

# ST. ROSE'S CHURCH, LIMA, TO MARK CENTENARY

## BISHOP KEARNEY TO PONTIFICATE AT RITE SUNDAY

LIMA — Commemorating the first Mass in Lima in 1842 and commemorating completion of 100 years' devoted service to Holy Mother the Church, Solemn Pontifical Mass will be celebrated in St. Rose's Church, here, on Sunday, Nov. 22.

His Excellency, the Most Rev. James E. Kearney, D.D., Bishop of Rochester, will celebrate the Pontifical Centenary Mass at 10 A. M.

Diocesan officials and priests of the diocese will join with the parishioners in commemorating the century of parish service to Almighty God.

Assisting His Excellency will be: Assistant Priest, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. William M. Hart V.G.; Deacons of Honor, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. William F. Bergan, Chancellor of the diocese, and the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph S. Cameron, Deacon, the Rev. Joseph J. O'Connell, Subdeacon, the Rev. Edward K. Ball, Master of Ceremonies, the Rev. Lawrence B. Casey.

Minor offices will be filled by students of St. Andrew's Seminary. Music will be rendered by St. Andrew's Seminary students under the direction of the Rev. Benedict Ehmman, professor of music at St. Bernard's and St. Andrew's Seminaries.

The Rev. John M. Ball, pastor of St. Rose's Church, announces the following Centenary Mass schedule: Monday, Nov. 23, Requiem High Mass for deceased members of the parish, 7:30 A. M.

Tuesday, Nov. 24, High Mass for all contributors of the parish, 7:30 A. M.

Wednesday, Nov. 25, High Mass for all boys of the parish serving in the armed forces, 7:30 A. M.

Thursday, Nov. 26 (Thanksgiving Day), High Mass of Thanksgiving for the 100 years of blessings bestowed upon the parish, 7:30 A. M.

## Mother Recognizes Marine Son In Overseas Photo

Recognized by his mother in the front page picture in last week's CATHOLIC COURIER was Private First Class Clarence J. Zablosky, of 40 St. Jacobs St. in Holy Redeemer Parish. Zablosky appeared in the photo kneeling at Mass '09' to the left in the picture with other fighting Marines on Guadalcanal.

The Church grants you all the liberty that Christ has given, nothing more, nothing less.

1889 Published EVERY WEEK for More Than 50 Years 1942

Catholic Courier

Official Newspaper of The Rochester Diocese With the Approbation of the MOST REV. JAMES E. KEARNEY, B. S. Bishop of Rochester

Vol. 111 NOVEMBER 19 1942 No. 47

Member Catholic Press Association of the United States Subscribers to N. C. W. C. News Service, (Washington, D. C.)

BY REV. MSGR. W. H. HART, V.G. Editor-in-Chief REV. JOHN S. RANDALL, Managing Editor HOWARD W. KLIPPERT, Manager THOMAS R. O'CONNOR, News Editor

Entered as second class matter in the Postoffice at Rochester, N. Y., as required under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Subscription, \$2.50 per year in advance, post paid (10 months \$1.50). Single Copies 5 cents (25¢ prepaid with order.) Foreign \$3.00 per year. NOTICE: Subscribers served by mail who wish to discontinue the CATHOLIC COURIER must notify the publisher in that effect by written notice. Otherwise service will be discontinued, and the subscribers will be held responsible for all additions sent to them after the expiration date of their subscriptions. This is in accord with Postal Law as interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

Published by CATHOLIC COURIER and 101 N. WAL. Inc. Main Business Office: 50 Leonard St., Room 1124-Rochester, N. Y. Other Editorial and Business Offices: ELMIRA, N. Y. 21 E. 4th St. 2nd Fl. Cor. Lake and East Market St. AUBURN, N. Y. 3 E. 4th Ave. Phone 24157

COURIER JOURNAL EST. 1889

## Catholicity Thrives In Lima For Century

### First Mass Was Offered in Home Of Parishioner

ONE Hundred Years of Catholicity, even in a small town like Lima, is a subject vast and elusive. It not only challenges but defies the most painstaking attempts to reduce it to an historical chronicle.

The details of living that go to make up parochial life and develop it are so wide and varied, so small and apparently insignificant, so intangible and at times invisible, that it is only at very rare intervals that any event stands out as possessing historical significance.

Yet this silent and unobserved amassing of detail of thought and work and action, this unceasing merging of the human elements of labor and prayer, this gradual flowering of the insignificant into strong and beautiful virtue, create great forces and put them into action and so men's lives are shaped and influenced in matters that are of tremendous earthly and eternal importance. Such is the life story of St. Rose Parish of Lima.

#### FIRST EXPONENT

Catholicism came to Lima in the year 1834 in the person of Thomas Martin, a native of County Tipperary, Ireland. He was its first representative and exponent here. From the vantage point of one hundred years the solitary figure of the lone Irishman is strikingly impressive.

A stranger in a strange land he faced an entirely new way of life that was filled with difficulties and hardships of many kinds. He had courage and self-reliance and determination that the challenge of obstacles would only increase. With his native resilient personality he could face and accept adversity but he could be momentarily hurt but not permanently disabled.

To a ready adaptability to new ideas and new ways, he joined a constant adherence to the teachings of his Roman Catholic faith, the beliefs and practices of which were entirely foreign to those about him and often looked upon with distrust and misunderstanding, if not with positive ridicule and positive hatred.

Here again his courage kept him loyal and devoted to his religious faith. He is a type of the many Irishmen who in succeeding years followed him to Lima.

#### FORMED NUCLEUS

James Egan came to Lima in 1837. Michael Courneen and John Brennan arrived in 1839. These three, with Thomas Martin, formed the nucleus of the future Catholic parish of Lima. After that arrivals were more frequent. Opportunities for Catholic worship and the reception of the sacraments were not available and so these hardy pioneers were accustomed to journey on foot to Rochester to hear Mass, to be married, to have their babies baptized and to receive the other sacraments.

It can easily be imagined with what joy these poor, faithful sons of the Church received word by 1842 that Mass was to be celebrated in Lima.

Father Murphy came from Rochester and offered up the Holy Sacrifice in the house of John Brennan. For the second Mass in the village, Thomas Martin borrowed or rented a team of horses and a sleigh, drove to Rochester and brought out Father Tierney.

After this, Father Tierney came to say Mass and the old settlers said that they remember Father Tierney walking from Rochester to Lima for that purpose. It must be remembered that at that time no Catholic was wealthy enough to own a horse. After Father Tierney, Father French and Father Carroll came occasionally to say Mass.

#### BEGINNING SMALL

The congregations on these occasions must have been very small for when Father O'Connor came from Canandaigua in 1848 for the purpose of organizing a parish and building a church, there were only eight or nine Catholic families here. He called them together in the old town house and celebrated Mass there. After that he said Mass in the John Brennan residence.

Of these eight or nine families, no more than fifteen people were able to contribute to the building fund. However, this small number



CENTENARY CHURCH at St. Rose of Lima where Father Pastoral Ceremony Sunday will mark 100 years of Catholicity. (Inset, the Rev. John M. Ball, (Mock photo) who is directing the Centenary celebration.)

Some of the names and amounts of the contributions are as follows: William Fallon, \$20.00; John Brennan, \$20.00; Thomas Martin, \$22.00; Ned Grant, \$2.00; Michael Courneen, \$20.00; John Haggerty, \$20.00; Michael Boyle, James Egan, James Lockington.

The first men to start the church were Michael Courneen, John Brennan, James Egan, William Fallon, Pat Hendrick, James Lockington, John Haggerty and Richard Heaney. John Haggerty paid the first money for the church, \$20.00.

The land for the church was given by Tona Yorlis, a non-Catholic, for the nominal sum of \$25.00. Mr. Yorlis also worked on the construction and bossed the job of raising the little church. The church building was completed in 1848. John Murphy and Philip Brennan made the tabernacle. John Murphy was the server at the Mass in these early days.

In 1851 Father O'Connor was succeeded by his cousin, Father Kenney, who stayed but a short time. In the same year Rev. C. Tierney was appointed pastor and because of the needs of an ever-growing congregation found it necessary to build a slight addition to the church.

#### FIRST RESIDENT PASTOR

Rev. William Quigley came in 1853 and was the first resident pastor. He purchased the John Brennan house, the present Bowen residence, for \$1,000.00. Father Quigley in turn was succeeded by Father Walsh who remained in Lima for only a short time.

During Father M. Thomas McGuire's pastorate, 1854-1858, several important developments took place. He enlarged the church building considerably, and built on the sacristy. At this time it was necessary to provide room for Catholics from Honeoye Falls, Rush, Mendon, West Bloomfield, Livonia, Conesus and Avon.

In 1856 Father McGuire built and opened a parochial school. It was a frame building about 30x40 feet, and stood on the ground now occupied by the present rectory. It

is a tribute to the ambition of the families of this congregation that even in their poverty they were anxious to provide educational advantages for their children that had been denied to them in the land of their birth.

The teachers of the school during these years were lay teachers. The first teacher was a Mrs. Fox, a widow. She was followed by Molly Welch. The third teacher in the school was Miss Margaret Egan, who taught for five years.

#### CEMETERY PURCHASED

In 1857 Father McGuire bought the burial ground from John McConery, for the price of \$600.00, \$100.00 an acre. William Murray and Jerry Malone signed the note. Michael Courneen, one of the first Catholics in Lima, was accidentally killed on Aug. 8, 1858, and was the first adult buried in the cemetery.

Following Father McGuire came Father Thomas O'Brien from the Immaculate Conception, Rochester. He remained pastor for four years, to 1862. He was succeeded by Father Clarke.

In 1864 Father William A. Gregg became the pastor. Under Father Gregg the congregation planned the most ambitious program in the entire history of the parish. Vision of a large massive church approaching the proportions of a basilica were entertained. And due to the sound architectural judgment of the pastor and the generous cooperation of the people, this vision materialized. The large brick church accommodating 700 was built.

#### BEAUTIFUL EDIFICE

It is an excellent example of Romanesque architecture, with beautiful interior appointments, the altar of black wood, the massive altar rail of mahogany. The body of the church was furnished with strong comfortable and becoming pews. The church was well substantially and beautifully built, and today after 72 years it stands strong and sturdy in an excellent state of preservation, a tribute to the foresight and generosity of the builders.

This was not accomplished with-

### Church Edifice Imposing After 72 Years

out a great deal of difficulty. When the walls were partly built, the entire front was collapsed. The church was struck by lightning. It was probably these disasters that made priest, people and builders determined to complete a building of lasting quality that would endure. It may well be that misfortune, now forgotten, was the cause of the present excellent condition of the church, which now evokes the admiration of all.

The congregation had laid in 1870 and the church was dedicated in 1872. The old wooden church was removed in the fall of the present rectory and transferred for school purposes. Another trial under Father Gregg's pastorate was the destruction of the rectory by fire because of the use of the extensive building program a long period of reconstruction followed.

Father Gregg spent seven years in Lima and was followed by Father William Mulhern who served and died in 1880. The congregation had over two years.

#### SYSTEMS ADOPTED

Father Mulhern was the pastor who was instrumental in 1871 in having the Sisters of St. Joseph come to teach in the school. This was one of the Sisters' first assignments.

He was transferred to Auburn, Dr. M. J. Laughlin of Auburn taking Father Mulhern's place in Lima. After two years in Lima, Dr. Laughlin died after a short illness and thus closed a notable career. He was succeeded by Father Edward McGuire in 1875.

Father McGuire remained in charge of St. Rose Parish for something over four years. In 1879 Father McGuire was able to write regarding the financial condition of the parish, "and after having succeeded in raising and furnishing the present beautiful church in providing a school building—a convent and purchasing land for the priests' houses, they will be in debt at the end of the year rather less than \$10,000.00—a mere beggarly sum for such generous people."

In 1881 Father McGuire relinquished parishes from Bishop McQuinn in favor of a school. In his letter of resignation, Bishop McQuinn wrote: "I am confident that you have done so much of late in paying off church debts, in purchasing additional ground adjoining the church and in building the new convent that I am reluctant to allow them to assume increased burdens."

The factory was built for approximately \$25,000. Father McGuire wrote some interesting and pertinent historical articles of the early history of the parish which have been useful in this sketchy account of the parish development. He left Lima in December of 1883, GLORIOUS CAREER.

In March, 1884, the Rev. Simon Fitzsimons began a long and glorious career as pastor of St. Rose's. He remained until the middle of September, 1912, a period of twenty-eight years. When Father Fitzsimons assumed charge the parish debt was \$10,000 with a reorganization of all families.

Father Fitzsimons was more than any other pastor molded definitely the character of the parish and its parishioners. The thoroughness of his character, his spirituality, his personality, was lasting and beautiful. The evidence of this was today strong and widespread.

This is a direct result of the fact that the people were really susceptible to the influence of Christian education and culture, and their natural gifts made them readily receptive to ideas of property and refinement and avid for greater advancement and development. Of course it is also due somewhat to the long term of his pastorate, but especially to his many qualities and virtues which made him not only a great pastor in Lima, but one of the most outstanding and brilliant priests of the diocese.

He was a man of great energy and force that was directed by an intense loyalty to God, his church and the salvation of souls.

#### GIFTED WRITER

Father Fitzsimons was a man of unusual learning. He contributed

## St. Rose's, First To Open High School In Diocese

The history of St. Rose's parochial school is unique. It was begun under Fr. Thomas McGuire in 1854. The first building was a small frame building about 40 feet by 30 feet. The first teachers, till 1875, were lay teachers. Mrs. Fox was the first teacher. Mollie Welch was the second. Miss Margaret Egan, later Mrs. Patrick Guinan, herself a former pupil of St. Rose's, taught in 1882 and 1883.

The school had to be discontinued then for two years because of lack of funds, either to pay the teacher or to heat the building. Mrs. Guinan again took charge of the school in 1885-86-87. She was followed by Mrs. Short and pro-

Sisters of St. Joseph conducted the school and it became one of their first missions.

For some time St. Rose's School, being considered a village school, received aid from the village treasurer. This support was later withdrawn. In 1889 a high school course was added to the grammar school curriculum. Thus St. Rose's High School was the first parochial high school in the diocese of Rochester.

In 1875 the old church was converted into a school, a great improvement over the 40x30 structure. In 1904 Father Fitzsimons built the present building which houses the school and rectory.