

MAJORITY KICK ON OUSTING FUNERAL FLOWERS

Danbury, Conn., Sept. 23.—The Rev. Dr. Walter J. Shanley, pastor of St. Peter's Roman Catholic church, has placed a ban on the use of flowers at funerals held in the church or at the two Catholic cemeteries.

"I have found that many people who could not afford to buy flowers did so, and denied themselves the necessities of life and went into debt in order to do it," he said.

"The church always has opposed a profusion of flowers at funerals," said Father F. M. O'Brien, of Holy Name cathedral, when he heard of Father Shanley's ban.

"The flower custom is but a relic of the pagan age, but I feel that people should be allowed to use their own discretion. If they see fit to deny themselves the necessities of life in order to commemorate the memory of the departed with flowers, all well and good."

New York, Sept. 23.—"The flower custom at funerals has degenerated from an expression of love into a badge of extravagance and display," said the Rev. Dr. C. T. Reisner, Methodist.

"But at the same time," he added, "I would not do away with the custom. I would rather encourage it, because when people learn the true meaning of flowers they will stop the extravagance."

Indianapolis, Sept. 23.—"I seldom find a case where people buy flowers when they deprive them-

selves of necessities. I think that friendship and feeling can be expressed by flowers where it could not be expressed in words," said Rev. Albert Hurlstone of Robert Park M. E. church.

Milwaukee, Sept. 23.—"Archbishop Messmer ordered a ban on lavish displays of flowers at funerals in the Roman Catholic churches of the diocese of Milwaukee three years ago," said the Rev. J. F. Ryan, head of St. Francis seminary today.

"The order was issued because flowers at funerals had reached the stage of extravagance instead of being used for their true meaning."

Cleveland, O., Sept. 23.—Flowers have been barred from churches of the Cleveland Catholic diocese for many years. Most Cleveland ministers agree that the extravagant use of flowers at funerals should be discouraged.

"The use of flowers at funerals is overdone," said the Rev. T. S. McWilliams, pastor of the Calvary Presbyterian church, today. "This works a hardship in many instances."

Detroit, Sept. 23.—"I would not urge the doing away with the flower custom at funerals," said the Rev. T. W. Young, pastor of the North Baptist church. "I would rather urge people to be more moderate. There is no more beautiful way of expressing grief or sympathy than by giving flowers, but many people abuse the custom at funerals."