

North Carolina Catholic

Volume II.

Nazareth, N. C., Friday, February 13, 1947

Number 20

Father George A. Watkins Buried With Pontifical Mass At Raleigh

RALEIGH—The Rev. George Watkins, 68, former pastor of St. Marcella's Church, Sanford, who died at St. Leo's Hospital, Greensboro, February 9, was buried from Sacred Heart Cathedral, Raleigh, Thursday morning, February 12, with a Solemn High Mass of Requiem offered by His Excellency, the Most Reverend Vincent S. Waters, Bishop of Raleigh.

Former Sacred Heart Students Become Sisters of Mercy

BELMONT—Five former students of Sacred Heart Academy and Junior College, here, were solemnly received into the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Belmont Foundation, February 3, when the Right Reverend Vincent G. Taylor, O. S. B., of Belmont Abbey heard their vows.

The Sisters who were in the profession ceremony were: Sr. Francella Cress of St. James Church, Concord; Sr. Jeanne Marie Kienast, Sacred Heart Church, Atlanta, Ga.; Sr. Assumpta Williams, St. Mary's Church, Goldsboro; Sr. Maureen Dees and Sr. DeChantal Tomlinson, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Raleigh; and Sister M. Fidelis Colina, Cuba.

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Arthur R. Freeman, P. A., V. G., pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Charlotte, preached the sermon. Assisting Abbot Taylor were Rev. Father Andrew, O. S. B., and Rev. Frater Raphael, O. S. B. Visiting clergy included Rev. Lawrence Newman, St. Mary's Church, Goldsboro; Father Sebastian, O. S. B., chaplain of Sacred Heart College; Father Paul, O. S. B., Retreat Master for the Novices; and Father Charles, O. S. B., pastor of Belmont Abbey Cathedral.

Friends and relatives of the young nuns who attended the ceremony were: Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Whitney, Mr. B. Kienast, all of Atlanta, Ga.; Mr. Oscar Williams, Messrs. Paul, William and Edward Williams, of Goldsboro; Doctor H. Colina, Charlotte; Mrs. B. Chartier, Spartanburg; Miss Nora Leza, Miss Pauline Waters, Charlotte; the Misses Fellow, Miller, and Carlson of Mercy Hospital, Charlotte, and several visiting Sisters.

'48 Catholic Almanac Soon to Be Off Press

WASHINGTON—The 1948 edition of the National Catholic Almanac, which now is in its 42nd year of publication, has gone to press and shortly will appear on the book stands of the nation, it has been announced here by the Franciscan clerics of Holy Name College who prepare the annual.

Frater Urban A. Cain, O.F.M., editor of the '48 edition, said it will contain 832 pages of basic Catholic and general information and an 83-page summary of 1947 news events of Catholic interest.

News and feature articles cover the Papal Encyclicals, status of the Church in various countries and European difficulties, while the permanent background sections dealing with the Liturgies of the Eastern and Western Churches, Catholic apologetics, marriage legislation, Catholic literature, Catholic Action, the Hierarchies of Canada and Mexico and youth activities have been revised and expanded.

Dealing at greater length with activities and life of the Church in the United States, the Almanac will include the latest available facts on Catholic education, missions, societies, science, social movement, sports and a complete listing of all seminaries, universi-

Bishop Waters was assisted by the Rev. John Brown, deacon; Rev. William Murray, C. S. Sp., subdeacon; Very Rev. Msgr. J. Lennox Federal, V. F., archpriest; Rev. Herbert Harkins, and Rev. Vincent S. Stokes, deacons of honor. The Priests' Choir under the direction of Rev. Charles O'Connor sang the proper and ordinary of the Mass. Msgr. Federal preached the sermon.

On Wednesday morning, a Requiem Mass was offered at Father Watkins' parish, St. Marcella's, Sanford, by the Rev. William Murray, C. S. Sp. after which the body of the deceased was translated to Sacred Heart Cathedral where it lay in state until the funeral on Thursday morning. Interment was in St. John's Cemetery, Pauling, N. Y.

Father Watkins, although ill for many years, nevertheless had been active in parochial duties throughout the Diocese of Raleigh. A native of Pauling, N. Y., born on March 26, 1880, Father Watkins was ordained to the priesthood at Belmont Abbey, North Carolina, on June 8, 1913, by the Rt. Rev. Leo Haid, O. S. B., abbot.

His pastoral assignments included: Sacred Heart Church, Dunn; St. Patrick's, Fayetteville; Immaculate Conception, Hendersonville; first pastor of Blessed Sacrament, Burlington; St. Mary's, Goldsboro; and St. Marcella's, Sanford.

While pastor in Fayetteville, Father Watkins was a zealous apostle for Catholicism, taking a wholehearted interest in the soldiers stationed at Fort Bragg, which was a mission under his jurisdiction.

Father Watkins' survivors include a brother, Mr. Alexander Watkins, Bayport, New York, and a sister, Sister Vincent of the Daughters of Charity, St. Agnes Hospital, Baltimore, Md.

Bishop of Raleigh Is Speaker for K. of C.

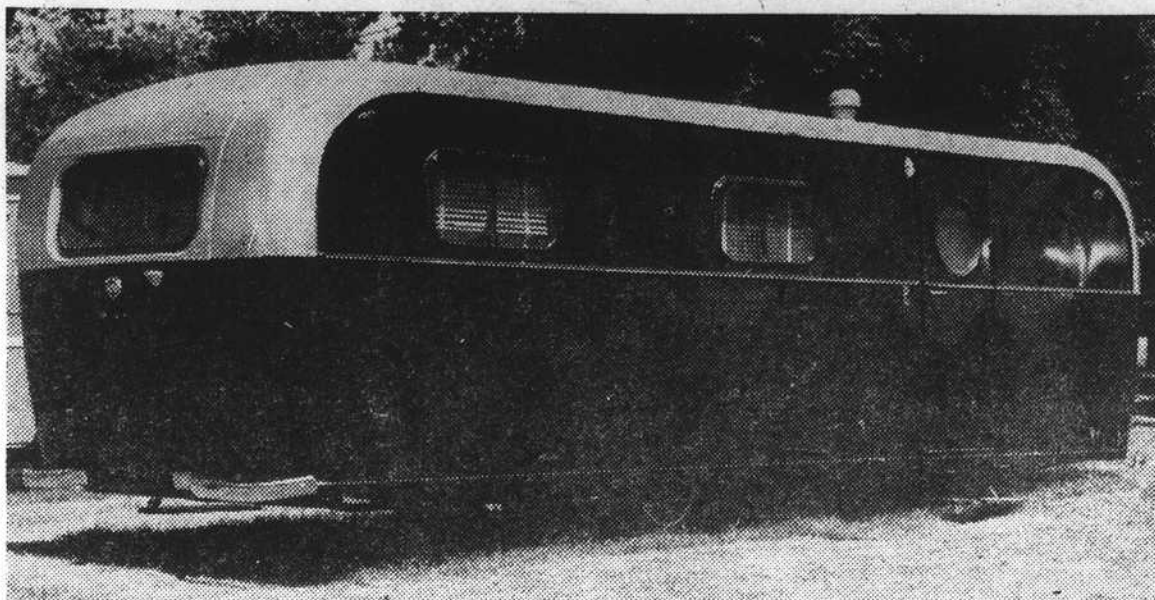
RALEIGH—At a banquet honoring the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus held in Raleigh, February 9, Sir Knight Dennis J. Dunn, Sr., Faithful Navigator of the Fourth Degree Assembly, Council No. 770 of the Knights of Columbus, presented His Excellency, the Most Reverend Vincent S. Waters, Bishop of Raleigh, with a chalice in memory of the following deceased members: Mr. Leo Haid-Phelan, Mr. Francis C. Markwalter, Mr. William A. Masterman and Mr. Warren Hall.

This is to be an annual presentation to the Diocese of Raleigh. In accepting the chalice, Bishop Waters expressed his gratitude for the gift and designated that it be used on the new Trailer Chapel now being obtained under the sponsorship of the North Carolina Catholic Laymen's Association.

The banquet following the exemplification of the Fourth Degree took place Sunday afternoon at the Sir Walter Hotel.

ties colleges, normal schools and retreat houses. All articles are completely catalogued in a 22-page index.

TRAILER CHAPEL FOR CAROLINA HIGHWAYS



Pictured above is the trailer soon to be completely converted into a trailer-chapel which will bring the Catholic Church to the most remote corners of Carolina. When completed the trailer will house not only a suitable chapel for Mass and devotions but also lodging quarters for two priests. It will be called "The Madonna of the Highways" and will carry its name and the name of its sponsor, the North Carolina Catholic Laymen's Association, painted on both sides.

Group In New York City Offers Aid Toward Fund For N. C. C. L. A. Trailer

RALEIGH—Word has been received that the Saint Vincent de Paul Society of St. Gabriel's Parish in Bronx, N. Y., will be happy to sponsor, with the permission of His Eminence Cardinal Spellman, and the generous approval of Monsignor Francis W. Walsh, the pastor, a party at the Pennsylvania Hotel, New York City, on the evening of Friday, April 9th, the proceeds of which will go to the purchase of the Raleigh Trailer Chapel.

Register Cites N. C. Religious Instruction

NAZARETH—The following article is taken from the *Denver Register*, of which the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Matthew J. W. Smith is editor. The article appeared in his column entitled "The Tidings" and is of interest to North Carolinians particularly in its reference to Durham.

"We wonder whether the new 'Protestants and Other Americans United for the Separation of Church and State' are going to look into the following dispatch from Durham, N. Car.?"

"Instruction in the Bible now is offered as an elective course in 229 public schools in North Carolina located in 51 of the state's 100 counties. The classes have a total enrollment of 37,518 pupils, of whom 31,984 are in the elementary grades and 5,534 are in high school, according to a report of the North Carolina Council of Churches.

"The report states that in schools where Bible is offered 98.5 per cent of the elementary pupils take it, but only 17 percent of the students take the instruction in high schools."

"We have no objection at all to having instruction in the Bible given as an elective course in public schools, provided students of differing faiths are not forced to be present, and the way is open for any denomination to put in its own course. But it does seem

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Washington Speaker Lashes at Atheists

RALEIGH—"We are in a universal foxhole today, yet a foxhole in which atheistic principles are readily found in contradiction to the wartime religious fervor," declared Mr. William Collins of Washington, D. C., as he addressed the 65 newly inducted Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus and their friends at a banquet in the Sir Walter Hotel here last Sunday evening. The banquet followed the exemplification which took place here Sunday afternoon.

Substituting for the Most Rev. E. J. McGuinness, D. D., former Bishop of Raleigh, who was unable to attend due to the death of the Most Rev. Francis Kelley of Okla-

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His Excellency Bishop Waters was most enthusiastic about this generous offer of help to the North Carolina Catholic Laymen's Association which will go a long way in assuring the success of the Trailer Project, and wished to express through the *North Carolina Catholic* his most grateful appreciation to His Eminence, Cardinal Spellman, to Monsignor Walsh and to the good people of the St. Vincent de Paul Society which will sponsor this benefit.

Immediately steps were taken by the Bishop to get the Trailer Chapel into production and it was learned that a trailer chapel could be very easily produced along with one which has just gone into production for the Diocese of Richmond by Mr. George Chaplin of the General Trailer Sales Com-

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Catholics Asked To Aid Misery Of World; Children To Help In Offering Lenten Self-Denials

RALEIGH—In cooperation with the nation-wide campaign of the Bishops' Fund for Victims of War which will raise \$5,000,000 for the stricken peoples of the World, the Diocese of Raleigh will take up a collection in all its churches on Laetare Sunday, March 7, it has been announced by the Rev. Francis K. O'Brien, Chancellor.

In order that the Catholic children of America may cooperate in this humanitarian collection, Lenten self-denial boxes in all parochial schools will remind them of their suffering sisters and brothers in war ravished lands. The Rev. Edward T. Gilbert, Superintendent of Schools in the Diocese of Raleigh, has announced that the parochial school children of North Carolina will cooperate in this project by offering their self-denials during Lent and contributing their money.

To add a spur to the collection, a prize sponsored by the North

Carolina Catholic will be awarded to the school who wins top place on a per capita basis.

Pleas of Bishops

Two members of the U. S. Hierarchy, who have seen at first hand the heart-rending suffering in war ravished countries, have voiced their enthusiastic support of the nation-wide, \$5,000,000 Bishops' Fund for Victims of War campaign, which will be conducted in the form of a collection to be taken up in churches on Laetare Sunday, March 7.

The two are Bishop Aloisius J. Muench of Fargo, who now is ser-

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INVITATION

We cordially invite our convert readers to write their Conversion Story for publication in *The North Carolina Catholic*.

We reserve the privilege of editing the manuscript because of space limitations.