

L. C. B. A.

The Ladies' Catholic Benevolent Association extends greetings and congratulations to the Catholic Courier of Rochester, New York, on its glorious record of Fifty Years in promoting the mission of the Catholic Press.

The Catholic women of Rochester have taken an important part in the development of the Ladies Catholic Benevolent Association, which is the first of its kind on record where women have banded themselves together for mutual benefit during life and with provision for those dependent on them after their own death.

The First Branch was formed in Union City, Pa., when on November 10, 1889, a call was issued to the parishioners of St. Theresa's Church to meet in the school hall, the object as stated in the call, to form a mutual insurance association for women. On December 10, the charter was closed with thirty-four members. Rev. M. J. Dunn was Spiritual Adviser, Mrs. Kate Woods, President, and Mrs. A. C. McDonnell, Secretary. The formation of thirteen branches followed immediately with 1,328 members.

The first convention in Titusville, Pa., April 9, 1890, was attended by representatives from fourteen branches; eight in Pennsylvania, five in New York and one in Ohio. The Association was incorporated under the laws of the State of Pennsylvania—a constitution adopted; officers were elected.

Mrs. Elizabeth B. McGowan of Buffalo, New York, was elected First Supreme President; Mrs. Joanna A. Rover of Erie, Pa., first Supreme Recorder, and Mrs. Margaret Seep of Titusville, Pa., first Supreme Treasurer.

It was decided to appeal to Rt. Rev. S. V. Ryan, DD., Bishop of Buffalo, to act as first Supreme Spiritual Adviser. His acceptance gave fresh inspiration and impetus to the growth of branches.

The second convention was held in Corry, Pa., in July, 1891, when delegates from 72 branches represented a membership of 5,000.

The third convention was held in Binghamton, New York in July 1893, with 140 delegates. Branch No. 27 of Rochester, New York, petitioned the Convention that the next one be held in that city. The request was granted. Rt. Rev. Bernard J. McQuaid, Bishop of Rochester, celebrated the Pontifical Mass and welcomed the Supreme Officers and delegates to the Flower City.

Before another convention should assemble, it was decreed that the L. C. B. A. should suffer the great loss by death of its Supreme Spiritual Adviser, the beloved Rt. Rev. S. V. Ryan, Bishop of Buffalo. Since its first struggling days his interest and paternal care had been an inspiration to the workers in the cause.

BISHOP OF ROCHESTER

Bishop McQuaid had proven a staunch friend of the Association, and to him the appeal was made to become successor to Bishop Ryan, and second Supreme Spiritual Adviser. His acceptance of the office was received with gratitude and joy.

At the Chicago Convention, in 1897, branch 358 was the last to answer roll-call; that number with sixteen elected officers constituted the Supreme Council.

The address of Bishop McQuaid at this Convention will always be regarded as one of the prized chapters in the Association's history. It was his first Convention as Supreme Spiritual Adviser. He reviewed the work accomplished, and explained many important principles that should govern the Association.

The membership at this time was 30,178, with \$45,765 on hand, and of this amount, \$26,834, constituted the Reserve Fund.

MISS MAHONEY ELECTED

The 1910 convention in Cleveland, Ohio, marked a crucial point in the history of the L. C. B. A. From its organization it had retained Mrs. E. B. McGowan in the office of Supreme President. At the 1910 convention she notified the delegates that, on account of failing health, she would not be a candidate for re-election.

Subsequent events have proven that Divine Providence continued to guide the Association, and the delegates elected Miss Kate Mahoney, of Troy, New York, to succeed Mrs. McGowan in the office of Supreme President.

Under the strong leadership and efficient management of Miss Mahoney the Association has continued to advance. From the beginning, the history of the L. C. B. A. has been one of progress.

STRENGTH and PERMANENCE

The finances of the society have always been honestly and conservatively guarded. New forms of insurance have recently been adopted to meet the demands of a new generation. A Juvenile Department has been organized, and now has a membership of nearly 10,000 children between the age of birth and sixteen years.

Over fifty million dollars has been paid into over sixty thousand Catholic homes of deceased members; over twenty-five million dollars is held in the Treasury of the L. C. B. A. The Association operates on a Legal Reserve basis, and the actuarial rating given at the close of 1938 business was 110.57%.

TIME IN ITS FLIGHT . . . 1917

Germany begins unrestricted submarine warfare Feb. 1 and U. S. breaks off diplomatic relations two days later. . . . Declaration of war with Germany on April 6. . . . First U. S. troops land in France June 26. . . . Czar of Russia abdicates and Russia is proclaimed a republic. . . . Explosion of munition ship in Halifax harbor with 1,226 dead and 400 missing.

Woolworth opens a store on Fifth Avenue in New York. . . . A flour company advertises money back plus 10 per cent if you are not satisfied (precursor of double-your-money-back?). . . . "Daylo" wins contest for a new name for Eveready flashlights. . . . "Endless chain" scheme revived once more.

1918

Central Powers and Russia sign peace terms. . . . U. S. troops take St. Mihiel. . . . Franco-American forces launch attack in the Argonne. . . . British break the Hindenburg Line. . . . Allies reach truce with Turkey and Austria. . . . U. S. Troops reach Sedan. . . . The Kaiser abdicates and flees to Holland. . . . Armistice signed and bugles sound "Cease Firing" at 11 a. m. November 11.

General Motors takes over the Chevrolet Motor Car Company. . . . Great scramble for woolen underwear as fuel conservation program lowers temperatures in offices and stores. . . . 600 of the 1,500 conductors on the New York surface cars are women.

High price of butter brings heavy advertising of oleomargarine. . . . War Department takes over the entire output of Bull Durham tobacco. . . . Popular sentiment against anything smacking of Teutonic origin causes changes in company names and trademarks having a German flavor,

white sauerkraut has become "liberty cabbage" and the frankfurter is a "liberty sausage."

MEMBERSHIP

The first branch organized in Rochester was No. 27, organized on August 11, 1890. At present there are 46 branches with a membership of over 3,000. A number of Rochester women have held supreme office. Mrs. Katherine Dowling, was a Supreme Auditor, and later Supreme Trustee; Mrs. Cora McParlin was elected Supreme Trustee in 1913 and retained the office until her death May 6, 1935. Mrs. Anna I. Ryan, of Rochester, was appointed Supreme Trustee following the death of Mrs. McParlin, and elected to continue in the office at the 1937 Convention.

Dr. Katherine L. Daly of Rochester is Supreme Medical Examiner, and has held the office since the death of Dr. Jane Carroll in 1913. Two National Conventions have been held in Rochester, in 1895 and 1933.

THE GOLDEN JUBILEE

The Ladies Catholic Benevolent Association will celebrate its Golden Jubilee next year. A nation-wide drive for new members in both the adult and juvenile departments is now in progress. The Association feels that because it has long done pioneer service in the advancement of women it has a just claim on every Catholic woman in need of insurance. Its policies are equal to any written by any insurance organization, and in addition it offers many advantages for religious, fraternal and social service.

A GREAT PAST: A GREATER FUTURE:

With the experience of fifty years in supplying safe and sound insurance for women; with its strong financial position, and with modern policies, there can be no question about the bright future of the L. C. B. A.

Sisters of Mercy

Sisters of Mercy came to Rochester from Providence, Rhode Island June 9, 1857. The first community of 5 sisters established themselves at 9 South Street. Reverend Mother Mary Baptist was the first superior of the Sisters of Mercy in Rochester.

On May 25, 1857, 2 weeks before the arrival of the Sisters in Rochester the community was organized by Bishop Timon into a business corporation known as The Rochester Benevolent, Scientific and Industrial School of the Sisters of Mercy. The first parochial school in Rochester was opened in basement of St. Mary's Church in fall of 1857. At the same time a select school for young girls was opened in the convent. Later a House of Mercy and Industrial School were opened at South Street but these were closed before 1900 because of lack of Sisters to manage the increase of work in these institutions.

The Sisters of Mercy teach in 16 parochial schools in the Diocese of Rochester. They likewise teach at Aquinas Institute and St. Mary's Commercial School in Rochester, New York, Holy Family Family High School, Auburn, New York and the Catholic High School in Elmira, New York. In September 1928, Our Lady of Mercy High School, a private school for young girls, was opened with a faculty of 5 Sisters of Mercy. The school now has a faculty of 17 Sisters of Mercy and 1 lay teacher. In 1916 the Motherhouse of the Sisters was destroyed by fire which forced them to take up their abode at their summer home in Charlotte. In 1931 the new Motherhouse was opened adjoining the High School on Blossom Road.

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