IN THE NEWS – November 11, 2026

ROCHET – Signifying Authority and Rank

You have likely seen the white garment with a large amount of lace often worn by a Catholic prelate but had no idea what it is called. It is a Rochet (and yes, we pronounce the “t”). It is a white tunic signifying authority and rank in the Church.



Specifically, the Rochet is formal attire worn when a prelate is present at a service but is not the main celebrant of the Mass. It can extend as low as the ankles and features an abundance of lace at the hem and sometime the sleeves. Ours included 30-inches of lace at the hem.



The Rochet is worn over a cassock, along with a mantelletta or a mozzetta over the shoulders. The label reads: *“PONTIFICAL. Par-Canada”* (meaning likely acquired through one of several Catholic entities in Canada).

As a gift to the Cardinal Ritter Birthplace from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, this Rochet’s history dates to Ritter’s bishop/archbishop years 1933 to 1946.

Please consider a gift to the CRBFI in support of our Museum Expansion Project, to showcase our collection of Archbishop/Cardinal Ritter vestments and artifacts. www.cardinalritterhouse.org/support via ZEFFY (every $ come to us) or PayPal. Please share a link with your friends. THANK YOU – Ray Day, Archivist.