

Wheatless Meals---

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"Now what do you think of that? Here's Uncle Sam in his Farmers' Bulletins—No. 565 and No. 808—writing to people, telling them to eat ALL corn instead of wheat. Is that practical, Maria?"

"As sure as the Pope's in Rome. We lived on corn altogether in my childhood. There's corn bread, corn muffins, pancakes, doughnuts, cake, gingerbread—there's boiled corn mush, to be fried, or for dessert, scrapple, croquettes or fish cakes. There's hominy to supplant macaroni or potatoes—splendid for a breakfast food, too. If all the wheat stopped growing we could live happy on corn."

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St. Stephen's Church Geneva, N. Y.

Seated in the midst of nurseries, green fields and productive orchards, Geneva reigns "queen" at the foot of Seneca Lake, which stretches like a broad sheet of burnished silver, for more than 40 miles between co-extending ranges of hills.

Geneva is one of the earliest settlements in New York State and dates to the year 1787.

St. Stephen's beautiful Catholic Church is the outgrowth of St. Francis de Sales Church.

During July, 1906, the Dutch Reformed Church property, South Main and Williams Streets, which had been purchased by St. Francis de Sales congregation was remodelled and used as the first St. Stephen's Church.

Later, however, a new church building was decided upon and the present handsome structure erected.

Sunday, September 1, 1912, marked a bright page in the history of the Catholic Church in Geneva, when the new St. Stephen's Church was dedicated by Rt. Rev. Thomas F. Hickey, Bishop of the diocese of Rochester, and who at one time was assistant pastor of St. Francis de Sales Church of Geneva, and who came here immediately after his ordination to the priesthood and spent about two years under the late Very Rev. James T. McManus.

The crowd that saw the ceremony was not so large as expected although it filled the church. The attendance would have been much larger had the weather been pleasant. The morning was wet, rain falling up to about 10 o'clock, when it stopped; but the clouds looked threatening, which had the effect of keeping those who wished to attend, indoors.

The hour set for the service to begin was 10.30 o'clock, but long before that time every seat in the new edifice was taken, tickets having been distributed several weeks in advance. Reserved seats were set apart on either side of the center aisle for out-of-town guests and prominent citizens of the city. The ushers for the occasion were John P. Rice, Thomas Millard, Timothy F. Buckley, M. S. Kelleher, Stephen J. Sweeney, Thomas F. Bolger, Frank Joyce, Frank McDonough, James Taney, John O'Leary, Edgar Toole, Redmond Toole, Edward D. O'Riley, John Lyons, Raymond McDonald and Patrick Murphy. The music for the mass was rendered by the Boys' Choir of the congregation, under the direction of Professor Pyne.

It was eleven o'clock before the service began. The dedication procession formed in the sanctuary, passed through the north door and marched up the north side to the front entrance, where the altar boys and visiting priests separated and the Bishop and attending priests proceeded to the entrance to the vestibule. The Bishop intoned the "Asperges," and, as the first words of the dedicatory service were uttered, the sun broke through the clouds and shone throughout the entire service, thus marking a bright beginning for the St. Stephen's congregation in their new edifice. While the "Asperges" was being chanted by the students of St. Bernard's Seminary of Rochester, the Bishop, attended by Rev. Father Curran, of Rochester and Very Rev. William A. McDonald, of Geneva, walked around the edifice and blessed the exterior. Returning to the main entrance, the litany of the saints was intoned by the Bishop, and the procession entered the church through the center aisle of the altar, where the remaining prayers of the ceremony were said, after which the pontifical high

mass was begun with the Bishop as the celebrant. Rev. Dennis Curran V. G., of Rochester, was assistant priest; deacons of honor were Rev. Father Hargather, of Rochester, and Very Rev. William A. McDonald, of this city. Deacon Rev. A. M. O'Neil, M. R., of Rochester; sub-deacon, Rev. Joseph Moran, C. S. P., of New York; master of ceremonies, Rev. Andrew Meehan, of St. Bernard's Seminary of Rochester; priests who occupied seats in the sanctuary were Rev. Edward Hanna, D. D., of Rochester; Rev. Father Burke, C. S. P., Rev. A. A. Hughes, of Geneva; Rev. John O'Brien, of Rochester; Rev. Father Donnelly of Victor; Rev. Felix O'Hanlon, of Clifton Springs, Rev. Michael Groden of Corning and Rev. William McPadden and Rev. Edward Smith of Geneva.

It is said that the celebration of a pontifical high mass was the first ever celebrated in this city. Rev. Stephen J. McPadden, the pastor of the congregation, spoke after the gospel and extended his congratulations to the members of his congregation, those of St. Francis de Sales and the non-Catholics of Geneva who assisted in donating in a financial way in the building of the new church. Bishop Hickey preached the dedication sermon, and the day's dedicatory services were brought to a close in the evening by the celebration of pontifical vespers by Bishop Hickey and a sermon by Rev. Dr. Hanna of Rochester.

St. Francis de Sales Church

St. Francis de Sales, the first Catholic Church in Geneva, dates to the organization of the parish by Bishop DuBois of New York in the year 1832.

During the above year a church was built on North and Exchange Streets. Rev. James T. McManus became the first pastor in 1831.

In 1864 the present Church was erected at a cost of \$9,000 by the pastor, Father McManus, and later he built the parochial school building.

The parish of St. Francis de Sales at Geneva was presided over for nearly 31 years by Rt. Rev. James T. McManus, with the exception of seven months spent in Rochester as pastor of St. Mary's Church. Father McManus died June 28, 1890.

He celebrated his first mass in Geneva December 8, 1858. From the time of his ordination by Bishop Timon in Buffalo, in 1851, he practically labored in the parishes of Oswego, Waverly and Ithaca. These parishes at that time comprised all of that stretch of territory between the southern boundary of Ontario County and Pennsylvania.

In 1876, Father McManus was appointed vicar-general of the diocese, to succeed Rev. James M. Early.

But another honor yet awaited him. During the summer of 1889, Bishop McQuaid was in Rome, and on returning brought the glad news that the Holy Father had been most graciously pleased to raise the beloved pastor of St. Francis de Sales to the rank of Domestic Prelate to the Papal household. This honor was conferred in a papal brief, dated Rome, August 9, 1889. The ceremony was deferred by reason of Father McManus' ill health until December 11, 1889.

In the evening of July 14, 1890, following a concursus held at St. Andrew's Seminary to select a priest to succeed to the rectorship of St. Francis de Sales Church, made vacant by the death of Monsignor McManus, Bishop McQuaid announced the successful contestant as Rev. W. A. McDonald.

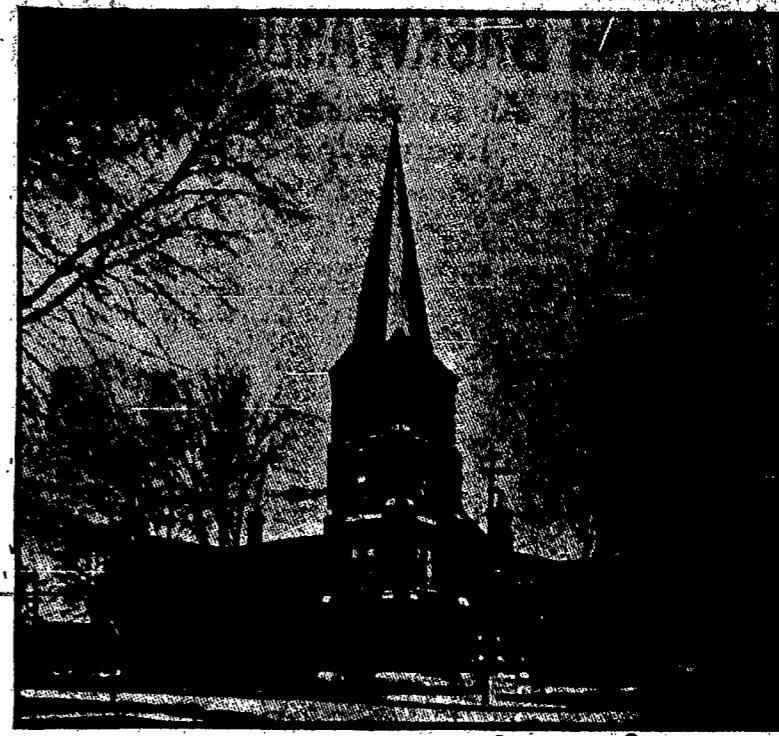
At that time Father McDonald was only 35 years old, and was the pastor of St. Patrick's Church at Seneca Falls.

At the latter place he had served as pastor in 1878, following the death of Rev. Father McCool, and remained until July, 1880, when Rev. G. J. Osborne took his place. From Seneca Falls, Father McDonald went to Rochester, where he was appointed chaplain of the State Industrial School, where he remained a few years. From there he was appointed to a professorship in St. Joseph's Provincial Seminary, Troy, and as result of over work, which undermined his health, was compelled to resign his chair.

Returning once more to Rochester, he remained there until again appointed to Seneca Falls, this time in 1877 to succeed Rev. G. J. Osborne, who was deposed.

Coming to that parish at a time when the affairs there were demoralized, his clear head and indomitable will, coupled with his great financial ability soon brought order out of chaos, and won for him the entire confidence and respect of his parishioners.

Very Rev. William A. McDonald of St. Francis de Sales Church, died after only one-half hour's illness Tuesday, June 19, 1917.



St. Francis de Sales Church, Geneva, N. Y.

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