

Fr. Tait Marks His 25th Year In Priesthood

Charlotte — The Rev. Francis J. Tait, pastor of St. Patrick's Church in Charlotte, celebrated his 25th anniversary in the priesthood with a Solemn Jubilee Mass Thursday.

His parishioners also sponsored a covered dish supper Thursday evening with all 500 families in St. Patrick's encouraged to attend.

Father Tait took the 25-year milestone in stride and with humility. He is looking forward to another 25 years serving North Carolinians "but only if I live that long."

ALL 25 YEARS of Father Tait's priesthood have been in the Tar Heel State. His first assignment was at St. Anthony's in Southern Pines.

Then he was transferred to Greensboro, New Bern, Sacred Heart Cathedral in Raleigh, Waynesville, Leaksville and Hamlet.

For five years he was at Our Lady of Lourdes in Raleigh and also was associated with Mercy Hospital in Charlotte for one year.

BEFORE TAKING over as pastor of St. Patrick's in Charlotte in June of 1966, he was pastor of Our Lady of Assumption in Charlotte for four and a half years.

Father Tait succeeded the Rev. Edward Sullivan at St. Patrick's. Father Sullivan, who also is celebrating his 25th anniversary in the priesthood this year, currently is pastor of St. Ann's in Charlotte.

Among special guests at Father Tait's Jubilee Mass and the parish supper were his mother, Mrs. Emily Tait of Philadelphia, and father's brother and sister.

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Religion Inspired Greatest Art

By J. J. GILBERT

Washington — (NC) — Religious subjects have inspired some of the world's great art.

This fact is brought home to many people at Christmas.

It is particularly interesting to recall this year, because of two things that have happened here.

In one instance, well on toward Christmas, a U.S. District Court ruling saved more than a billion U.S. Christmas stamps which already had been printed and which you are using this year, which certain interests would have consigned to a government incinerator on the grounds that the government had no business "proselytizing" for any church. The stamp depicts the Madonna and Child, a segment taken from a world famous work in the National Gallery of Art here.

The second development is the publication by the National Gallery of Art of a handsome brochure marking the institution's silver jubilee. It reveals that the first gift, in the nucleus of art works that started the gallery, was a Madonna.

THE BROCHURE emphasizes that the tremendous collection of art works now housed here was brought together entirely by private benefactions. The book is intended to mark the gallery's 25th anniversary. Actually this anniversary fell in 1966, as it is recalled that President Franklin D. Roosevelt opened the gallery on the "bitterly cold night" of St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 1941.

The National Gallery of Art has become in 25 years one of the leading art museums of the world; its growth has been more rapid than that of any other gallery in history. And yet, it is stated, neither of these distinctions could have been attained if a start on the gallery had been made even just a few years later.

It is doubted that, no matter what the resources, such a collection could be brought together today.



The Birth of Christ by Lorenzo di Credi
Galleria Antica e Moderna, Florence

er today. The dwindling supply of old masters, taxes, death duties and restrictions which various nations have put on the export of their national art treasures have changed the whole picture of art collection.

ANDREW MELLON, a one-time Secretary of the Treasury, offered to give the nation a suitable art gallery and to give his own art possessions as "the nucleus of a great national collection." His offer was accepted, but Mellon died a few weeks after ground was broken for the imposing structure on the Mall here.

In 1920, Mellon had learned that the Soviet Russian government was quietly casting about for a purchaser of 21 paintings

in the world-famous Hermitage Gallery in Leningrad. In time, he acquired them all, and in a single stroke brought to this country some of Europe's greatest masterpieces.

Included in this purchase, and in Mellon's gift to the gallery here, are Raphael's "Alba Madon-

na," Botticelli's "Adoration of the Magi," Perugino's "Crucifixion," van Eyck's "Annunciation," Velazquez' "Pope Innocent I," and works by Titian, van Dyck, Franz Hals and Rembrandt.

Featured in the gallery today are Hans Memling's "Madonna and Child with Angels," from which a detail was taken for the 1967 Christmas postage stamp; Giotto's "Madonna and Child," Giorgione's "The Adoration of the Shepherds," da Settignano's "The Christ Child," a sculpture, and many other works of a religious nature.

Mellon's first gift was a Byzantine Madonna.

In all, the gallery today has well over 30,000 pieces of art work. The gallery occupies three blocks of ground.

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