

Palm Sun, Masses 6, 7, 8, 10.
Linnets 1:00; Bened. 1:45.
Theresa Neumann, 8:00 PM.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
March 16, 1940.

(DECEASED) Uncle of Rev. H.
Kenna, C.S.C.; grandmother
of Mike and Joe McGuire.

Patrick's Irish.

No finer picture of the sons and daughters of Saint Patrick has been put into writing than our own Father Leo R. Ward's God In An Irish Kitchen. You do not have to take this on the Bulletin's say-so but can read the spontaneous praise of readers in many parts of the country. It has even been well reviewed in England!

"Father Ward is the only author I know of," writes a Chicago doctor, "who has really caught and appreciated the humor, philosophy and spirit of the Irish." And a priest in Philadelphia says, "I enjoyed God In An Irish Kitchen because of the beauty of its writing and its truth and the evident love the author has for my people....the real Ireland where people are human....I love the book because Father was with the poor, but the imagination of the people keeps them from poverty and their love of Christ makes them noble...."

Snatches from the table of contents will give you an idea of the simplicity and faith of Patrick's people.

"We see the Claddagh houses from the inside, watch seven men capture a salmon and hear old women sitting on the floor of the church say their prayers in Gaelic."

"We discover clever and cattle, but mostly hills and rocks and a few people, circle gently around an unknown mountain, cross Connemara without knowing it, and are told that we are welcome home."

"The speckled chicken barely escapes with its life. Two old women cronies praise each other and all the neighbors and God. It is from God and the Blessed Virgin a boy has the gift of fiddling."

"A man comes out of the praties and shows us his crop. He tells us how he has made land and how he quit the drink."

"People get ready to climb Saint Patrick's Mountain. Twenty thousand ascend at dawn and make the Station on their knees...All go to Lough Derg to do penance and most find the Canon's hour the hardest. They fast and go in their feet, they drink black tea and break dry bread, and afterwards see the world anew...Everywhere we find the Sacred Heart reigning in pubs and kitchens...." (ILL, Prof. Madden).

The Cross of Chaste Christian Courtship. (III).

Living up to the Christian ideal of holy purity obviously implies the greatest caution and prudence with regard to such things as kissing, embracing, dancing and drinking. Not that any of these things is wrong in itself, but you can never forget --much as you would like to--the fact of concupiscence. That fact means that human nature is upset, that the law of the flesh is ceaselessly fighting the law of the mind. Because of this fact, it is all too easy to ignite the passions. And it is all too hard not to follow the "simple" way of the world which ignores the struggle, tries to forget, pretends, sells the priceless Christian heritage of life divine for the sordid mess of sense-nerve-and-muscle life lived in the barnyard.

Not to wind up in this pigsty, you need a program. You will consecrate yourselves to the Mother of God and Saint Joseph. You will frequently tap divine grace at its fonts in this world--Mass and Holy Communion, confession and prayer. You will never be too much alone. You will understandingly break away at the first sign of danger. You will not overemphasize the merely physical, bodily aspects of dates and courtship but will rather, in proportion, also cultivate your mutual interests of mind and heart: a taste for good reading and music, conversation and sports. You will learn how to walk--and like it. You will gradually learn to prefer to keep out of night-clubs and hot-spots because it will dawn on you that "the world is too much with us" really means something.

Falsely you think, "Priests do not understand the force of fallen nature." They do. The Mother of God is "our tainted nature's solitary boast." And St. Paul himself put it in writing for the world that he knew the sting of the flesh. As a matter of fact, because of their studies and the thousands of true-life dramas priests hear, they happen to be the best qualified men in the world to understand and to sympathize. But they respect the truth and love Jesus Christ. They will not tell you black is white or that yielding to temptation is not a sin.

Learn to buck up under pressure. Pray for the grace and strength of the saints! .

* * * * *

(to be concluded in next Monday's Bulletin)
PRAYERS: (III) brother of Ben Saelli (Serin).