

Southern Tier Section
NEWS FROM
TIOGA and TOMPKINS COUNTIES
CHEMUNG, SCHUYLER, STEUBEN
and YATES COUNTIES.

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ON THE NEWS OF THE WEEK
By Rev. Richard Torrey for the
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Selma Mission Gifts Planned By Falls Group

Seneca Falls—Christmas gifts again this year for the Sisters of St. Joseph mission at Selma, Alabama were planned by St. Patrick's Guild and Altar Society at a luncheon supper Monday. Approximately 60 members attended.

For the past two years, the Guild has shared its Christmas festivities with the members of the Selma Mission. Once again this year on Dec. 20 members will bring a gift to be forwarded to the Mission for distribution among the children at the Mission's Christmas party.

Mrs. Gorman McMillan, president, has asked that the gift be wrapped in Christmas paper and marked for boy or girl and the group for which it is suitable. This saves the Sisters at the Mission much labor and expense.

THE MISSION is greatly in need of assistance at Christmas time as the Sisters are called upon to provide a Christmas party for many youngsters of all ages. It was also suggested that if anyone has books which their families have outgrown, new or used, they would undoubtedly find some youngsters at Selma in need of them.

The mission work at Selma, Alabama is carried on by the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Rochester Diocese. When the Guild first became interested in helping the Mission, Sr. Francis Marie, who was the first Superior at the Mission, spoke to the members. She described in detail the hardships which the Sisters had to overcome in order to keep the Mission alive and the extensive work which had been accomplished there.

There will also be a gift exchange at the Christmas party, scheduled for December 20th. Each member, in addition to the gift for the children at Selma, is requested to bring a small gift wrapped in Christmas paper to be placed under the tree for distribution at the party. Mrs. Bernard Sennell is chairman of the social that evening.

Miss Betty Hughes played several piano selections at the luncheon supper.

Novena Set To Open At St. Patrick's

The Rt. Rev. William J. Brian, V. F., pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Elmira, announced that a Novena in preparation for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception will be held at a date to be announced on Sunday. The Rev. Charles Gaskin, C.P., will conduct the Novena services.

Cross To Surmount SS Peter and Paul's Church Blessed By Pastor In Simple Rite

A cross was blessed last Sunday in the churchyard of SS. Peter and Paul's Church, Elmira, with the entire congregation from the last Mass watching the ceremony. It is a large cross, designed by Leo Considine, architect, of Haskell, Considine and Haskell.

The cross is made of copper, measuring almost seven feet in length and three feet in width. The ceremony lasted but a few minutes with the Rev. William J. Naughton, pastor, celebrant of the ancient rite of blessing for crosses and the Rev. Joseph C. Merkel and the Rev. Thomas J. Florack assisting. On Monday this huge cross was raised to the peak of the church roof, at a point directly over the main entrance of the church.

But it was more than just a cross symbolizing as it did their Catholic faith that these members of SS. Peter and Paul's Church were interested in; it was more than the actual ceremony of the blessing about which they were concerned.

FOR THEM, this cross and its blessing was a fitting climax to weeks of successful effort and work. For it meant the end of the first part of the improvement program which calls for the complete rehabilitation and decoration of this historic and century-old edifice.

During the past Summer months the tower of the Church had been repaired. That work consisted in the erection of a battlement effect of masonry around the top of the tower, replacing four crosses, two of which had been damaged by lightning. About five weeks ago work was begun on the church roof proper. The slate which had been installed some sixty-five years ago was replaced with a heavy asphalt shingle. The roof work and the new cross were installed at a cost of \$6,000. When the work on the roof was begun the parishioners were asked to defray the cost by conducting a Thanksgiving Festival. This was held on November 19th

and 20th. Latest reports would indicate that from the activity, which was held in conjunction with the Festival, from the two nights activities of the Festival itself and from gifts, the net amount received will make the affair a complete success.

Shortly after the first of the year it is hoped that the work on the interior of the church will be started.



Blessing the new cross before it was placed atop SS. Peter and Paul's Church, Elmira is the Rev. William J. Naughton, pastor assisted by the Rev. Thomas J. Florack and the Rev. Joseph C. Merkel.

Guild Makes Gift To Mercy Hospital

Auburn—Members of the Mercy Hospital Guild at a recent meeting voted to donate an invalid's chair to Mercy Hospital. The resident all chrome device which can be used in a sitting or standing position has been ordered and is expected to arrive soon.

Dansville Knights To Mark Unit's 45th Anniversary

Dansville—Forty-fifth anniversary of Dansville Council No. 785, Knights of Columbus will be marked with a Memorial Mass and Corporate Communion, Sunday, Nov. 28 in St. Mary's Church at 9 a. m. according to Grand Knight Edward J. Morsch.

The Mass will be celebrated by the Rev. M. Scheid, pastor of St. Mary's and council chaplain. Deceased members will be remembered.

Robert Conway, Richard Apple and Richard Cox will serve at the altar during the Mass. Choir will be directed by Braxton Middleton.

All council members will assemble at the club home at 8:30 a. m. and proceed to the church in a body.

AN ANNIVERSARY degree will be conferred by Dansville's own degree team at 2:30 p. m. Sunday, followed by buffet luncheon. Edward T. Burke, former state warden, is chairman of anniversary arrangements, assisted by Council Lecturer Lester Gould.

Actual date of the anniversary is Nov. 26 the charter having been received from Supreme Secretary David Colwell on Nov. 26, 1903. Of the original fifty signers of the charter, twelve are still active members, according to Grand Knight Morsch.

Officers and members of Dansville council have down through the 45 years been interested in furthering religion, education and youth programs the Grand Knight states. They have been active in promoting civil and local betterment.

The council owns its own three story brick building on Main St. and its debt free. The mortgage was paid off in 1937 and the council never defaulted a payment during the depression.

Priest Tells 67 Nurses Of Responsibility

Sixty-seven Nurses of the Elmira Unit, National Council of Catholic Nurses, assisted at a Memorial Mass for deceased members at 8 a. m. on Sunday, Nov. 21, in the Little Flower Chapel, Dunn Memorial Nurses Residence.

Celebrant of the Mass was the Rev. Julian Connor, C. P. of the Passionist Monastery, Scranton, Pa. Music for the High Mass was furnished by the Sisters' Choir.

AT THE COMMUNION Breakfast following the Mass, Father Connor pointed out that the nurses must always be conscious of their sense of personal responsibility, sense of real supernatural charity, and realization of utter dependence on God.

Rev. Philip E. McGhan, Chaplain at St. Joseph's Hospital, was toastmaster at the Communion Breakfast and Sister Mary Augusta, O. P. was a guest. Sister spoke of her experiences in China, emphasizing the evidence of God's protection.

Musical Tea

Plans have been completed for a musical tea to be given Sunday, Dec. 5, in the assembly rooms of St. Patrick's School, Elmira. The tea is sponsored by Our Lady's Committee of the Sodality of Our Lady of St. Patrick's Church.

Mrs. Edward A. Claus is general chairman and has announced the following committees: Tickets: Mrs. Louis J. Lodico and Mrs. Henry J. Brown; Refreshments: Mrs. Edward Davis; Arrangements: Mrs. Wm. H. McGill and Mrs. Stephen M. Marchinick; Program: Miss Florence Hughes; Publicity: Miss Antoinette D. Johnson.

Leads Rites



FATHER AYLWARD

Redemptorist To Lead 40-Hours

Forty Hours Devotion will open in SS. Peter & Paul's Church, Elmira, Sunday, November 28, it is announced by the Rev. William J. Naughton, pastor.

Services will be conducted by the Rev. Augustine Aylward, C. S. R., Rector of Our Lady of the Lake Retreat House at Geneva.

The 11 o'clock Mass Sunday will be Solemn High. After the Mass there will be the procession of school children and altar boys followed by the Celebrant of the Mass carrying the Blessed Sacrament.

Father Aylward will preach at the evening services on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday nights. There will be confessions after the services.

Members of the Immaculate Heart Society will be on watch at the Altar of the Blessed Sacrament each day after Mass until the evening services.

Fellow Alumnae Told Of Nun's Duty In China

Alumnae of St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing, Elmira, gathered last Friday at a reception for a fellow alumnae, Sister Mary Augusta, who has been a missionary in China for the past fifteen years.

A member of the Foreign Mission Sisters of St. Dominic, the Maryknoll order, Sister Augusta was graduated from St. Joseph's Hospital Nursing School in 1930 and entered the order, shortly afterward. She was sent to China in 1933, where she received her first mission assignment in a mental hospital in Shanghai.

Four years later the Sister-nurse was transferred to the Mission of Tungshuk in the Kiating Diocese in South China where she remained until her return to the United States this month. She described her experiences to a group of Sisters, graduates and student nurses at the Elmira Hospital.

A MEMBER of a mission band of 22 Sisters, Sister Augusta was stationed in a small convent with only one other missionary. The nuns took turns visiting in the homes of the Chinese where they gave religious instruction, and keeping the house open for those who came to them for instruction. The visiting Sister, accompanied by a lay woman catechist would spend a couple of weeks in a home instructing.

During the war, Sister was located in the famine section of South China, where common sights were starvation and famine. Daily rations consisted of two bowls of watery rice, which was supplemented with beans and lard through funds made available by the International Relief Committee.

The missionary had stories of conversions to tell, including one with the central character a dying little leper, whom she instructed and had baptized.

Lourdes Church To Open Week's Mission, Sunday

A one week Mission will open in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Elmira, on Sunday with evening services being held at 7:45. The Rev. Hubert Swezey, C. P., noted Passionist preacher will conduct the Mission.

A roast beef supper will be held in Our Lady of Lourdes Church hall on Monday evening, Dec. 6 at 6:30 p. m. The supper is being sponsored jointly by members of the Rosary Altar Society and the Holy Name Society.

W. Harold Turner is chairman of the men's committee and will be assisted by Messrs. James E. Kirby, Daniel F. Kennedy and William J. Schiefel.

The ladies committee chairman is Mrs. Francis T. Woods with Mrs. John Garey, co-chairman. They will be aided by Mesdames Edward J. Bremer, Leo Cummings, Roland Haskins, Eugene Proulx, Daniel F. Kennedy and James Stelner.

School Mothers To Meet At St. Salome

The School Mothers' Club of St. Salome's will meet in the school hall Wednesday, Dec. 1 at 8:30 p. m. with Mrs. Fred Schopp presiding. A Christmas party will follow the business session. Mrs. William Straub is chairman of the fifth Grade mothers who are in charge of refreshments.

TOYS
And Other Ideal Gifts
GIFTS

Cosmetics	Ranson Lighters
Wallets	Pipes
Compacts	Clocks
Gift Stationery	Toiletries
Cigarette Cases	Boxed Candy
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