

Edward McGlynn

WAS

CATHOLIC NEW YORK - July 25, 1991

## Stolen Vessel

Chalice, 104 years old, found on street corner

A chalice belonging to Father Edward McGlynn, a colorful and controversial figure in the Archdiocese of New York during the 19th century, has been returned to Our Lady of the Scapular and St. Stephen's Church, Manhattan, after an absence of nearly seven months.

It was found by an unidentified Brooklyn man July 17, along with a metal candle holder, four other chalices and a ciborium belonging to another Manhattan parish, in a plastic bag at the corner of Broadway and Canal Street. He took them to the Sunset Park stationhouse near his home where police notified the pastors of the churches involved.

Father McGlynn was extremely active in the religious and political life of the city in the years after the Civil War. Within a year of his ordination on March 12, 1860, he was appointed pastor of St. Ann's and five years later, at the age of 29, of St. Stephen's. At that time the parish, with some 28,000 members, had the largest congregation in the country.

Father McGlynn, an outspoken opponent of Catholic schools, supported the single-tax theory of economist and mayoral candidate Henry George. His views, not surprisingly, often put him at odds with Church officials. When he refused to cease his political activities and failed to report to Rome as directed by the Vatican, Father McGlynn was excommunicated on July 1, 1887. The excommunication was lifted five years later. Father McGlynn then was appointed pastor of St. Mary's Church, Newburgh, where he died in 1900.

Father Kenneth Murphy, O. Carm., told police that the chalice's value was mainly historic. It had the date March 25, 1887 engraved on it and Father Murphy reasoned, "Anyone could see the chalice was stolen; the guy who took it probably couldn't hock it."

He was surprised that the chalice was returned after such a long period of time. "But it's nice to know something worked out right," he added.

Father Basil Vegvari, O.F.M., pastor of the

Exaltation of the Holy Cross Church in Manhattan, echoed Father Murphy's sentiments.

The four chalices and ciborium were taken from the Byzantine-Hungarian Rite Catholic church on the Upper East Side just a week before they were found. Father Vegvari said that it was the first time the church had been burglarized and he performed a reparation service there on July 14. He also discussed the probability that the thief had trouble trying to sell the items.

"People are under the impression that the chalices are solid gold," he explained. "Their value lies in that they are sacred vessels; they are 50 to 60 years old and have tradition because they were donated. You cannot measure their value."

## CYO Basketball Camp Registration Continues

Registration continues for the CYO basketball camps for boys and girls, age 10-16, at the John V. Mara Sports Camp in Putnam Valley. The boys' weeks are Sunday through Friday, Aug. 4-9 and Aug. 11-16. The girls' week is Sunday through Friday, Aug. 18-23.

Tom Murray, varsity basketball coach at Cardinal Hayes High School, the Bronx, will return to run the camps for the 21st consecutive year. He will be assisted by six coaches, including, from the CHSAA: Harry Hart, Blessed Sacrament; Kevin O'Meara, Iona Prep, and Tom Murray Jr., Mount St. Michael Academy.

Campers are grouped according to age and ability. Emphasis is on individual instruction in the basics: dribbling, passing, shooting and defensive skills.

Tuition is \$130 per week, cash or money order only. Information: CYO office, (212) 371-1000, ext. 2057 or 2058.