

**LENTEN RULES
LETTER ISSUED**

Rt. Rev. Bishop M. J. Hoban has issued his annual statement relative to the observance of Lent in the Scranton diocese, which includes this county. The season, which is one of fasting and abstinence among Catholics all over the world, begins on Ash Wednesday and ends with Easter Sunday.

This year Ash Wednesday fell on February 24th, and services appropriate to the day were held in all the Catholic churches. The old custom of blessing the ashes was followed.

The Bishop's circular, which is not unlike those issued in previous years, is as follows:

RULES FOR THE OBSERVANCE OF LENT.

- 1—All the faithful who have completed their twenty-first year are bound to observe the Fast of Lent, unless dispensed for legitimate reasons.
- 2—Only one meal a day is allowed, except on Sunday.
- 3—This meal is not to be taken until about noon.
- 4—On those days on which permission is granted to eat meat, both meat and fish are not to be used at the same meal, even by way of condiment.
- 5—A collation or partial meal is allowed in the evening. The general practice of pious Christians limits its quantity to the fourth part of an ordinary meal.
- 6—Bread, butter, cheese, fruit of all kinds, salads, vegetables and fish, are permitted; at the collation milk and eggs are also permitted.
- 7—Custom has made it lawful to drink in the morning some warm liquid, such as tea and coffee, or thin chocolate made with water.
- 8—Necessity and custom have authorized the use of lard instead of butter in preparing fish, vegetables, etc.
- 9—The following persons are not bound to observe the Fast, viz: All under twenty-one years of age, the sick, pregnant women and those giving suck to infants, those who are obliged to do hard work, and all who through weakness cannot fast without injury to their health.
- 10—By dispensation, the use of flesh meat will be allowed at any time on Sunday, and once a day on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, except on the second Saturday in Lent and Holy Saturday.
- 11—Persons exempt from the obligation of fasting by age or laborious occupation are permitted the use of meat at any meal on those days on which its use is granted by dispensation.
- 12—By an indult of the Holy See, granted March 15, 1895, for ten years in favor of workmen, the bishops of this country may dispense the former from the more rigid law of abstinence in view of certain difficulties that may exist in their diocese. In virtue of this indult, workmen, together with their entire households, may eat flesh meat on the abstinence days of Lent, on Ember days and on the vigil of these feasts, except on Fridays, on Ash Wednesday, on the days of Holy Week, and on the vigil of Christmas. As flesh meat, however, is permitted by indult of August 3, 1897, on all Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays of Lent, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday are the only days remaining in Holy Week on which the use of flesh meat is not permitted; those who are obliged to fast, however, can avail themselves of this dispensation only at the principal meal.
- 13—Those who have any reasonable doubt as to their ability to fast or abstain should seek the advice of their pastor.
- 14—On the first Sunday of Lent a collection shall be taken up in all churches of the diocese for the Negro and Indian Missions of the United States, for the Propagation of the Faith, and for Home Missions, and the proceeds sent to the Reverend Chancellor, 315 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton.
- 15—The pious practice of contributing a small amount on Good Friday to the support of the sanctuaries of the Holy Land, should be encouraged. Only a trifle—from one to five cents—need be given, and the proceeds of the collection should be sent to the Reverend Chancellor.

MICHAEL JOHN HOBAN,
Bishop of Scranton.

A. J. BRENNAN,
Bishop's Secretary.

A Human Ostrich.

A man, patient at the Verdun insane asylum of Montreal, Can., fell ill recently and Dr. T. J. W. Burgess decided upon an operation. The case was diagnosed as peritonitis. The patient died. An autopsy revealed the following articles in his stomach:

- Three bundles of broom fibre, piece of whalebone, piece of insulating tape, bundle of hair, 108 nails, piece of paper with string, 32 pieces of wire, one button, hook, six pieces of tobacco, pipe stem, 21 tobacco tags, 31 small pieces of wire, four screws, one paper fastener, one boot eye, two plum stones, one piece of twisted picture wire, nine pieces of iron, one steel spring, one iron nut, one horse-shoe nail, four tacks and four hairpins.

The patient had been indulging in an indigestible diet for weeks, the articles having been secretly picked up and swallowed.

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**Inauguration of the
Twenty-seventh President**

**It Will Be a More Imposing and Costly
Function Than Any of Its Predecessors**

FROM present indications it is apparent that there will be no falling off in the inaugural celebration this year. Although he never led a charge of rough riders and has no actual right to sing "Cheer Up, Comrades," Mr. Taft will be honored by an attendance at the inaugural ceremonies of as great a military force as that which marched in parade behind President Roosevelt. In keeping with the essentially peaceful and civic character of the incoming president, the industrial and civilian feature of the parade of next March 4 will be far more extensive and imposing than ever before.

The joint committee of the two houses of congress purposes to make the ceremonies attending the actual inauguration of President Taft and Vice President Sherman as solemn and dignified as befits so important an event. Joy and music and the spirit of festivity will mark the inaugural parade, and the scenes along the streets will be as brilliant as ever, but in the capitol and on the inaugural stand erected on its east front solemnity and dignity will dominate. The details are already perfected, and every official and every employee understands the part he is to play.



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WILLIAM H. TAFT, TWENTY-SEVENTH PRESIDENT.

committee, in charge as marshal; third, the great display of fireworks on the White lot, just in front of the White House, in combination with the illumination of the streets of Washington through the downtown section, the dome of the United States capitol and the Washington monument, and a drill and display of pyrotechnics by the Republican Flambeau club of Minneapolis; fourth, the inaugural ball in the pension building, the biggest brick structure in the world; fifth, the forenoon parade of the American veteran soldiers and sailors of the G. A. R., the United Spanish War Veterans and the Army and Navy union, which will form the escort of honor for President Elect Taft and Vice President Elect Sherman from the White House to the capitol, where they will take the oath of office, preceding the big parade and other features.

Sailors and Marines.

The details of the big military parade have been worked out by Brigadier General John A. Johnson, chief of General Bell's staff, assisted by Major Samuel D. Sturgis, adjutant general, both regular army officers on duty at the war department. Here is the inaugural day program in a nutshell as prepared by them:

The morning escort of the president from the White House to the capitol at 10 a. m. by the veteran grand division; the exercises at the capitol on a stand accommodating 7,000 persons, concluding with the administration of the oath of office to the president and his address; the assembly of the military and grand division in the streets south and southeast of the civic grand division in the streets west and northwest of the capitol; the afternoon escort of the president by the military and civic grand divisions from the capitol to the White House at the conclusion of his inaugural address at about 1:20 p. m.; review of the military and civic grand divisions by the president from his stand in the court of honor in front of the White House from about 3 to 6 in the afternoon and the dismissal of the parade; the display of fireworks from 7:30 to 9 p. m.

In the military division there will be about 3,000 sailors and marines from the battleship fleet, fresh from its cruise around the world; the famous Philippine constabulary band, the midshipmen and cadets from the academies at Annapolis and West Point,

and they will file into the senate chamber and take the places assigned to them. Next in order will come the supreme court of the United States, headed by Chief Justice Fuller, and then the ambassadors and ministers plenipotentiary of the foreign nations. Following the heads of the diplomatic corps will come the heads of the executive departments, who will take their places immediately back of the seats assigned to the chief figures in the drama.

Following the cabinet, the vice president elect will be formally announced and will enter, accompanied by his escort—Senator Frye, president pro tempore of the senate, and Representative Young. "The president elect" will be the next announcement, and William H. Taft, accompanied by Senators Knox and Lodge, will enter, and finally the president of the United States will enter alone. At each announcement the entire assemblage will rise

and remain standing until the person announced is seated.

Mr. Fairbanks' Valedictory.

When all the dignitaries have arrived the vice president will deliver his valedictory and will then call to the rostrum James S. Sherman, to whom he will administer the oath of the vice president of the United States, after which he will declare the senate adjourned without day. Having been sworn, Mr. Sherman will ascend the rostrum and, taking the gavel, will call the senate to order for the new session and will ask that new members of the senate come forward and take the oath of office. Presumably there will be sixteen new faces in the senate. Each new senator, accompanied by his colleague, will step forward and take the oath. This done, the entire assemblage will proceed to the inaugural stand.

The sergeants-at-arms of the senate and the house will lead the stately procession. This is an innovation, as heretofore it has been led by the marshals of the supreme court and of the District of Columbia. Those present in the senate chamber will fall into line in the same order in which they entered the senate, and the entire company will march to the inaugural stand. The troops gathered in front of the stand will present arms as the president and the president elect appear at the main door of the capitol, and when they have arrived at the front of the stand Chief Justice Fuller will step forward and administer to Mr. Taft the oath of office, following which the new president will deliver his inaugural address, which is understood to be unusually brief. From the stand the president will descend a flight of steps to his carriage and drive immediately to the White House, where he may snatch a brief luncheon before taking his place in the stand.

There will be a slight change this year in the order of the progress of the president, the president elect and the vice president and the vice president elect to the capitol. In view of the close relations of Senator Lodge to the president he will ride in the carriage with the president and the president elect, as will also Senator Knox, who as chairman of the committee on arrangements is the personal escort of the executive. The vice president will have as escort Senator Bacon and Representatives Burke and Gaines, while the vice president elect will be accompanied by Senator Frye, the president pro tempore of the senate, and Representative Young. Heretofore only one senator has accompanied the two chief figures in the ceremonies.

Ball a National Function.

Always a pleasing and picturesque feature, it is proposed to make the inaugural ball of 1909 something more—a great national function of supreme interest and significance. It will take the form of a reception by President Taft and Vice President Sherman to the country at large. Each state in the Union will be officially represented on the floor by one of its distinguished sons, whose mission it will be to cooperate officially in the presentation of the visitors from here, there and everywhere to the great men of the nation who will be in attendance.

Gov. Blair, whose father, Montgomery Blair, was postmaster general in the cabinet of President Lincoln, is chairman of the committee in charge of the inaugural ball and has so planned the event as to bring the entire Union through the forty-six states into direct and active participation in the function.

Washington is a national city, a city belonging to the country," Chairman Blair said in discussing the ball arrangements. "It is our desire that all who come to the inauguration—and there promises to be the biggest attendance in the history of these affairs—should feel that in coming to the national capital they are coming to their own city."

"The ball will be essentially and distinctively national. A representative from each state has been designated as a member of the inaugural ball committee. These gentlemen will know many of the people who come from their respective states and will see that they are properly introduced to the statesmen and their wives and other distinguished visitors. Thus it is hoped to bring the forty-six states into close touch with the national capital on this memorable occasion."

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