarthy, for 60 years a Sister of Mercy, died July 18, 1975, after a long illness in the infirmary at the Mercy Motherhouse in Brighton. She was 80 years old.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated July 21 in the Motherhouse chapel.

As a teacher and a nurse, Sister Justina fulfilled the vow she had taken "to serve the poor, the sick and the ignorant."

She was born in Batavia, attended high school there and in Watkins Glen, and worked as a secretary before entering the religious life in 1915. She professed perpetual vows to the Sisters of Mercy in 1923.

For 21 years Sister Justina taught elementary grades 1-6 in schools across the diocese — Rochester, Pittsford, Corning, Hornell, Clyde, and Auburn. The longest span of teaching, 11 years, was spent in Holy Family Grammar School, Auburn, 1941-1952.

Sister Justina served 10 years at St. James Mercy Hospital in Hornell, as lab technician, nurse, supervisor, and night superintendent. From 1934-39 she was superintendent of nurses and in this capacity was responsible for the training they received.

Prior to her retirement in the early 1960s, Sister Justina served at Our Lady of Mercy High School as a nurse and secretary. She was in the infirmary as a patient for about eight years.

Sister Justina studied nursing at St. James Mercy Hospital. She held a nursing certificate from St. James and an R.N. certificate. Her teacher training was received at the teacher training school of the Sisters of Mercy.

She had a singular devotion to the Jesuit North American martyrs, and would visit their

shrine in Midland, Canada. Her feast day, Sept. 26, coincided with theirs.

She is survived by a brother, Justin, McCarthy of Auburn.

## Charles Kelly

Charles A. Kelly died July 25, 1975, in North Arlington, N.J., his home for the past 23 years. He was a brother of Father Leonard A. Kelly, retired pastor of Assumption Church, Fairport.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Monday morning at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in North Arlington, with burial in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Rochester.

Mr. Kelly was born in Ellicottville 78 years ago. He was an accountant with the Standard Tool Company of Corning, N.J., until his retirement 10 years ago.

Survivors are Mr. Kelly's widow, Monica Johnston Kelly; a son, Charles Jr. of Wappinger Falls; four daughters, Mrs. William (Patricia) Waelder of Syracuse; Miss Kathleen Kelly, North Arlington; Mrs. Martin (Mary Barbara) Fotusky, Toms River, N.J.; and Mrs. James (Maureen) Flanigan, Salem, N.J.; also, 20 grandchildren.

## Nellie Patrou

Mt. Morris — The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Nellie Patrou on July 19, 1975, in St. Patrick's Church. Mrs. Patrou, widow of Louis Patrou, died July 17 in the Warsaw hospital, after a long illness. She was 93 years old.

She leaves a son, Jack, and his wife, Jane, and six grandchildren, all of Pensacola, Fla.

For many years, Mr. and Mrs. Patrou ran the Jackson Restaurant here.

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**WORD FOR SUNDAY**

Fr. Albert Shamon

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mt. 14:31-21. (R1) Is. 55: 1-3. (R2) Rom. 8:35, 37-39.

Sunday's Gospel tells of the multiplication of the loaves and the fish. The feeding of the multitudes occurs more frequently than any other episode in the four gospels — six times in all. This testifies to its importance to the Early Church — an importance derived from the connection of this incident with the Eucharist.

Often we restrict the institution of the Eucharist to the Last Supper. The Early Church stressed all the times our Lord ate with His disciples, especially after His resurrection. The telling of the story of the loaves has been shaped by the Eucharistic Liturgy of the Early Church. Such words as "He took . . . blessed and broke . . . and gave . . . ate" occur in the Eucharistic Liturgy.

Of course, no mention is made of a cup of wine in this miracle. Instead there were fish. The Greek word for fish (ichthus) was a Christian acrostic. The "i" was the first letter in Greek for Jesus; the "ch," the first letter in Greek for Christ; the "th," the first letter in Greek for God; the "u," for Son; and the "s," for Savior. Thus the sign of or word for "fish" signified Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior. The bread and fish together, therefore, aptly symbolized for the early Christian the Eucharist: Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior, present under the appearance of bread.

Eating at the table of the Lord also foreshadowed for Christians the banquet in heaven (R1), in which all desires would be satisfied. "Those present ate their fill" (R3). "You open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing" (Response).

In the Matthean account of the miracle of the loaves, the emphasis is more on the disciples than on what happens to the multitude. Jesus addresses the disciples, "Give them something to eat yourselves." Then Matthew notes it is the disciples who bring the loaves to Jesus, who blesses them and gives them to the disciples who in turn give them to the people. Matthew is