

Religious Bulletin

October 19, 1926

Glory Hallelujah!

The commonest excuse offered by the students who have failed to rejoin the Catholic Church this fall is that they have waited in vain for an emotional appeal that will bring out their religious feelings. There have been many appeals to the intellect, but none of consequence to the emotions. The following report from the Chicago Bee of October 16 will delight these timid souls, for it shows that they can find emotional religion if they will only look for it:

"Not since the burning of Greater Bethel's \$90,000 edifice at 42nd and Grand Blvd. has there been such a display of emotions as were riot there Sunday when the Rev. Henry Young Tookes of Jacksonville, Fla., mounted the pulpit that once was Rev. C. M. Tanner's and began to preach. Women moved to a religious fervor such as seldom shook the walls of this staid old African Methodist Episcopal institution, fell out like soldiers mowed down by machine gun fire at close range. They shouted and they screamed. They cried "Hallelujah! Hallelujah!"-- and wept tears of joy as the new shepherd warmed up to the occasion. There were those in the congregation who had been warm friends of the deposed pastor, the Rev. C. M. Tanner, there out of idle curiosity, and, as they put it, "to see the new minister flop." Before they left their eyes were misty with tears. If there had been any opposition to this tall, dark, robust man of God who preached there this Sunday morning -- he mowed it down in much the same manner as warm sunshine melts the frosts that have gathered over night.....

"Those who were fortunate enough to get seats at the Sunday service were swept off their feet with the dynamic personality of the new divine that had come into their midst to build anew the fortune and faith of Greater Bethel. They beheld a robust, mogul type of man weighing close to 235 pounds, standing more than six feet tall, dark in appearance, forceful -- but not dominating -- a scholar, a Christian gentleman -- and when he opened his mouth they knew he was a preacher. The Rev. Tookes took his text from St. John, ch. 4, v. 7, which deals with the four beasts. The first beast, Rev. Tookes likened to a lion; the second, he likened unto a flying eagle. The figurative and symbolical interpretation of the text was scholarly elaborated, elucidated, and logically explained in a manner convincingly clear.

"Evidence of the forcefulness of his sermon was everywhere. Men and women fell out in religious comas. "Amens" resounded through comas. "Amens" resounded through the school building until the very rafters rung. "Hallelujahs" were shouted forcefully and long. Tears ran down the cheeks of men used to the storms and turmoils of life. Women tore their hair, and children, hardly knowing what it was all about, cried because mother and dad cried. Like a rugged tow boat bringing the palatial ocean liner to port, Rev. Tookes weathered every sea, traversed every treacherous channel, battled on through the night, and then raised his handkerchief to wipe away that clouded his brow and mutter, -- "let us bow in prayer," those who had seen the man knew that Greater Bethel lay safely within the harbor..... The dove of peace hovers over Bethel once more. May its wings never grow tired."

O.S.V.

Our Sunday Visitor, with local and diocesan news, is now placed at the door of the church on Sundays, and the supply remains until exhausted. There is interesting news on Mexico this week.

The Hunchback of Notre Dame.

The Mission Benefit movie tomorrow night merits your support. The proceeds go to the support of the Holy Cross missionaries in Bengal, who have none of the luxuries, and few of the necessities of life. Last fall the students raised \$824 to build a house for Fr. Brooks, who was living in a \$20 hut. Your two bits will do good.