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BISHOP RECEIVES LIMERICK CITY'S HIGHEST HONOUR

Most Reverend Joseph Brendan Whelan becomes 45th Freeman

By LEADER STAFF REPORTER

IN A SIMPLE but very impressive ceremony, Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Brendan Whelan, C.S.Sp., Bishop of Owerri, was made a Freeman of his native city of Limerick before a distinguished gathering in the historic grounds of St. John's Cathedral on Thursday night.

Dr. Whelan becomes the 45th Freeman of the city and joins a long and illustrious list of men who have been accorded this honour.

Dr. Whelan motored from Dublin to accept the honour, and was met at the borough boundary by a motorcade which included the Mayor of Limerick, Ald. S. Coughlan, T.D.

From there he was escorted to St. John's Cathedral, where he inspected a guard of honour from the 12th Battalion, Sarsfield Barracks, under Lt. Michael Budd, while Army Pipe Band played "Faith of Our Fathers."

Others had their way, our city would rank, where we think it should, as a centre of education, culture and faith.

Referring to criticisms, Bishop Whelan went on: "There were 300 Missionaries in Eastern

(Continued on Page 4)

Pay rise for garage men

Arising from negotiations between the local centre of the Society of the Irish Motor Industry and the 2 Branches of the I.T.G.W.U. workers employed in motor garages throughout the city have received an increase of 1.2 per hour with pro rata adjustments for apprentices.

The increase which does not include the present 12th round was awarded in two phases — 10d. per hour from 22nd February, and a further 4d. per hour on the 6th May, 1970. The existing contractual agreement has been extended to the 31st October, 1970.

The Union delegation consisted of Mr. P. J. Walsh, Chairman Motor Mechanic Section, I.T.G.W.U. and Messrs. Phil Kelly, Michael Kennedy and V. P. Moran, Branch, Secretary. The employers were represented by Mr. N. McDonagh and Mr. H. Kennedy.

Racket is exposed

Public telephone call box subscribers have been puzzled of late as to why they have not received their money back having pressed button B when they received the engaged signal.

"Racketeers" are to blame. They simply place a piece of paper into the opening used for recovering the sixpenny pieces. Subscribers are advised to look for this slip of paper in future when they fail to recover their money.

The harp that once...?

Thomas Moore's immortal melody was recalled at the recent Press conference at which the forthcoming Limerick Choral Union's productions were announced. It was learned during the conference that a harpist would not be available in Ireland because of several other productions throughout the country.

Eventually a harpist was located... in London. The lady has agreed to travel and play with the orchestra. Cost of the freightage for the harp—£34.

This is only one of the headaches that Mrs. M. McCann had to face as P.R.O. but she is quite confident that Limerick's week of opera will be as successful as previous endeavours.

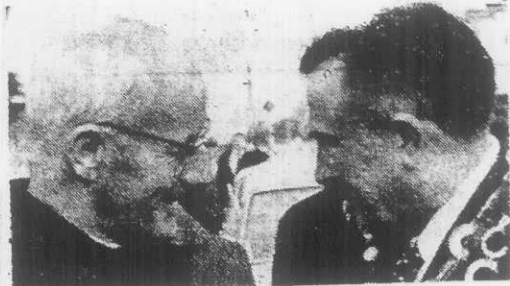
Deaths

KENNEDY — April 3, 1970. Hilda, beloved wife of James Kennedy, 9 Pery Square, Limerick. Very deeply regretted by her loving husband, son, relatives and friends. R.I.P. Requiem Mass in St. Michael's Church tomorrow (Saturday) at 11 o'clock. Funeral immediately afterwards to Mount St. Laurence Cemetery. House strictly private.

FLANNERY — April 3, 1970. at his residence, 41 Island Road, Clement Flannery. Deeply regretted by his relatives and friends. R.I.P. Requiem Mass tomorrow (Saturday) at 10 o'clock. Funeral at 3.30 o'clock same day to Mount St. Laurence Cemetery. (C)



Escorted by the City Manager, Mr. T. F. McDermott, the Bishop of Owerri, Most Rev. J. Whelan, C.S.Sp., signs the roll of Freeman of the City of Limerick, after the Conferring Ceremony.



The Mayor of Limerick, Ald. Steve Coughlan, T.D., welcomes Most Rev. Joseph Whelan, C.S.Sp., Bishop of Owerri, on his arrival in Limerick city.



Mrs. Theresa McDarby with the faithful collie, "Pooch."

The dog that didn't forget

IT WAS an exciting week-end's shopping spree for Mrs. Theresa McDarby of Prospect Villas. On Easter Saturday she and "Pooch", the family pet shepherd dog, went to O'Connell Street where Mrs. McDarby entered Messrs. Todds, having instructed the dog to stay outside.

Having spent some time in Todds, Mrs. McDarby remembered that she had business to do in William Street, left the store by the William Street exit — and forgot about "Pooch".

But "Pooch" like all loyal dogs, did not forget his mistress.

Mrs. McDarby returned home and it was only some time later that the pet was missed. There followed a search of the neighbourhood. There were tears and

anxiety for the next twenty-four hours and the family eventually reconciled themselves to the fact that the dog was lost.

On Tuesday morning however, the family were informed that "Pooch" was still very much at large — sitting patiently outside the O'Connell Street entrance to Todds waiting for his mistress to emerge.

There was a very happy re-union.

Recitals

The renowned Hungarian pianist, Tamas Vasaty, will give recitals in Limerick this Saturday and Sunday at the Training College Hall.

STUDENT FINED £10

"STUDENTS should try to show a little more maturity and stop making asses of themselves," remarked Justice M. de Burca at Limerick City Court this Friday when he was told that a student tried to get into a hotel against the will of the owner on the occasion of the Springboks visit to Limerick on January 14 last.

Leo Cullen (21), Killenale, Co. Tipperary, was fined £10 for assaulting Michael Barry, assistant manager, at the Shannon Arms Hotel, Henry Street.

The defendant pleaded guilty to the charge.

Mr. Gordon Holmes, State Solicitor, prosecuting on behalf of the Attorney-General, said that on the night of January

14 last the Springboks were guests of the Irish Rugby Union at a dinner in the hotel.

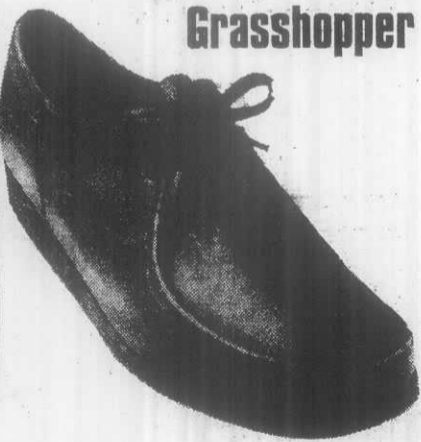
The defendant and other people were demonstrating outside against the visit of the Springboks. Thirty people went into the hotel and the proprietor, Mr. Stephen Foley, sought Garda assistance.

They were removed by Gardaí. Cullen tried to re-enter the hotel and butted Michael Barry with his head.

Mr. Holmes said that tempers were very frayed that night, and this incident could have provoked a much more serious situation.

Mr. Gregory Tynan, solicitor for Cullen, said that the defendant was never in Court previously. He was an agricultural student at the university.

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LEAVYS

WILLIAM ST., O'CONNELL ST., LIMERICK



Most Rev. Henry Murphy, D.D., Bishop of Limerick, welcomes the Bishop of Owerri, Most Rev. Joseph Whelan, C.S.Sp., and the Mayor, Ald. Steve Coughlan, T.D., before the concelebration of Mass in St. John's Cathedral.

A DAY OF JOY FOR GIRL, FOR BOY...

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Bishop Joseph Whelan, C.S.Sp., escorted by Lt. Michael Good, inspects a military guard of honour in St. John's Square.

Bishop Whelan Receives Highest Honour

(From Page One)

Nigeria at the outbreak of the war. As the enclave diminished in size, 200 of these became redundant. At the end of the year there were 101, almost all Irish. I owe it as a duty to you, the Irish Church, to answer certain criticisms.

"It has been often repeated that our mercy planes carried arms and that our trucks were used to ferry ammunition; that the Missionaries themselves during the war, and even now, indulge in pro-Biafran propaganda.

"I defy anyone to produce concrete evidence to support the arms accusation.

Food

"Our personnel at Sao Tome even refused to handle food

owned by the then Biafran Government, because it was outside our relief programme. Is it likely then, that they would handle arms?

"When I came home a year and a half ago, I said at a press conference that I would answer any questions on relief; I would not speak on politics. This was the line we strove to follow.

"One can forgive an occasional imprudent statement, for we were very much identified with our suffering people.

"The human suffering caused by the war awakened the best in men of good will. I think of the graveyard at Uli, where 18 crosses mark the graves of airmen killed while flying mercy planes.

"These were no mercenaries; they were heroes of charity. I think of those priests and brothers, like Fr Finbáine and

Fr. O'Connor of Limerick, who went nightly to the airport and despite bombing raids supervised the unloading of our planes.

"These are men whose courage I admire and could not imitate. I salute those loyal pastors, like Fr. Joe Carter, the first to be arrested by Federal troops, who stayed at their posts to the end.

"Those who left earlier did so because their work was done and their parishes closed.

Fr. Hannon

"My mind reverts to Ireland. I see missionaries, like Fr. Hannon, campaigning vigorously for relief.

"To Irish TV, radio and the gentlemen of the press we owe a debt that could not be over-stressed or repaid.

"Not only did they place their media of communication at our disposal, they spoke and wrote so expertly and so extensively that their words reached every corner of the country and their appeals were liberally answered.

"They are responsible for the success of Africa Concern, organised by Mr. Loughlin Kennedy and the Knights of St. Columbanus.

"I must mention too among our benefactors that our relief programme was an exercise in ecumenism.

"Christians of all denominations joined together in work and prayer to reach a new level of understanding in the practice of charity.

"Finally, I turn again to the whole Irish nation, strong in faith and generous to a fault.

"The uncountable prayers offered for peace, the myriads acts of sacrifice by rich and poor will bring a rich reward from the Lord who repays even a cup of cold water given in His name.

"I think again of our young people.

"They are often in my mind because I have seen so much suffering among the children of Owerri, and realise its impact on our young people. We, the older generation owe them more than we can give.

"Sympathy and understanding of their problems would bridge the age-gap. An ideal would inspire them. In the past, the youth of Ireland responded to patriotic ideas. During this war the young rose to heights of sacrifice.

"If we could put before them the ideal of a renewed faith, and a society bound together by active love, after the model of the joint-aid in helping a starving population, they would accept the challenge.

Thank-you

"My dear young friends I thank you for your generosity. You have great powers, for the future depends on you.

"I spoke of Bishop Shanahan and his peaceful revolution. By casting two seminal ideas on the fertile soil of the Ibos, he renewed the face of their country.

"If you would accept the two ideas of a renewed faith and social reform, you would effect a peaceful revolution. You would remould Church and State to a new greatness.

"The Church needs you; society needs you. You want change. Change them by reweaving them, and you will give us an adapted Church and a more Christian society. Then you, the much criticised generation of today would be the glory of the future.

The platform party included: His Worship the Mayor and members of the City Council; Most Rev. Joseph Whelan, Bishop of Owerri; Most Rev. Henry Murphy, Bishop of Limerick; Most Rev. Michael Moloney, Bishop of Gambia; Right Rev. Dom Augustine O'Sullivan, O.S.B., Lord Abbot of Glenstal; Mr. T. F. McDermott, City Manager; Mr. T. Collier, Assistant Town Clerk; Mr. B. Danaher, Chairman, County Council; Mr. J. C. Barrett, Chairman, Limerick Health Authority; Mr. M. Consideine, Chairman, Regional Development Organisation; Mr. B. Corish, T.D.; Mr. D. O'Malley, T.D., Parliamentary Secretary; Colonel T. McDonald, O.C. 3rd Brigade; Chief Supt. P. Mac Laughlin; Mr. D. Dudley, Limerick County Manager; McCann, representing Dr. Wyse-Jackson; Very Rev. Fr. Dinan, Provincial, Holy Ghost Order.

Reception

Over 500 people attended the reception which was held at the C.B.S. Sexton Street. At the conclusion, the Mayor proposed a vote of thanks to Brother Scully for placing the Hall at the disposal of the Council.

Father Joseph Carter, C.S.Sp., seconded, and Bro. Scully suitably replied.

Bishop Whelan recalled his early days at school at "Christiansburg" and paid a warm tribute for the part they had played and were continuing to play in education.

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The Pallottine Priests invite young men to dedicate their lives to the Missions in—

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