

REMARKS DELIVERED AT St. ANTHONY'S CHURCH, WEST WARWICK**
25th ANNIVERSARY ON SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 1947 BY JOHN E. FOGARTY, MC

It is a genuine pleasure to come out to Pawtuxet Valley today to join in this celebration - commemorating the 25th anniversary of Saint Anthony's Parish.

As we work our way through life we become more and more aware of the influences which play a part in shaping the character and philosophy of life of all men and women who are part of this great democratic system which is the United States of America.

There are many influences for good, in one degree or another, and there are those which are evil. All, at one time or another, exert their pressure and - for a time at least leave their marks in the every day life of our country.

As a man in public life - intimately associated with the Government of this Republic - I have witnessed the operation and effect of many of those forces.

I can say to you - in all sincerity - that there is no more important influence in the shaping of this nation's policies - than that which has been exerted by Saint Anthony's parish, here in the little Town of West Warwick.

It may seem that this parish is far removed from the Halls of Congress and the stately and magnificent buildings which are the Nation's Capitol. But it is the thoughts and the hopes and the actions of the people of this parish - and those of parishes just like it throughout the land - which determine whether or not that Capitol will function for the good of all - or will become the abode of ideologies which would destroy the freedom which we cherish.

This nation was founded on the belief that under God - all men are

created equal, endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights. And it is a genuine respect for that ideal which the priests of Saint Anthony's have sought to impress upon the people whom God has seen fit to place under their care.

This parish was carved out a quarter of a century ago. Inspired by special blessings and fortified with the Grace of God - it has helped to ease the burdens and cares of its flock. The story of its twenty five years is a tribute to the people who have made its growth possible.

You people of this parish are entitled to an extra measure of pride because you are the little people who make up the backbone of this Republic. Your faithfulness and devotion to this church is the best possible evidence of your noble characters.

It is in the hearts of such people that the love of democracy flourishes.

It is the character of you good people that affords the greatest assurance that we need not have too much fear of the attacks of those who would destroy our democratic system.

There are other ideologies abroad in the world today. They threaten the very foundations of this great Republic. Many men - many brilliant minds - wrestle with the problem of what to do to counteract their evil influence. Many think the problem almost impossible of solution.

But here, in this thrilling ceremony there is the answer for all who are willing to see.

As long as there are parishes like Saint Anthony's - and men of God like your good pastor Father Oliviera - to bring to the minds of men the lesson that God is the great law-giver of the Universe; that His law is the final word in the determination of right and wrong - and as long as there are men and women like you good people - this democracy of ours

is safe - no matter what forces may contend against it.

I congratulate the good people of this parish. I wish for you the best of everything that can be yours. And Father Oliviera I wish you good luck in all your undertakings and from the bottom of my heart I pray God will guide you and protect you and have you for his own - even to the end of time.

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