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Knights of Columbus Color Corps, 5th New York District, Fourth Degree under the command of Samuel J. Stramandinoli, form a ceremonial arch at the Founder's Day Mass.

Cathedral Mass Opens K. of C. Centennial

By John Dash

Knights of Columbus, several bedecked with epaulettes, plumes and swords, helped fill the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart Saturday as the Finger Lakes Chapter celebrated, with knights across the country, the 100th anniversary of the founding of their organization.

Guatemala, Panama, Guam, the Virgin Islands and the Philippines.

The Mass Saturday was repeated across the country as knights open a year long celebration.

In the course of its history, the fraternal group reckons a number of accomplishments, among them:

Catholic doctrine, and offering individual consultation (since its beginning in 1948, the program has generated 6 million inquiries, and 600,000 enrollments in home study courses);

• Establishing a network of state, district and local council committees to foster vocations through prayer and promotional activities, including sponsorship of seminarians, vocation workshops, trips for youths to seminaries and novitiates, and special Masses and prayers;

• Providing leadership in the process of inserting the phrase "under God" into the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag;

Bishop Matthew H. Clark presided at the Mass for the fraternal order founded by Father Michael J. McGivney, a curate in New Haven, Conn., March 29, 1882.

• Providing extensive Catholic information services, including placing advertisements in large-circulation publications, distributing religious pamphlets to those requesting them, offering a correspondence course on

• Publishing a monthly magazine, "Columbia;"

• Microfilming 11 million pages of rare manuscript in the Vatican libraries to

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Aquinas

Coeds to Register April 4

Aquinas Institute will register its first female students Monday, April 4.

On that day, the high school run by the Basilian Fathers will cease to be limited solely to male students.

The young women registering, however, will be a select group: students from the now-certain-to-be-closed St. Agnes High School.

Representatives from area Catholic high schools visited St. Agnes last week to aid the students in finding suitable educational facilities, Father Joseph Moffatt, principal at Aquinas said.

Father Moffatt observed that with the influx of the new students, Aquinas has no intention of establishing two schools under one roof. "The girls will be following our curriculum," should they register, he said. He indicated that some courses not available now at Aquinas, however, may be added should sufficient interest be shown on the part of the incoming St. Agnes students.

St. Agnes will definitely close. A proposal for keeping a Catholic school operating on the East River Road campus was deemed not feasible by the Sisters of St. Joseph, the

congregation which operates the school.

The proposal was made by a group of parents, which, following a meeting last week with Bishop Matthew H. Clark and representatives of the congregation, finally acknowledged that the matter of keeping the school open is now closed.

In what appeared to be a sudden move, word was leaked to the press last week that Aquinas Institute was considering going co-ed. A hastily assembled Aquinas board meeting concluded by voting to accept St. Agnes students.

Mondale To Run?

Former vice president Walter Mondale announced that he probably will run for president in 1984. He spoke at a press conference last week in Miami after returning from a Latin American visit.

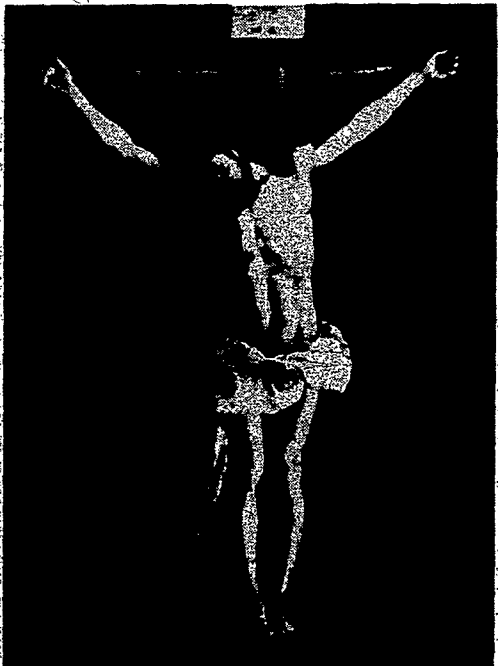


Photo by Terrance J. Brennan

The Seven Last Words

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It is finished.



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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 sixth writer of this special Lenten series is Father John J. Philipps, pastor of the Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Brockport.

By Father John J. Philipps

If there was a final scream of desolation, John did not hear it.



Father Philipps

Whatever anguished shriek of abandonment Jesus might have cried, it is missed by the Fourth Gospel.

He had sipped of the sour wine, accepting the last humane gesture that would be tendered him in his life, and he spoke — or should we imagine "he whispered" — "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and delivered over his spirit.

The careful listener to John won't hear despair quivering in that voice. The true hearer of the gospel hears only what the gospel is: Good News. "It is accomplished!" Hardly a statement of surrender, but a declaration of fulfillment. Here Jesus is the artist touching the last delicate stroke to his masterpiece and stepping back to sigh, "Finished!"

Here Jesus is the maestro drawing out of his symphony its final, majestic chord. He is the high priest intoning the Great Amen, ending the endless sacrifice. It is finished.

If I had been standing there on Calvary with Mary and John, I would have said it was really over. How plainer could it be? He was dead. There was no more. Maybe you would have sobbed with me, sharing hopelessness, defeat, abandonment. Together we would have cried how useless it all had been, about the futility of trying to carry on. We would have searched for words to console each other, but at the same time how we would have vented our anger, you and I. We would have decried the violence of our culture, the passivity of our co-religionists, the indifference of government, venting our anger against the military, against politics, against leaders, against anyone — maybe even God — for allowing this to be.

You and I, though, have the whole story. We hear in his word of final consummation a different motif. It is Good News. He did not mean it was over; he said it is accomplished. That which he had come to do — to live a human life with you and me, to give you and me back to the Father in love and friendship, to pour into our beings New Life, to renew us and make all things new — it is accomplished!

In Jesus, tears turn to laughter, defeat becomes victory, from death blossoms life. "It is finished."

The strife is o'er, the battle won, the victory of life is done, the song of triumph has begun . . .