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Bishop Dedicates 2 New Rural Churches

Offers First Mass In Wolcott Community Joins In Ceremonies

Concern may be felt in other parts of the country over the progress of the rural church but in the Diocese of Rochester, within four days, a new church edifice was dedicated in the 82-year-old parish at Honeye Falls and a brand new parish came into existence with the dedication of a new church building in Wolcott.

His Excellency, the Most Rev. James E. Kearney, D. D., Bishop of Rochester, officiated at the blessing of St. Mary Magdalen Church in Wolcott, Sunday morning, Nov. 3 and of St. Paul of the Cross Church in Honeye Falls, Oct. 30. History on Honeye Falls ceremony in adjoining column.

The ceremony in Wolcott attracted a crowd of more than 200 persons. Prominent were Wolcott village officials and heads of organizations in the village. In the congregation were people who came from Red Creek, Cato, Clyde, Ontario, Webster and Rochester to felicitate pastor and people on this latest addition to Catholic parish life in the diocese.



WOLCOTT PARISHIONERS are greeted by His Excellency, Bishop Kearney, following his dedicating of their new St. Mary Magdalen Church, Sunday morning, Nov. 3.

Blesses New Church In Honeye Falls

Fulfillment of a dream of many years came to priests and people of St. Paul of the Cross parish, Honeye Falls when His Excellency, the Most Rev. James E. Kearney, D. D., Bishop of Rochester, dedicated the beautiful new \$5000 church on Wednesday morning, Oct. 30.

The new Gothic edifice was blessed and future generations will be proud to call it their church. In years to come, you will bring guests, many of whom traveled many miles to participate in the ceremony. Representatives of civic bodies of the community, Protestant churches of the village and members of the congregation were present in the church and the beautiful liturgical altar was followed by celebration by the Protectors of the community so that their religious beliefs every member of the community will be spiritually richer because of this blessing.

SODAL TALK

All the talk these days (now that elections are over) concerns the approaching Sodality Institute to be conducted under the auspices of the Union on Nov. 28 and 27. It was announced the sessions will take place at Holy Family Hall where the genial Father Murphy will be host to the hundreds of Sodality officers and committee chairmen who will attend classes to learn more thoroughly the ins and outs of Sodality. Get out the old date book right now and mark off Nov. 28 and 27 as Sodality Institute Days.

The Apostolic Committee of Holy (that decided to curtail their Sunday morning's sleep last Sunday and also the first Sunday in December "Why? Of course they're going to the County home to sing at the 8:30 Mass. This group also reported that their Christmas mission box had already gone out with some 788 articles in it, all sorts of things, some old and some made over, but all useful. They skiffed at their last meeting the right and the wrong way of answering inquirers about medals and rosaries that business associates are most likely to be asking about.

Every year it has been the custom of the sodalities of St. Patrick's Sodality to give a Christmas party for the children studying at the Sunday School in order to raise funds for the party. The party on Wednesday Nov. 15 and you are all invited to come and help them out with this worthy cause.

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Rural Church Seen On Wane Belief Based On Religious Census

WASHINGTON (NC)—Comparative facts brought out by the latest religious census of the United States regarding the rural and urban church give every evidence of the continued weakness of the rural church, the Rev. Dr. Edgar Schmiedeler, U.S.B. director of the Family Life Bureau of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, said in a statement here today.

This census, while only recently published, is really for the year 1938. Dr. Schmiedeler said it shows that of the total membership of 19,149,937 of the Catholic Church in the United States, 10,041,704 are listed as urban and 9,108,233 as rural. That is, 52.4 and 47.6 per cent are urban and rural respectively.

Regarding parochial schools, the census brings to light the following facts: There are in all 8,825 parochial schools. Of these, 860, or 9.7 per cent, are in the city and 1,824, or 20.7 per cent, in the country. In these schools there are 2,093,264 pupils—1,890,301, or 89.7 per cent, in the city schools, and 202,963, or 9.7 per cent, in the country. The 82,000 teachers comprising the total staff are classified as follows: 31,931, or 38.3 per cent, urban and 10,070, or 12.3 per cent, rural.

In the matter of number of church edifices, the country leads the city. Out of 16,839 church edifices, 7,538 are urban and 9,301 rural. The respective percentages are 45.3 and 54.7. So far as the values of the church edifices are concerned, however, the story is strikingly different. City churches are valued at \$637,743,311, country churches at \$140,527,046. In other words, 81 per cent of the value of church edifices is found in the city and 19 per cent in the country.

The State with the highest Catholic membership is New York, which has 3,075,428 members. Of these, 2,817,976 are classified as urban and 257,452 as rural.

In several States the Catholic population is fairly evenly divided between country and city. Examples are Iowa, which has 141,652 urban Catholics and 150,181 rural and Kansas, which has 141,118 urban and 131,774 rural Catholics.

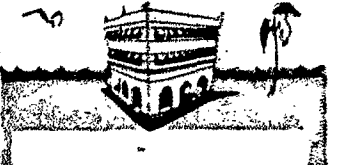
In Louisiana, too, the division is about equal, 277,371 of the total of 632,583 Catholics being in the city and 355,212 in the country.

North and South Dakota, densely rural States, have respectively 30,128 and 22,827 urban Catholics as compared with 88,182 and 69,924 rural. The Catholic population of New Mexico also is preponderantly rural, 60,884 being classed as urban as compared with 136,895 rural.

Birth Rate Factor
In view of the nation's declining birth rate, this comparison between the urban and the rural church as presented by the census, is particularly significant.

Continued on Page 12

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