

COURIER-JOURNAL

24 Pages

Wednesday, January 5, 1977

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NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

20 Cents

Honor 'Christian Humanism,' Pontiff Urges

Vatican City — Pope Paul, calling Christmas "the feast of humanity," because it celebrates the birth of the "Word made flesh," urged the people of the world to honor a Christian humanism that rejected exclusive dependence on "scientific

progress and social evolution."

The pope delivered his annual Christmas message at St. Peter's Basilica on Christmas Day.

Taking "humanism" as his

theme, Pope Paul rejected a modern form of humanism, which he said, "motivates many of our time, who are inebriated with the illusion of being able to produce a humanism that springs from scientific progress and social evolution."

"This humanism," he said, "forgets 'the innate insufficiency of man to be perfect in himself and the inextinguishable thirst that destines him to find in God that infinite satisfaction of which he is constitutionally in need.'"

Stating that "Christian humanism" is founded on the fact that the Word was made flesh "and dwelt amongst us," the pope urged people the world over "to honor in the birth of Christ the incipient life of man" and declared that

"human life is a creature of God marked with His image and likeness brought forth for the joy of the world."

He also invited the world to "honor women, equal to men in dignity," called to their roles as nuns, wives, and mothers.

Saint-to-Be Trod Rochester Streets

Today, the eve of Epiphany, is the 117th anniversary of the death of Rochester's own saint, John Neumann.

Pope Paul VI announced on Dec. 20 that the Redemptorist bishop who began his priesthood here in 1836 would be canonized June 19, 1977. The process of determining his sainthood has been going on for 90 years. John Nepomucene Neumann, native of Bohemia and naturalized citizen of the United States, is the first American man to be declared a saint.

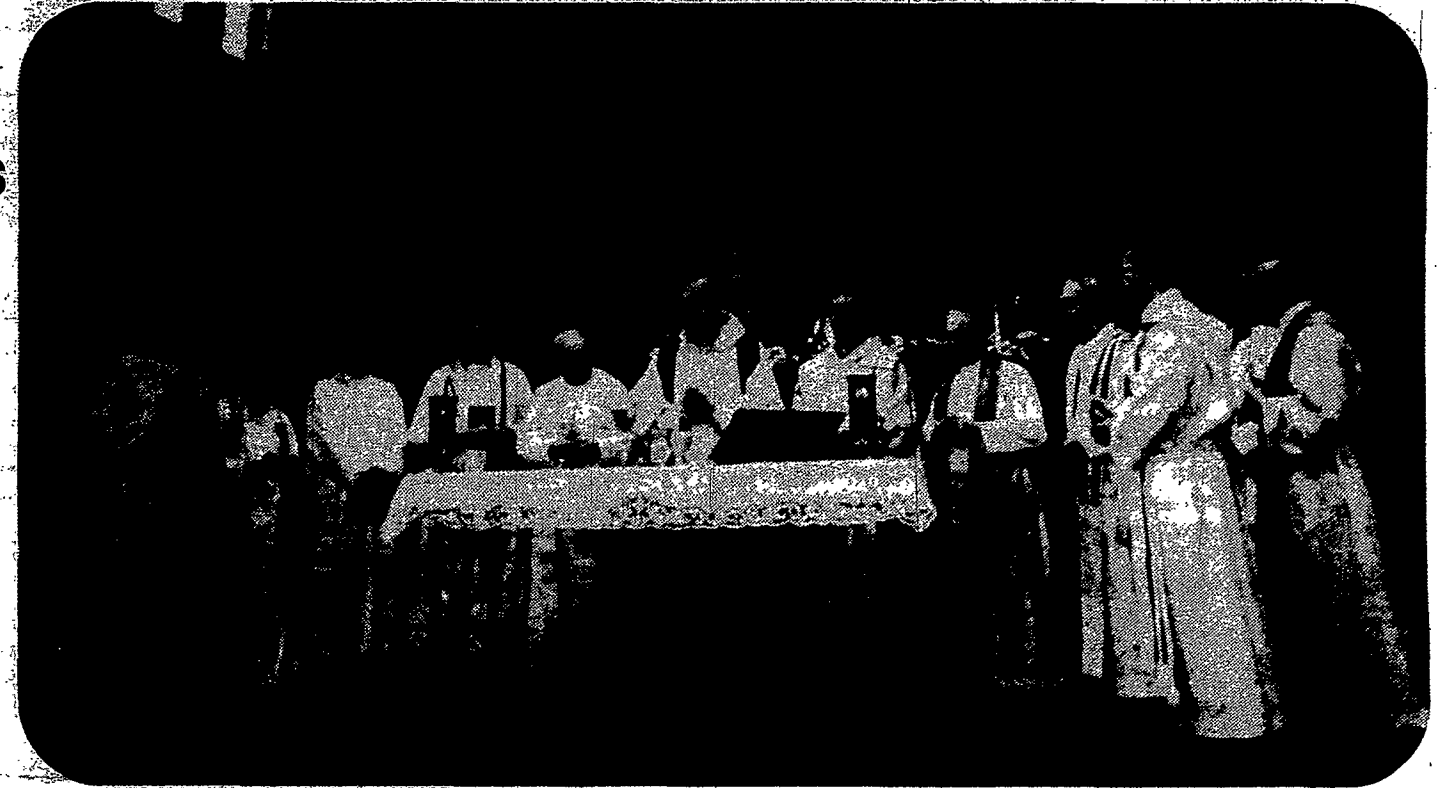
When Bishop Neumann was beatified in 1963, one of his many biographers noted in a Courier-Journal article that no landmarks remained to evoke his presence, but that surely the Blessed John had "got Rochester flour-dust on his cassock, the mud of Front Street on his boots." Father James Calvin, CSSR, looking ahead to the time that has come, continued "... Rochester can proudly claim that a Saint once knew her Four Corners and posted letters at the old Reynolds Arcade."

But many are the places that can claim this pioneer missionary as their own — cities and villages of the Middle Atlantic states, of West Virginia, of Ohio. As a priest of the New York Diocese and as a Redemptorist Father, as head of his order in the United States, as bishop of the then-widespread Diocese of Philadelphia, this man was constantly on the move.

Prepared for the priesthood in his native land, he was ordained in New York and dispatched to the Niagara Frontier. In Rochester, he preached his first sermon, baptized and heard confessions for the first time. He arrived on the Fourth of July, 1836, and worked among the German Catholics for a few days before going on to Buffalo. He was to return to Rochester several times in the course of his short life.

Bishop Neumann's best known achievement is the systematizing of Catholic schools that was his first project in the Philadelphia diocese. Yet his biographers seem to agree that he was not a very efficient administrator. They describe him as by nature retiring, scholarly, a great friend to children, rigorously frugal in his living arrangements but hospitable and generous to all. He heard confessions in seven languages, it is said. The travelling that he found essential to his work as missionary and bishop often was difficult and dangerous. He was a small man — five feet, three and three-quarters inches tall, according to his passport. His clothes were shabby, his shoes worn out on the pavements of Philadelphia.

At the end of a long day of errands performed on foot, he collapsed and died in a street not far from his home. He was 48 years old. For the people who picked him up there were no signs that this was the Catholic bishop of Philadelphia.



Auburnians All!

A remarkable statistic! Thirty-one priests from Auburn are serving the Church across the world from Rochester to the Philippines and points between. Last week Father Bernard C. Newcomb, pastor of St. Cecilia's in Rochester, hosted many of the Auburnians at a special Mass. Above, from left, are Fathers Newcomb, John B. Kleintjes, Stanislaus Bialaszewski, Charles Bennett, C. Irwin Sullivan, Bishop Joseph L. Hogan (not an Auburnian), Michael Conboy, Msgr. William L. Shaw, Fathers William J. O'Brien, Robert J. Miller, Albert L. Delmonte, Anthony Calimeri.

At right, during Mass, are Bishop Hogan, Father Conboy and Msgr. Shaw.

Other Auburn priests unable to attend the Mass are Fathers P. Paul Brennan, Paul J. Cuddy, William M. Cuddy, Robert L. Dalton, John D. Dillon, Robert M. Egan, David E. Fedor, David Fitzgerald, Joseph T. Gaynor, William J. Gaynor, William H. Hickey, James C. Lane, Raymond Lesch, OP, Lawrence E. Marulla, Paul J. McCabe, David M.



Murphy, C. Richard Nangle, Ralph Neagle, John Quinn, Albert J. Shamon, Edward A. Shamon, David P. Simon, Henry W. Traub, SJ, Louis A. Vasile.

100 Songs . . . Little Compensation

Fame Only Reward for Repp

1st in 2-Part Series

By MARTIN TOOMBS

Southern Tier Editor

Ithaca — Ray Repp, the composer of such songs as All You People Clap Your Hands, Sons of God, and Shout from the Highest Mountain, has published nearly 100 songs in the past 11 years, many of which are used extensively in churches throughout the world. "One would assume that I would have accumulated a little bit of financial resources as a result of it," Repp said in an interview recently, but "it's been almost minimal. People just assume that I must be wealthy because my music is used extensively, and it's not true."

RELATED ARTICLE ON PAGE 8

Repp has not gained financially from his work due to large pirating of liturgical music, in violation of copyright laws, according to his publishers. The situation has caused Repp's publisher, FEL Publications, to bring suit against the Chicago archdiocese and some of its parishes over royalties. Copyright laws prohibit reproduction of copyrighted material without permission of the copyright holder.

Repp said that FEL estimates that "in the last three years alone, I've lost an estimated \$800,000 in royalties because of the pirating of music."

To support himself, Repp works in the Tompkins County Headstart program. The dual career is "partly out of necessity. I also enjoy working with young kids," Repp pointed out. "I would love to be able to have the time to study music more thoroughly, but I don't. I do work with the piano at home, I try to work with the guitar, I try to expose myself to as much music as I can, which is an education in itself. But that has to be sort of sporadic."

The 34-year-old Repp has spent the last three years in Ithaca, working at the Headstart program, and

writing music. The need to hold a job is "one of the reasons for the lawsuit," Repp said. "Part of the principle involved in the lawsuit is that people, be they church-oriented or not, don't seem to feel that it's important to support the arts, and I don't mean by that just music. I mean any of the arts. Whether people realize it or not, their apathy or their lack of support is going to force publishing companies out of business, which will make the amount of new material less available. It's also a judgment against composers and artists in whatever field, that their music or their particular creativity is not of value."

(Continued on Page 8)



Photography was in its infancy when this portrait was made of Bishop John Neumann, CSSR. The picture of the soon-to-be sainted prelate was recently found in Brooklyn. It was taken in 1852 or 1855.