

BISHOPS AND ACTORS HONOR DR. HOUGHTON

Rector of Little Church Around
the Corner Was Ordained

50 Years Ago.

LOVING CUP ONE OF GIFTS

Elsie Ferguson, for Equity Association,
Presents Scroll to Aged
Clergyman.

In a comfortable chair in front of his rectory door, where the sun shone on him warmly, and his smile hid the weakness of illness and his seventy years, the Rev. George Clarke Houghton, rector of the Little Church Around the Corner, watched a procession yesterday that included two Bishops and many well-known clergymen. It was the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination, and the assemblage and services that followed were in honor of the man sitting near the little sign he placed before his door years ago, which welcomed all those in "trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or any other adversity." Dr. Houghton's principle of a long life, devoted to others has been, "be kind."

The Little Church long has held a unique place in New York, for when prejudice shut the doors of many churches to men and women of the stage the rector of the Church of the Transfiguration welcomed them with sympathy and understanding, married them and gave them burial. That tolerance always has been the great mark of the Little Church and won for its rector the honor paid to him yesterday.

Dr. Houghton has not yet fully recovered from a long illness, so he could not take a full part in the services, but when the procession, which formed in the east wing of the church and moved through the memorial arch to the main entrance, came near him he rose and with the other clergy of his parish walked to a place in the line. Just behind him came Bishop Thomas F. Gailor of Tennessee and Bishop William T. Manning. His step was slow and feeble as the long line moved within the church—Dr. Houghton showed that his illness had told heavily upon him.

The church was thronged with members of the congregation and representatives of clubs and organizations which have played a part in the artistic and theatrical life of the town. There were many well-known actors and actresses who came to show their appreciation of all that their friend of years had done for them. The altar was banked high with flowers from the Manhattan Club, the Players and Salmagundi Clubs, historical and art societies, the Girls' Friendly Society, the Society of the Holy Innocents, the Maternity Society, the Woman's Auxiliary of the church, the vestry and business organizations.

Dr. Houghton opened the service with a reading from the Gospel, but during most of the service he kept seated. Bishop Manning, who was making his first visit to the church since his election as head of the diocese, spoke feelingly of Dr. Houghton as a friend and co-worker.

Two memorial gifts from actors and actresses were among the presents which pleased Dr. Houghton most. One, a hand-illuminated scroll, was presented, on behalf of the Actors' Equity Association, by Elsie Ferguson. Grant Stewart, for the Lambs Club, presented a similar memorial and a silver loving cup, on which was engraved:

"To the Rev. Dr. George Clarke Houghton, on the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination to holy orders, the Lambs tender this cup with sincere affection and high regard for his most estimable qualities."

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