



Scouting Awards

St. George and Pelican Medals were awarded to outstanding Catholic scouting personalities recently at the annual Bishop's Report Dinner, held at Our Mother of Sorrows Church. A special recognition was given to Dr. Thomas MacAvoy. Richard A. Severson won the St. George and Father Charles Adams of St. Boniface Church won the Pelican. The awards were presented by Father Richard P. Larocque,

national chaplain for the Catholic Committee on Scouting. Posing after the ceremonies are, left to right (front row) Dr. MacAvoy, Thomas Seward, Severson, Father LaRocque, Father Adams, William H. Mason, Edward W. Adams; (back row) Ralph E. Pembroke, James L. Cooney, Dr. Desmond D. Dolan, Walter Koscielski and Thomas Scallill.

Photo by Frank C. Lisuzzo

On the Right Side

By Father Paul J. Cuddy

Holy Places Not Always Edifying

To visit the places made holy by the presence of Our Lord, His Mother and the apostles has been the ambition of many Christians for centuries. Until the late 1960s I myself had no desire to visit the Holy Places. Why? Because I thought I would be disappointed. The fact is, I expected to be disedified by some things, and I was.



For example, the site of the crucifixion and entombment of Jesus has a violent history. The spots are within the Church of the Holy Sepulchre outside Old Jerusalem. Pilgrims from earliest times came to this place to venerate it for its memories. In order to destroy the memory of the site, the Roman Emperor Hadrian built a temple to Venus in 136 A.D. over the site of the Crucifixion. His intention boomeranged, because his Venus temple served to identify the very spot of the death of Christ. The 80-year-old Queen Mother Helena discovered the site. Her son, Emperor Constantine, built a noble church on the spot, which was consecrated in 335 in the presence of united Christendom: Greek, Syrian, Armenian, Copt and Western Latin churches. In 614 the Persians ravaged the Holy Land and destroyed every church building except the Church of the Nativity

in Bethlehem. When they left, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre was rebuilt. It was destroyed again about 1010 A.D. by Caliph Hakim. A century later, its reconstruction was completed for the 50th anniversary of the Christian Kingdom of Jerusalem, established by the Crusaders.

Who owns the Church of the Holy Sepulchre? Latin Catholics, Greeks, Armenians, Copts share the premises, each owning a particular space, and each holds services and maintains a chapel. These rights were acquired by virtue of their having been present at the consecration more than 1,600 years ago. There is a curious development from this: 1,600 years ago, of course, there were no Protestant denominations; these came into being only 400 years ago. So, for devout Protestants to come to the Holy Land and find all the sacred spots occupied by Orthodox, and by Catholics, mostly Franciscan Friars, and none of their own, was spiritually traumatic. Now, "the wish is often father of the thought." So English General Charles Gordon found a hill shaped like a skull, with a tomb nearby, and decided this was the true Calvary. He raised funds and bought the property, and Protestants go there for services, prayers and preaching, and have a sense of presence in the Holy Land. While Gordon's Calvary has no historical authenticity, it does serve a good purpose. The authentic Calvary and tomb are within the Church of the Holy Sepulchre; but there is so much commotion and contention all over the building among incumbent

denominations, including Catholics, all jealously guarding their rights, that it takes heroic concentration to relive Good Friday at the genuine Calvary. At least the Gordon spot is a place where Christians can hold services and pray and sit without commotion or junkiness to mar devotion.

Most American pilgrims to the Holy Land are Protestants, mostly from the South and from California and Arizona. They have a great love for Jesus and the Scriptures. They pour into spots made holy by the historic presence of Christ: His Mother, the Apostles and the Old Testament prophets. They sing with zest, read the Scriptures, pray with devotion, and bring home bottles of water from the Jordan and Jacob's well, and shells and stones from the Dead Sea as holy relics. I asked a friar in Bethlehem, "Do they come to your church here?" "O yes. And they are devout. Then he smiled. "And some leave tracts in the church against confession and devotion to the Blessed Mother." David, our guide is studying up on Mormonism, since he is to guide a big group of Mormons soon. Knowing their zeal, expect they are laying plans to evangelize David and his kin and all Israel. Abba Sheen said: "We have the truth; we do not have the passion — a statement worth our meditation."

Professor Joseph Kelly of St. Bernard's Seminary is leading a study tour of Israel July 2-22. The summer is hot, but the worth of such a study under expert guidance is invaluable. The cost for three weeks is \$1,588, a good price for all that is included. Anyone interested may write to Mr. Joseph Kelly, St. Bernard Seminary, 2260 Lake Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14612, phone 716-647-2302.

IFCA Plans 'Mary's Day'

The International Federation of Catholic Alumnae, Rochester Circle, will observe Mary's Day on Saturday, May 12, with a Mass celebrated at 10:30 a.m. by Father Joseph Reinhart at the Cenacle, 693 East Ave. A coffee hour will follow. Members of a committee that received the Sisters of the

Cenacle when they arrived here June 11, 1948, will assist Miss Regina Kennedy, chairman.

Friends are invited to join in honoring Mary, Mother of Mankind. They should make reservations by May 7 with Helen Durnin, 473-7565.

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Next-to-New

Antiques and art work and some furniture from the estate of the late Mrs. Frank Gannett will be featured at Harley School's next-to-new sale May 11-13 at the school, 1981 Clover. Clothing, household equipment, flowers and food will be among other offerings. Hours are 9-9 Friday, May 11; 10-4 Saturday, and 10-3 Sunday.

Lilac Time

Rochester's 90th annual Lilac Festival has been scheduled for May 18-27, to take in two Sundays. The 22-acre planting in Highland Park has been in bloom on the third Sunday of May for the past 60 seasons, according to a committee spokesman. The festival will open Friday noon, May 18, with ceremonies in Crossroads Park. Concerts other events will take place throughout the 10 days, most of them at Highland.

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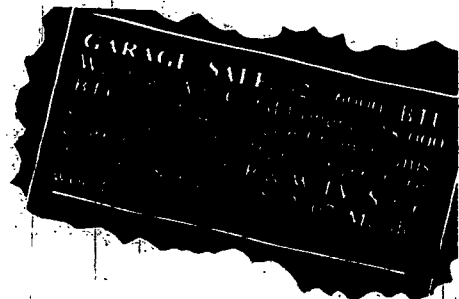
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