

FIRST IN 58 YEARS

Priest Ordained

By ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

BALTIMORE — For the first time in 58 years, a colored priest was ordained here in impressive services at the new multi-million dollar Cathedral of Mary our Queen.

He is the Rev. Paul B. Smith, 30, native Baltimorean, who, along with eight other priests, received the power to offer sacrifice to God and celebrate Masses before a capacity audience of 1,600 persons.

The ancient Sacrament which was instituted by Christ for the perpetuation of His priesthood, was led by His Excellency, the Most Reverend Lawrence J. Shehan, Archbishop of the Diocese of Baltimore, which lists more than 400,000 Catholic members.

During the ceremonies, the tall, youthful priest, clothed in white and wearing a white satin stole lined with pale blue, received the kiss of peace from the Archbishop,

recited the Canon of the Mass, the Apostles Creed, received Communion and otherwise made the profession of faith he is to preach.

INCLUDING THE Nicene Credo, which dates back to 325 A.D., the rites were in Latin. An all-male choir of 50 voices sang and chanted also in Latin.

Early in the Mass, traditionally a Low Mass, Father Smith and the other priests lay prone and motionless upon the sanctuary floor for 10 minutes. Later, as part of the ritual, attendants tied each one's hands with white cloth.

The entire event was marked by the proud but humble smile of the young priest. The more than 250 attending clergymen and high church officials upon the altar, reflected his expression with obvious pleasure.

Among the clergymen who took part in the solemn laying on of hands was Father Charles L. Jackson, also a Baltimorean, who was ordained in Fort de France in Martinique in 1955.

The newly ordained priests imparted priestly blessings to the Bishop, fellow priests and persons present at 10:55 a.m.

Then, the Rev. Mr. Smith proceeded from the altar to a side corridor where he entered the Chapel of the Sacred Heart.

From behind the altar rail, he gave his first blessing to his mother, Mrs. Josephine A. Smith, who wept silently as she knelt before him,

clasped his hands and kissed them separately on his open palms.

Still beaming a broad smile, the Rev. Mr. Smith gave blessings to his sister, Mrs. Agnes A. Dorsey, her husband, Charles A. Dorsey, a Baltimore attorney, and their five children, ages one to nine years.

FOLLOWING THEM were more than 500 other worshippers of all races including the young priest's neighbors, friends, former St. Pius Pa-

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REV. PAUL B. SMITH
Ordained in Baltimore

—Ordain priest

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rochial School and Douglass High School classmates, teachers, fellow priests, student priests, church dignitaries, members of the Oblate Sisters Order (the world's oldest order of colored nuns) and Father Jackson.

The eight other priests were also stationed at altars in corridors around the vast cathedral.

However, Father Smith continued to confer blessings for over an hour, long after his fellow priests had left their stations.

As he departed the altar, other persons knelt in the aisles of the cathedral to implore his blessings.

HE WAS detained more than 10 minutes and arrived last at the Rectory where the nine new priests were due to be served breakfast with Archbishop Shehan.

The Rev. Mr. Smith will be at home with his family at 2829 Clifton Ave. for more than a week's vacation to await orders from the Bishop sending him to the Diocese of Alexandria in Louisiana where he will begin parish work in June.

Meantime, on June 3, he will say his first Mass at 12:15 p.m., a high Mass, at the St. Pius church where he was baptised in 1931.

—NAACP chief

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