

**NATIONAL RADIO BROADCAST COMMEMORATING 400th
ANNIVERSARY FOUNDING OF THE SOCIETY OF JESUS**

Local Outlet—Station WBAL
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Baltimore

WELCOMED is the opportunity given to me, as Governor of Maryland, to make public acknowledgement of the far-reaching and lasting contribution by the Society of Jesus to the advancement of our civilization.

From a State which for over three hundred years has felt the beneficial influence of the Jesuit Fathers, I voice the sentiments of the countless numbers in paying deserved tribute to that noble band of men, who have left the impress of their work upon the annals of our State and Nation. It was three hundred and seven years ago on Tuesday next when Father Andrew White landed at St. Clement's Island, Maryland, with his fellow settlers from the Ark and the Dove. Here the first sacrifice of Holy Mass was celebrated in this part of the world. A mission school in St. Mary's County opened what was to be the ancestor of all Jesuit schools and colleges in the United States.

Since the day of the Maryland Pilgrims and their Jesuit spiritual advisors, centuries with an irresistible passage of time have come and gone. But the Archives of Maryland, permanently preserved in our Hall of Records in Annapolis, furnish unmistakable evidence of the definite part played in this formative period by the first Jesuit Fathers in our land.

An interesting insight into our first legal set-up reveals that the laws of the Maryland colony, largely under Father White's influence, contained no restrictions on religious grounds. In fact, it appears from a number of authoritative sources that a majority of Maryland's early settlers were not affiliated with the Catholic Church. Another interesting fact is noted revealing the enlightenment of the Colony's character in that there was never a trial for witchcraft.

The great piety, fervor and tranquillity among the early settlers in this part of the new world are directly traceable to the influence of the Jesuit Fathers. Justly has Father White been described as the "apostle of Maryland." Rightly does this Free State take pride in pointing to the early missions as monumental testimony of an illustrious band of preachers and doers of the Gospel. Dispensers not only of spiritual aid, but also, of bodily and material comfort.

Fortunate also have we been to enjoy the fruits of the early entry of the Jesuit Order into the field of education. The splendid institutions of higher learning conducted by the Order throughout the length and breadth of our Country have been towers of strength. The long roster of well-educated men