

A STORY ALWAYS NEW

The Easter story is always new,
Like the light in the sun-rise sky,
Like the first spring crocuses peeping through,
Like the first green leaves on high.
Many and many a time we've seen
The change that these bright days bring.
When garden and meadow and wood turn green
With the coming of welcome spring.
Many and many a time we've heard
The story of Easter told
With never an added phrase or word,
Since that glorious day of old.
In that well-known way, and the ages through,
We tell of the risen King.
Yet the Easter story is always new
As the first glad sign of spring.
—Edith Sanford Tillotson

Three Africans Have Been Popes

IBADAN, Nigeria — (NPI) The question was asked here recently whether an African can be elected Pope. According to the Rev. Father James O'Neill, Catholic priest in Ibadan, "there is every possibility" that such could happen. Father O'Neill said: "Since there are two African cardinals, there is every possibility that an African could be elected as Pope."
When the cardinals meet to elect a new Pope, there is no question of race or color; each cardinal has only to swear that 'as God is my judge' he votes for the person whom he thinks most fitted to rule the Catholic church.
"Who knows whether at some future time an African

cardinal may not be considered by the other cardinals as the most fitted to rule the church..."
The two black cardinals are Laurence Rugambwa of Tanganyika and Paul Zoungana, Upper Volta. Carina Cardinal Zoungana was recently elevated to the College of Cardinals by Pope Paul VI. His predecessor, cardinal Rugambwa was inducted by Pope John on March 28, 1960.
Father O'Neill pointed out that three black popes ruled the church several centuries ago.
"There were three Popes in centuries who were either born in Africa, or their parents came from Africa, and everyone knew them as Africans," he said.
The trio were Popes St. Victor I, St. Melchades and St. Selasius I.
Pope St. Victor I was born in Africa and reigned over the church from 189-199. He was martyred and his body is buried near that of St. Peter on the Vatican hill.
Also born in Africa and martyred was Pope St. Melchades. He served from 311-314. His body is buried in the cemetery of Calistus in Rome.
Pope St. Gelasius I, was born in Rome of African parentage, and reigned as head of the church from 492-496. He was, according to a contemporary writer, noted "all over the world for learning and holiness."
Father O'Neill added another note to his observations: "Whether they were black Africans or not, we cannot say, since in those days, men and especially Christians, took little account of color."
"They asked only whether a man was a Christian."

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WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH JESUS?

"What will you do with Jesus?"
Pilate asked the crowd.
"Crucify Him," they shouted in voices harsh and loud.

We think of the terrible sentence
And the cruel fate it brought—
Injustice dealt out to an innocent man;
The Saviour's martyred lot!

But what do we do with Jesus?
Before we can blame the throng—
We must carefully consider our answers
To questions of right and wrong.

What will you do with Jesus?
Let us question our heart—
Are we willing to stand and defend Him
And play a strong man's part?
—Rega Kramer McCarty.

Doctor: "You should not give your husband strong coffee, it excites him."
Wife: "You should see how excited he gets when I give him weak coffee."

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The order was signed

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