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BOURBONNAIS, ILLINOIS, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1932

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Celebrate Patron's Day

FEAST OF ST. VIATOR IS OBSERVED BY COLLEGE

Solemn High Mass Celebrated In Chapel; The Very Rev. J. W. R. Maguire, C. S. V., Preaches Sermon

At eight o'clock on the morning of October twenty first, the feast day of the patron saint of the college a Solemn High Mass was celebrated in the College chapel with the entire student body in attendance. Very Rev. J. W. R. Maguire, C. S. V., President of the college was the celebrant. Rev. Richard J. French, C. S. V., was Deacon and Rev. E. V. Cardinal, C. S. V., sub-deacon, with Rev. Bro. William J. Cracknell, C. S. V., acting as master of ceremonies.

St. Viator

The subject of the sermon preached was appropriately the life of St. Viator and his influence upon the centuries that have followed his. Fr. Maguire sketched the life of the youthful saint as being one of great holiness in the little matters of every day. He told how the young man, whose name of Viator signifies man's true state as a "wanderer" on earth, at an early age went about the narrow streets of the old cathedral city of Lyons ringing a bell to call the little children of the city to catechism. He was attached to the cathedral as a lector, one of the first of the orders leading to the holy priesthood, and beyond which he never advanced. At the time in which he lived, the fourth century, the Church's history was yet young, but it had been glorious in Lyons where many martyrs had given their lives for their faith.

St. Viator was not of this number, but his holiness was none the less great. He was very devoted to the good bishop of Lyons, Saint Just, and when he left Lyons to spend the remainder of his days in the deserts of Egypt seeking greater sanctification, St. Viator was his sole companion. Saint Just died soon after his retirement to Egypt, and the youthful Saint Viator followed him in death soon afterwards.

Saint Viator was an example of humility and quietness in his life, reckoning as little the high sanctity he had achieved, and ever striving for the perfection that only few ever attain. Yet, after his death, countless pilgrims came to the tomb where the bodies of the bishop and his faithful lector, Viator, were placed, and a fame never known in his life was given him when he was raised to the altars of the Church of Lyons. He is a model for those in the humble walks of life to fulfill the task at hand with the utmost perfection, and, in this manner, achieve sanctity. Centuries after his death, he was chosen as patron for his newly founded order of teaching catechists by Fr. Querbes.

St. Viator The Model of Youth

It is indeed happy for the college

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Feast of Viator

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that its patron should have so expressly have been the model for young men. He did not live beyond his early twenties, and yet with a life lived truly for God, he attained a height of sanctity that should be encouraging for all those who find in life little that seems to be worthy of the notice of their Creator. Youth is the time for sacrifice and it is the time when the greatest rewards are earned for then the full bloom of young manhood gives to works of sacrifice a particular charm in the eyes of God.
