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Irish Heritage: A New Pride

By John Dask

Today, it's said, the entire world is Irish.

The mystical transformation that occurs on St. Patrick's Day has all races whistling and humming tunes with that plaintive lilt that once prodded G.K. Chesterton to observe:

"For the great Gaels of Ireland
Are the men that God made mad.
For all their wars are merry,
And all their songs are sad."

Yet, despite the universality

of the phenomenon in the United States, those of true Irish blood, for not a few years, were thought to somewhat neglect their cultural roots in favor of establishing themselves as Americans.

However, that may be changing in the opinion of those knowledgeable in the Rochester Irish community.

Within the past couple of years a number of developments have taken place which may indicate a revival of interest among second, third, and other generation Irish in pursuing the ancient traditions of the Emerald Isle.

All of this is very recent: a class in Gaelic, the ancient tongue of Ireland, is being taught to adults in a Webster public school; Irish history is being taught, for the first time, at the University of Rochester — and that class was over-subscribed; St. John Fisher College is this semester offering a course in Irish history; an average of 35 people are gathering each week to learn from a volunteer teacher, the ancient Ceili (Kay-lee) dancing, and two professional schools of dance are now offering courses in the same; a recently established group, The Little Abbey Players, is rehearsing productions once presented on

the stage of Dublin's famous Abbey Theatre.

And the Feis, Gaelic for open-air festival, has become an important part of Rochester's summer celebration of the ethnic groups which have built the city.

In Patrick Martin's opinion, the Rochester Irish community is on the verge of a cultural revival. "It's beginning," he said.

Martin, manager for technology investment planning at Xerox Corp., is one of the men behind that revival. It is he who two years

ago began teaching Ceili dancing to adults.

Ceili even pre-dates St. Patrick, he said. The word indicates a "coming together" for song, dance and storytelling. In the early days, in the area around Dublin called "The Pale," a ceremonial king would preside over the social and administrative rituals of his office at such a coming-together. The gathering also served, Martin said, as the occasion to pass on the myths of ancient gods and battles; and throughout all this was woven the music and steps of Ceili dancing.

Martin acknowledges, as a

first generation Irishman whose parents immigrated from Galway and Longworth, that he was never much interested in the advancement of his cultural heritage. "I grew away from it when the Bing Crosby style of Irishman was in vogue."

During the 1960s, however, in Washington, D.C., his hometown, there arose a revival of interest in things Irish, and Ceilis would be held each month drawing as many as 200 or 300 people, he said.

And those who attended were in the first or second generation, "and fun- Continued on Page 15

Joseph Catanise To Be Ordained

Elmira — Rev. Mr. Joseph Catanise, son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Catanise of Waterloo, will be ordained to the priesthood for the diocese by Bishop Matthew H. Clark, 7:30 p.m., Friday, March 19, in Our Lady of Lourdes Church. A reception will follow the rites in the church hall.

Deacon Catanise is deacon intern at Our Lady of Lourdes.

He attended public schools in Waterloo, took an AA from Cayuga Community College, studied political

science at the American University in Washington, D.C., and graduated from Syracuse University with a BA in 1968.

After a stint teaching at St. Mary's School, Deacon Catanise studied at Syracuse University College of Law, taking a doctorate in Law in 1975. He practiced law with the firm of John M. Sipos of Seneca Falls. He also served as attorney for the Seneca County Department of Social Sciences. He is a member of the New York State Bar Association.

He entered St. Bernard's



DEACON CATANISE

Seminary in 1977 and received an MDiv and an MA in pastoral theology from the school in 1981.

While there he also did field work at Good Shepherd in Henrietta, at the Pastoral Office, and at Old St. Mary's Church. He took his Clinical Pastoral Education at Interfaith Health Care Ministries in Providence, R.I.

Hatch Passes Hurdle

The Hatch Amendment passed a major hurdle last week when it was approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee, 10-7. The vote marked the first time that a congressional committee had passed an anti-abortion amendment.

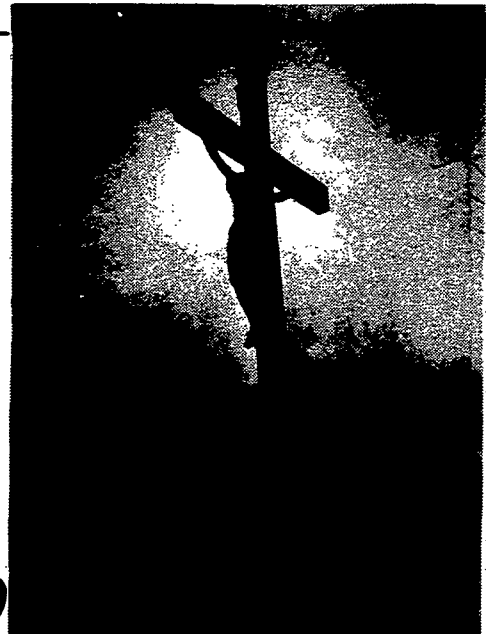
The admenment, which would enable individual states and Congress to adopt laws banning abortion, now faces open floor debate.

Sponsored by Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah, the amendment must be approved by two thirds of each house of Congress and ratified by the legislatures of three fourths of the states.

No action has been taken on the House version of the amendment, sponsored by Rep. John M. Ashbrook of Ohio. Observers expect that members of the House will await Senate action before tackling the thorny legislation.

The Seven Last Words

“My God, my God, Why have you forsaken me?”



Known as the "Seven Last Words," the final utterances of Christ as He hung on the cross provide fit and interesting Lenten meditation. Each week during Lent, a different diocesan priest will discuss each of these "last words" in the Courier-Journal. The fourth writer of this special Lenten series is Father John A. Mulligan, pastor of St. Stephen's Parish, Geneva.

By Father John A. Mulligan

"When noon came, darkness fell on the whole countryside and lasted until mid-afternoon. At that time Jesus cried in a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani!' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' (Mark 15:33-34)



At first glance, Jesus' plea from Psalm 22:2 appears to be a cry of despair. Actually, he is professing strong faith in his Father as his source of consolation and ultimate triumph in the midst of dire persecution. Christ's agony and depression are very real sufferings, but faith in his Father conquers the pain.

As a parish priest I wish that I could reassure everyone that we will always be distant observers of such intense suffering and that those we love will never experience anything like this. But we all know from experience that Jesus' call to discipleship in the ninth chapter of Luke is literally true for every Christian: "Whoever wishes to be my follower must deny his very self, take up his cross each day, and follow in my steps. Whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will save it." This is the challenge of these fourth last words of Jesus Christ.

As Christians we dare to believe that through the crosses we bear daily we shall ultimately triumph. The Lord promises this triumph through weakness when he tells the suffering apostle Paul,

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Gabriel's Coming

Gabriel is coming to the Courier-Journal next week.

Described by his creator, Rochesterian John Kuchera, as a "friendly little angel," Gabriel will bring Courier readers simple lessons based on such sayings as "Friendship sails on a sea of love," "Be a friend till the end," and "Go, do good."

Kuchera has many illustrated books to his credit, has had numerous exhibitions throughout the East and Midwest and has served as judge and speaker at many art functions.

Gabriel will be looking for you in next week's Courier-Journal.