

DUCHESNE COLLEGE AND  
CONVENT OF THE SACRED HEART

Omaha, Nebraska

JULY 29, 1967

My dear Marie and Margaret,

I have just come from John's truly beautiful Mass and I want to share a few of its highlights at once.

At 9:30 A. M. the whole Creighton Community (they looked legion to me) in surplices filed in from the Saoristry and occupied the front benches, leaving the very first one for T and Jim. Then the casket was closed. John, in purple vestments, looked so noble and peaceful and younger than his pictures. (I have not seen him since 1914- or was it Then the Acolytes (Colored) came, followed by the thirteen 1913??)

priests, in black vestments, who concelebrated the Mass. William was the sub-descon (his choice, I'M sure) and the celebrant, the Aather Joung, S.J., pastor of St. John's Church. The Archbishop was in the Sanotuary and, in spite of his artificial leg and need to use two-hand erutches, he held to giving the final absolution.

There were Monsignors and many diocesan priests, as well as countless Negroes, nuns and friends of all ages and ranks either in the Sanetuary or filling the very large Church.

One of those Jesuits who concelebrated the Mass was Father Ted Cunningham, a Negro, the priest in charge of Markoe House in the Negro district.

As you know, Markoe House is an experiment in which three S. J. priests, four or five Scholastios and a dynamio S. J. Brother (Kuffy) live in a Negro area as "witnesses", to encourage Negroes to visit them while they, the S. J.'s, live as do their neighbors--i.e., they are self-supporting (working in factories, in construction jobs (I certainly am having trouble with pens!!) This has been an eye-opener for the Jesuits, who find they are having diffioulty managing and that they have to suit their tastes to their pocket-book!!

Father Cunningham is the only full-time resident at Markoe House and ladies of the auxiliary replace him if he has to leave for any reason. The central act of the day is the "Liturgy" (the Mass) in their front room, which has large circular windows through which, children first then adults, peer daily to watch. Some are now assisting from within This Mass is at 6:30 P. M. daily and small groups of our own nuns go on Fridays to participate and sing. This weck some Keet also on Wednesday, so were there when Father Cunningham announeed that Our Lord had come for John. He was so moved, both then and during his beautiful homily, that he could hardly speak. He had confided to one of our nuns, before this, that he owed everything to Father Markoe, so his loss was intensely personal. It was so like Our Lord to arrange to have the first Mass for John in Markoe House. One of the joys they relate to visitors there is that John was able to visit them shortly after they "got settled", (a relative t in June, and he saw and approved of everything. Again it was like Our Lord to let John see this visible fruit of his work before he went home.

To-return

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To return to the funeral Mass. After the Archbishop's absolution, all the Jesuits filed out and the coffin (covered with the American flag, placed on it by a Army man in uniform passed between them, as they formed a cordon from the Church to the hearse. It was all very beautiful. I followed T and Jim out and spoke to them when they got into the first car. The College president represented Duchesne College: one of our nuns working almost exclusively with Negroes in inner city represented his work and I represented you two first of all and then the Regan-Konnelly clan.

Affectionately in Christ,

A. Regan RSCJ

At the grave there was a rifle salute and taps as the coffin was lowered