

FASTING DEAN WARNS CHURCH

By Associated Press.

MEMPHIS, Jan. 16.—Dean Israel Harding Noe startled a large congregation of St. Mary's Episcopal cathedral today, the 15th day of his abstinence from food and water, with the ultimatum that the church needs to offer living proof of man's immortality to bring doubters to its services.

"Unless the church of Jesus Christ in this 20th century can produce a demonstration of the fact that the whole gospel can be lived here and now, by man, the church will be compelled to close its doors and the sooner it closes its doors the better it will be for men," the emaciated clergyman declared.

His voice was husky, much weaker than the voice with which he has exhorted congregations in the past. But it was strong enough to carry through the large cathedral. Some of the members thought he looked stronger than earlier in the week.

The dean's sermon apparently was a public declaration of his own efforts to prove, through abstinence from material food, and "taking strength from the divine source," man can "put on the godhead bodily." He made no mention of fasting.

After services, the dean demonstrated his vigor by standing at the door of the cathedral and shaking the hands of several hundred persons, most of whom he called by name.

Dean Noe became news back in 1932 when his wife, Mrs. Ellen Camblos Noe, sued him for divorce, charging physical abandonment. She claimed he declined to live a normal wedded life. The suit was unsuccessful and the couple recently became reconciled.

At the time of the reconciliation, Dean Noe issued a statement that he always believed that "marriage is a divine sacrament, composed of two parts, both equally sacred, the life of generation and the life of regeneration."

"Marriage," he testified at the divorce trial, "should culminate, through a gradual development, into love, the only creative force."

EPISCOPAL DEAN IN STRANGE FAST

Seeks to Show Soul Needs No Earthly Nuriment.

By Associated Press.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Jan. 12.—The Press Scimitar said today the Very Rev. Israel Harding Noe, dean of St. Mary's Episcopal cathedral, is in the midst of an amazing fast undertaking "to prove that the soul is above the need of material life."

The paper said friends of the clergyman reported Dean Noe went on an exclusive orange juice diet December 23, 1936, and since January 2 of this year has eaten only a tiny communion wafer and drunk a sip of wine at the church's regular communion services, held three times a week.

The story said his diet "probably" had not been supplemented even by water.

It continued:

"Dean Noe is not an exhibitionist, is not trying to make an impression, wants no publicity and does not care what people think. While he has made no secret of his fast, he has not made any public statement about it. * * *

"He is trying to prove that the soul is above the need of material life. He believes he can give up all material life and yet not die. If we get the theory correctly from his friends, he believes that he can live a wholly spiritual life in an earthly environment.

"The dean is a student of material science, but he has a set of theories of the universe all his own. All life, he says, is electro-chemical. All energy comes from the cosmos. Man has always taken energy in the form of food derived from plants or other animals. These, however, derived their life-giving substance from the universal cosmic rays.

"The process of life is simply a conversion of electro-chemical energy. Dean Noe believes he can, or is trying to see if he can, reach a state in which he takes his life energy directly from the original source. If he can attain such a state, he will be free of all earthly needs, entirely independent of the normal processes of life by which the human body eventually deteriorates into death."

PREACHES IN MEMPHIS ON 14TH DAY OF FAST

Dean Noe, Now at 100 Pounds Says Church Must Give Living Proof of Immortality

MEMPHIS, Jan. 16 (AP).—Dean Israel Harding Noe startled a large congregation at St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral today with a declaration that the church needs to offer living proof of man's immortality to bring doubters to its services.

The dean's friends say he ate only oranges all last year and that since Jan. 2 he had has no food or water. He formerly weighed nearly 200 pounds, but now weighs less than 100.

"Unless the church of Jesus Christ in this twentieth century can produce a demonstration of the fact that the whole gospel can be lived here and now, by man, the church will be compelled to close its doors and the sooner it closes its doors the better it will be for men," the clergyman declared.

His voice was husky and much weaker than in the past, but it was strong enough to carry through the large cathedral. Some members thought he looked stronger than earlier in the week.

The dean's sermon apparently was a public declaration of his own efforts to prove, through abstinence from material food, and "taking strength from the divine source," that man can "put on the godhead bodily." He made no mention of fasting.

An elder said there were "a lot of strange faces" in the congregation this morning. After services the dean stood at the door of the cathedral and shook hands with several hundred persons, most of whom he called by name.