

PARISH REVIEWS 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

History Pays Tribute To Progress Made In St. Patrick's, Owego

OWEGO—The history of St. Patrick's Parish, Owego, N. Y., goes back a little over one century. As early as 1839, the Rev. James F. Hourigan came here via horseback or horse and carriage to celebrate Holy Mass for the many Catholics who had come as subjects for the Erie Railroad, which was then being pushed through the southern part of New York State.

The pioneering work of Father Hourigan was continued by the Rev. James V. O'Reilly, pastor of the church in Friendsville, Pa., and by the Rev. Andrew Doyle, pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Binghamton. This whole section of the State was then under the jurisdiction of the Rt. Rev. John Hughes, Bishop of New York.

On Aug. 11, 1842, Charles Pappelly deeded as a gift to the Rt. Rev. John Hughes, Bishop of New York, one-half acre of land to be used "as a church lot and a burying grounds." The deed of the property speaks of a church "at present being erected thereon," but such a building is beyond the recollection of the oldest inhabitants of the village.

FIRST SERVICES

The first regular church services of which anything is now positively known were held in the home of David Connelly on Paige St. Both Father O'Reilly and Father Doyle celebrated Holy Mass regularly in the large addition to the second floor which Mr. Connelly had erected for church purposes. This first Catholic Church was destroyed by fire in January, 1844.

It was in this improvised chapel in the David Connelly residence that the first Bishop of Buffalo, the Rt. Rev. John Timon, said Mass on Feb. 4, 1843 and opened a three-day retreat for the Catholic people.

Each evening of the Spiritual Exercises the Bishop preached to a "most respectful audience" in the court house, although the Sheriff had refused positively to allow the building to be used for that purpose. On Sunday, Feb. 7, the Bishop said Mass in the Connelly chapel on Paige St., but Father Sheridan "celebrated his Mass in the court house at 11 o'clock, the Bishop preached at the Gospel on the Holy Sacrifice, and after Mass on the Sacrament of Confirmation, eighteen persons were then confirmed." "A very large audience again assembled in the court house at 7 P. M.; the Bishop preached on the Sacrament of Penance; many seemed very much impressed with the proofs he adduced."

TRAVEL BY HORSE The next day Bishop Timon and

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23 Vocations Record of Owego Parish

When young men of St. Patrick's Parish, Owego, were assigned to the Holy Priesthood and fourteen young women entered the Religious Life at some time during the Parish's existence. The list follows:

- FRATERS: REV. JOHN J. LOANE, REV. PATRICK BURNIE, REV. WILLIAM McDONALD, REV. JOHN NEWBY, REV. JOHN MOONEY, REV. JAMES MOONEY, REV. JAMES KANE, REV. JOHN COLGAN, REV. EDWARD WATERS. (Father Waters is now a Chaplain-Captain in the United States Army serving in England). SISTERS FROM PARISH: SR. ANTONIA FRAWLEY, SR. MARY DORA SULLIVAN, SR. LEONA O'CONNELL, SR. MONICA KELLY, SR. GERTRUDE BOGIAN, SR. MARGARET SULLIVAN, SR. RACHEL HEART BURNIE, SR. FRANCIS DESALLES, SR. FRIEY KANANE, SR. PAUL KANANE, SR. MARY ROSE THOMAS, SR. GERTRUDE SHEA, SR. MARY COLLETT. KENNEDY: MADAME PAULINE DUNNE

Owego for the past fifty odd years.

On the death of Father Johnson in September, 1862, succeeded by the building of his new church, the Rev. Martin Ryan took charge of St. Patrick's parish. Due to continued ill health he got permission to return to Ireland on an indefinite leave of absence. He never returned, dying there Jan. 9, 1866.

FR. MARIANRY FAYTON

The Rev. Jeremiah Moriarty, present pastor of St. Mary's Church, Elmira, was appointed administrator during the absence of Father Ryan. He served in that capacity until June, 1866, when the Rev. John J. Sheridan, newly ordained priest from Binghamton, became administrator.

This younger priest became, in the ten years of his ministry here, the most beloved pastor that St. Patrick's Church has had during its hundred years of existence. With the aid of Ordination from his hands, and the Christ-like zeal of the young priest in his heart, he soon endeared himself to both Catholics and non-Catholic alike. His superb administrative ability manifested itself in the liquidation of the total indebtedness of the parish, \$11,000.

After ten years of service in Owego he was recalled to his own diocese, Syracuse, and soon became the pastor of one of the best city parishes, St. Lucy's. The memory of Father Sheridan, later the Rt. Rev. Meqr. John J. Sheridan, has remained sweet and fresh in the hearts of all the peoples of Owego.

MONSIGNOR BURNS FAYTON

The Rev. George V. Burns, now the Rt. Rev. Meqr. George V. Burns, pastor of Sacred Heart Cathedral, Rochester, succeeded Father Sheridan as pastor in Owego, July 2, 1869. During his pastorate of about two years a second story was added to the overcrowded parochial school building. Father Burns came to Owego from Phelps, and in the winter of 1913 was recalled to Rochester by Bishop Hickey to build his present magnificent Sacred Heart Church in the fast developing northern section of the city. The Rev. Michael J. Garvey came to Owego as pastor in January, 1913, but remained only until September of the same year, because he wished to end his days in the prayerful surroundings of the Carmelle Order, where he passed away a few years ago.

On Sept. 21, 1911, the Rev. Francis E. McCrone was appointed to succeed Father Garvey. Redecorating of the church was the first major improvement of his long ministry of eighteen years as pastor. On Sept. 2, 1913, the Rt. Rev. Thomas P. Hickey, Bishop of Rochester, came to Owego to bless the renovated church and preached a most impressive sermon for the occasion. Anyone who had the good fortune to hear Bishop Hickey preach at any time during his more than fifty years in the service of God's Church, knows what a gifted orator he was.

During Father McCrone's administration, a considerable fund was collected to build a new rectory. After almost four years of planning and financial struggle for the benefit of St. Patrick's Parish, the new rectory was completed in 1919. The new building is a masterpiece of Gothic architecture, and its construction was a most important step in the progress of the parish. The new rectory is a masterpiece of Gothic architecture, and its construction was a most important step in the progress of the parish.

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FR. SOUTH EASTON

The Rev. Arthur G. South was appointed by the Rt. Rev. John Francis O'Hara to succeed Father McCrone, Jan. 12, 1928.

FR. BYRNES NAMED PASTOR

Owego's loss in the departure of Father Smith was the most pastor's gain. On June 25, 1931, the present incumbent, the Rev. Michael Leo Byrnes was appointed to St. Patrick's by the Most Rev. John Francis O'Hara.

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After about four years of administering to God's people, which was fortunate for the faculty of St. Bernard's Seminary at Poughkeepsie, the Rev. Byrnes returned to Owego to be its pastor.

Among the administrative events of his first months in Owego must be mentioned the public relations campaign here by the most successful pastor of Owego in the last thirty years, under the direction of the late Michael Sheehan and the Rev. Edward J. Wilson, who studied for the Priesthood, then Chaplain-Captain in the U. S. Army in England.

The parish had through the church was completed by Father Byrnes and opened in the parish for the Christmas celebration on Dec. 21, 1932. Many improvements were completed in the rectory, including the new kitchen, the new bathroom, the new parlor, and the new study.

From the very beginning of his pastorate, Father Byrnes has planned and executed with wisdom and foresight the construction of a new parish hall. Although he had planned and executed these very important improvements to St. Patrick's parish, Father Byrnes was not satisfied to stop there long. On June 25, 1932, he was promoted to the pastorate of St. Cecilia's parish, Elmira, where he has carried on the same constructive building program with equal success.

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Candor Woman's Zealous Mission Work Praised

No history of Catholicism in these parts would be complete without taking due note of the two Missions, Newark Valley and Candor. The priests of St. Patrick's, Owego, have always been active in the spiritual welfare of these communities.

The present St. John's Church in Newark Valley, was built by the Rev. John O'Mara in 1866. For some years Newark Valley was a duly incorporated parish under the direction of the Rev. John Hogan and later the saintly Father Kojas. On the death of the latter, Sept. 21, 1884, it again was attached to St. Patrick's parish. In 1899 a substantial hall was added to the church property by the Rev. Alex J. Stec, assistant in Owego. Present indications point to a very beautiful spiritual growth in that village.

NOTABLE FAMILY

The history of Catholicism in the village of Candor, N. Y., is intertwined most intimately with the life and work of one family, Mr. and Mrs. Kehos and daughter, Mary.

In 1870, the Rev. Francis Clark, pastor of Owego, said the first Mass in Candor at the home of Mr. Kehos. The Kehos residence remained the center of Catholic devotion and instructions for more than sixty-five years. No less than twenty-eight priests have offered the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in the humble home.

On the death of her parents, Mary Kehos Mooney carried on the work of preserving the Faith in that community. From the sanctuary of that "house of God" three young men received the vocation to the Priesthood, namely, the Rev. John News, the Rev. John Mooney and the Rev. James Mooney. The latter two were not relatives of their spiritual benefactor.

ALTAR IN HOME

will in Candor for the greater convenience of the congregation. The new church was dedicated on Nov. 2, 1931, by the Most Rev. John Francis O'Hara, Bishop of Rochester.

The ways of divine providence are mysterious indeed. It would be totally blind to say that the life and work of Mrs. Kehos were a mere accident of fate. The happiness of still residing at Holy Mass a few times each year. On these occasions, the Rev. Michael L. Byrnes always followed her beloved traditions, namely, heard confessions before Mass and preached to the faithful after the Mass was over.

On Aug. 20, 1939, this Christian soul was called to her eternal reward. The spark of Catholic faith that she and her family had kindled and protected for two generations in the village of Candor seems destined to die with her. The house that served so long as church and school and shrine is falling in ruin, the altar is gone and the very property has become a costly possession, but the memory of Mrs. Mary Mooney will linger on forever.

FOR VICTORY BUY UNITED STATES WAR BONDS AND STAMPS