

Happy Birthday

Parishioners at St. Theodore's, Gates, took part in a double celebration on March 11. One-hundred, sixty-six young people were confirmed by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan and afterwards the people in the congregation joined in singing Happy Birthday to the bishop who was celebrating his 63rd birthday. He received a dozen red roses and a handmade stole from the participants. Above Ralph Esposito, a teacher in the confirmation program and one of his students present the bishop with the gifts. At right students and witnesses greet the guest of honor.

Photos by Father Walter F. Cushing

Merton Society Speaker

The Thomas Merton Society will sponsor Sister Therese Lentfoehr as speaker at 7:30 p.m., March 29, at the Otto A. Shults Center at Nazareth College.

manuscripts and letters. In addition to having been a friend and correspondent of Merton, she is widely known as a speaker and writer on his works, as well as being a poet herself.

Her topic will be "Contemplation and Social Concerns in the Writings of Thomas Merton." Sister Lentfoehr has a large personal collection of the works of Merton, including

The Thomas Merton Society was founded two years ago, growing out of a class taught by Msgr. William Shannon at Nazareth. He is now its director.

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THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER "The Value of the Funeral"

By Ed Sulewski

There is a tendency today, by some, to regard the funeral as out-of-date and the ceremony, ritual and cost associated with it as unnecessary and serving no real purpose. In our close association with those who have experienced death, we know that the emotions that accompany their loss—grief, anger, confusion, resentment, even bitterness—are very real. We know too, that the funeral—even though painful at the time—helps them face the reality of death and begin to adjust to it. The support of friends and relatives attending the funeral confirms that others also feel their loss—and that their loved one held a special place in the lives of many. Perhaps the value of the funeral can truly be judged only by those who have experienced the loss of a loved one—and found comfort in the accompanying support and understanding from friends and family before and during the ceremony. If you have questions concerning the purpose and value of the funeral service, please call at any time.

SCHAUMAN FUNERAL HOME, INC., 2100 St. Paul St. 324-3400

On the Right Side

By Father Paul J. Cuddy

Two Letters From Sisters In Africa

Last August while our people on the CJ trip to Ireland were surveying



shops, restaurants and theatres in Dublin, I met two beautiful Franciscan Sisters. We had coffee at Clery's cafeteria.

From Sister Mary Boyle, Jinja, Uganda, E. Africa

"The Lord bless you and keep you. We have just returned from a 6 day seminar at the Namagunga Sec. School, where I was helping out with the work there. On my return your lovely packet of Sheen tapes awaited me. Lovely. How kind of you. I also wrote to Sister Rita — and received a reply. So you see that you are in a way involved in a friendship between religious Sisters, who up to then, had never met before. Truly the first time I met Sister Rita was at the Retreat in Mt. Olivet in Ireland just before we met you. I hope you get this letter because sometimes letters are inclined to go astray here.

It is very hot in January, especially near the lake. The work goes on though. Hospital is just as full as ever. But honestly, our people will not be judged as we shall be (I think) because of the difficulty of just trying to live normally — or as they knew before. Another request. May I ask you to remember my brother, dying of cancer, and for a house for my sister in London. She has waited 8 years now. May the Infant King and His Mother bless you always."

Comment: The concern of Sister Mary Boyle for her family accentuates the nobility of Missionaries who give up family and home to bring Christ, Our Lady and His Church to the Missions.

The following letter adds to this.

From Sister Rita O'Hare, Southern Africa

"Belated New Year greetings. And very, very many thanks for the Bishop Sheen album of cassettes on the retreat conferences...

Our community had organized a seminar in each Region this year, but as we in Transkei were an isolated group, we were tagged to one of the Regions, e.g. Kenya, Zambia or Uganda. The result was that I had 10 days after Christmas. The Seminar was stimulating, and it was very nice to be one of a big crowd again — 60 of us in Kenya. It was

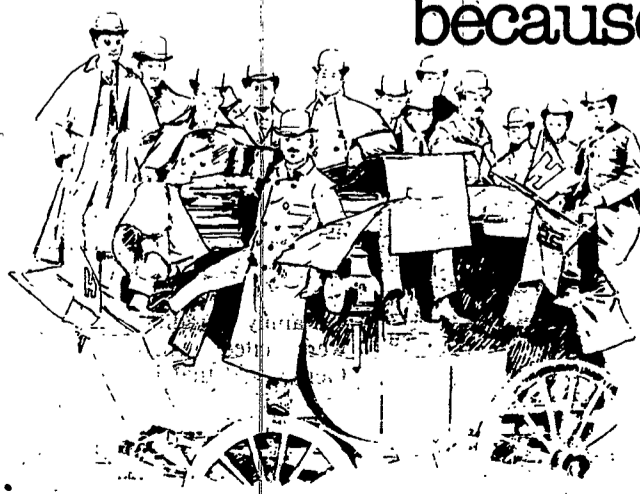
great to meet so many old friends, including Sister Mary Boyle, the one who was with me in Dublin when we met you. She had come up from Uganda for it as she would be on duty at Baluba Leper camp while the Uganda seminar was on. This week another group of three of our Sisters have come to Hardenberg Mission which is about 200 kilometers from here so we have a second community in Transkei. They will be teaching in a near-by government Training College. One of them is an American from Pittsburgh, the other two are Irish. It was against the policy of the Southern African Government to allow whites, Catholics or foreigners to teach in African colleges or schools. This resulted in low standards in the African schools. Now since independence of Transkei, the Government is eager to have qualified teachers of any race or colour to teach. This will result in higher standards of education, especially for the teachers. Please remember our three new recruits in your prayers...

Comment: On Feb. 11, I celebrated Sunday Mass at the Auditorium of Rochester General Hospital. An attractive young doctor in Residence was at Mass. Always mindful of people's potentials for Our Lord and His Church, I said to him: "Doctor, have you ever thought of going to the Missions for a while as a Medical Missionary?" He grinned and said: "I already have been there, Father. I spent four months at a Mission hospital in Kenya last year and loved it. I hope to return."

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