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Golden Jubilee Recalls Dr. McGuire's Early Days In Rochester Diocese

The Rev. Dr. Owen B. McGuire, weekly contributor to the CATHOLIC COURIER, who is observing his fiftieth anniversary in the Holy Priesthood on Sunday, July 26, was asked to furnish some data on his early years in the Rochester diocese.

When he was a pupil at Cathedral Grammar School, Rochester, the Cathedral was the only English-speaking parish west of the Genesee River on the north side. (North and South were divided by the old Erie Canal.)

That white district which now constitutes Holy Trinity parish was known as "The Dairy Hollow." The streets had been laid out, but there was not a half dozen houses. Charlotte was the first parish in the north.

ONLY 11 PARISHES
During his first year at St. Andrew's Seminary, Holy Apostles was founded in what was then like such country. The population of Rochester was 62,500. Rochester and Albany were running neck and neck for third place among the cities of the Empire State. There were eleven parishes in the city. The twelfth was dedicated to the Apostles because it was the twelfth.

When the young student entered St. Andrew's Seminary, students there numbered 18. In 1886, when he was graduated, there were 25. Of these 25 only two survive.

"Those pious Catholics who go to the 6 o'clock Mass at St. Joseph's Church, will find there at that hour every morning, summer and winter the other of the two survivors," Dr. McGuire states. "He does not look old. He is spry and active and retains a full head of hair, black with silver streaks."

"That is John McDade. From St. Andrew's Seminary he went to the Seminary at Troy, but had to leave because of poor health. He tried a milder climate at St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore; but had to leave for the same reason. God's ways are mysterious and therefore inscrutable; for we all considered John McDade as the Aloysius of our class. He has remained unmarried."

THREE SURVIVE

It shows again, says Dr. McGuire, that it is not the healthiest who live longest. Not is it, he states, the oldest who die soonest. Of the original faculty with which St. Bernard's Seminary opened in 1893, only three survive: Archbishop Hanna, Monsignor Hartley and Dr. McGuire. The first two, Dr. McGuire recalls, were the oldest of the professors. Both had been professors at St. Andrew's Seminary, one for seven and the other for eight years.

There were six in the class of 1886 at St. Andrew's Seminary. Four were sent to Rome, Andrew

Doctor McGuire Marks Jubilee

(Continued from Page 1)

Seminary which he was then planning. He also wished his diocese to become acquainted with the methods of Professor Pastor, the great historian of the Popes, who was then lecturing at Innsbruck. Ordained in 1892

Doctor McGuire was ordained at Innsbruck on July 26, 1892, and celebrated his first Mass in the Holy House of Loreto in Italy. While a student at Rome, he had spent a vacation at Loreto.

In 1893 he returned home for the opening of St. Bernard's Seminary and taught there for four months when the Bishop sent him back to Innsbruck to complete the four examinations for the Doctorate in Theology. He had already made two of them. When he had made the other two he returned to St. Bernard's where he taught Philosophy for sometime and then took the class in Fundamental Dogmatic Theology.

His health broke down in 1904 and he was forced to go to Rochester, Minnesota, for a stomach operation done by the famous Dr. William Mayo. He returned to Minnesota in 1908 where Dr. Mayo performed two major operations in the course of that year.

Convalescence was slow and he spent the following years on the Continent in Italy, France and Spain where he obtained much of the material for subsequent writings and lecturing.

E. Breen, Andrew B. Meenan, Joseph A. Miller and Owen B. McGuire.

Doctor McGuire spent four years at the American College, attending the lectures at Propaganda. Among his classmates were: the late Bishop William Turner of Buffalo and the present Bishop Edmund J. Gibbons of Albany.

After four years in Rome, Bishop McGuire transferred Dr. McGuire in 1896 to the University of Innsbruck, Austria. The Bishop was then planning for St. Bernard's Seminary and wanted his faculty to have academic degrees from as many European Universities as possible.

STUDIED UNDER EASTON

There was another reason for the transfer. At that time, Dr. McGuire recalls, Doctor Fasola, famous historian of the Popes, was on the faculty at Innsbruck. The Bishop had intended the young student for the chair of history at St. Bernard's and wished him to become acquainted with Easton's methods in teaching and research.

When St. Bernard's Seminary opened in 1893 with only 18 students, there was no appointment to the chair of history; soon after Dr. Frederick J. Zwierlo had finished his course of studies at St. Bernard's and abroad. The number of students at that time had tripled or quadrupled.

In those days, Bishop McGuire constantly talked, preached and wrote St. Bernard's Seminary. He wanted, Dr. McGuire stated, "a native clergy" by which the Bishop meant "from the children of the diocese." "It can be done and it must be done," the Bishop was remembered as saying.

SECOND TO NONE

When Bishop McGuire opened St. Bernard's Seminary he claimed that "from the children of the little diocese of Rochester he had obtained a staff of professors second to none in the whole country; and he challenged contradiction."

St. Andrew's Seminary was small but the Bishop pointed to the success of its students at Rome to show that in efficiency it surpassed many of the big colleges. A report of the result of the competitive examinations at Propaganda in 1890 appeared in the daily press. It was made the subject of an editorial in "The Catholic Journal" (the predecessor of the CATHOLIC COURIER) in the issue of Jan. 10, 1891.

Part of that editorial read: "ROCHESTER STUDENT LEADS" "The Catholics of the United States in general, and of the diocese of Rochester in particular, have reason to be proud of their theological students in Rome. The last solemn annual distribution of prizes speaks well for the excellence of educational institutions on this side of the Atlantic. Mr. Owen McGuire of Rochester, drew, with one other student for first prize in Dogmatic Theology and also in Canon Law, and for second prize in Sacred Liturgy and also in Archaeology. This meriting the signal honor of being the first not only in the American College but among all the vast number of students from seventeen colleges that attend the Propaganda."

In this report, there were some inaccuracies, Dr. McGuire points out. In the meantime the Bishop had received the Annual which gave a complete report. So, in the Catholic Journal for Jan. 17, 1891, is found this other editorial, written, Dr. McGuire states, by the Bishop himself.

The editorial headed "Correction" reads as follows: "In our article last week, 'Rochester Student Leads,' we made a mistake — we failed to credit Mr. Eugene McGuire with one prize that he obtained. The gentlemen in question drew for first prizes in 'De Legis Theologicis' and Canon Law, and for second prizes in Sacred Liturgy, Archaeology and Sacred History. It will be noticed that Dr. McGuire could not have done better unless he carried off first prizes in all his classes — a feat exceedingly rare."

In 1892 the Catholic World celebrated the Golden Jubilee of the Episcopate of the reigning Pope, Leo XIII; and of course, the Uni-

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