

Clergy, Laity Laud Editor Tom O'Connor On His 25th Year as Catholic Journalist

By ARTHUR P. FAHREN
Described by Bishop James E. Kearney as "a great man because of his consecration to duty in a very simple way," Thomas H. O'Connor, widely known veteran news editor of the Catholic Courier-Journal, received scores of bouquets of praise at a testimonial dinner for him Monday night in Hotel Sheraton.

Bishop Kearney, who declared that "Tom O'Connor never lost the viewpoint of the other person," was joined by several priests of the diocese, as well as Catholic and secular press leaders and friends, in paying tribute to O'Connor on completion of his 25th year in Catholic journalism.

NEARLY 100 persons, including representatives of most of the major lay organizations of the diocese with whom Tom O'Connor has been associated during the last quarter-century, were on hand to congratulate the genial, soft-spoken newspaperman, who was cited as "a courageous pioneer in the Catholic press field," and "a gallant and fruitful worker" who has helped develop the Courier-Journal into one of the "most alert, progressive, well-managed and efficiently edited Catholic papers in the nation."

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. William M. Hart, P. A., V. C., editor-in-chief of the paper, and the Rev. Leo C. Mooney, former editor, both told of the writing days of the paper in the 1920's and paid glowing tribute to O'Connor's loyalty and perseverance.

"WE OVE a great deal to you,"

Monignor Hart said as he presented a purse to the news editor, "and this material recognition of your work is a sincere but inadequate token of our esteem and appreciation."

Flanked by his wife, Helene, who herself received tribute from many of the speakers, and six of their seven children, O'Connor humbly responded with a simple, sincere "Thank you."

Characterizing the testimonial chiefly as "evidence of the approval and development of the Catholic press in Rochester Diocese," O'Connor lauded the interest of the Bishops of the diocese.

RECOUNTING THE early days of his career, he said he took a job with the Catholic press 25 years ago with the idea of "keeping it a year and then getting something better."

Although repeatedly told it had "no future," he admitted that "the something better" never could have brought him his much public tribute and personal satisfaction.

Bishop Kearney keynoted the tributes with his declaration that "Tom has been the personification of loyalty not only to his superiors but to every Catholic parish, every Catholic organization and every Catholic person in the diocese." Among other speakers were:

The Very Rev. Msgr. John S. Randall, managing editor of the Courier-Journal, who termed the guest of honor the "anchor man and balance wheel" of the paper's staff; Frank Hall of Washington, director of the NCWC News Service, who said O'Connor "has labored in a field peculiarly difficult yet most important to the nation."

The Rev. Gerald Kerwin, editor of the Albany Evangelist, who declared "his work will live long after him"; Richard Reid, K. S. G., editor of the Catholic News, New York City, who said "Cath-

olic editors from coast to coast are proud of Tom O'Connor and proud of the Courier-Journal, one of the greatest newspapers in the United States."

The Rev. William F. Nojan, assistant pastor of Sacred Heart Church, O'Connor's parish, who read a message from the pastor, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. George V. Burns, stating in part that "Tom O'Connor is a model Catholic layman."

Joseph T. Adams, managing editor of The Times Union, who stressed that O'Connor "has devotedly served the entire community and particularly the daily press in informing us about Catholic news"; George R. Shoals, managing editor of The Democrat & Chronicle, who brought the greetings of that paper's staff.

The Rev. Aloysius Coogan, editor of the Catholic Missions magazine, New York, addressing O'Connor, stated:

"IN THIS titanic work of clarification and instruction to which we are called by the times, the Press has not merely a work to do, it has THE work to do! See that you do it well!"

"God grant you grace to write well of Him in times that know Him not. Then may you see Him face to face, for a personal and happy 'interview,' when your last line is written, when your last page is put to bed, and when you get your final — and eternal — assignment."

Scores of congratulatory messages included one from the Most Rev. Michael J. Ready, Bishop of Columbus and episcopal chairman of the NCWC Press Department, who was unable to attend because of illness and sent his "warmest good wishes."

William A. Lang, vice-president of the Rochester Transit Corporation and former Courier-Journal staff member, was toastmaster. Norman A. O'Brien was chairman of the dinner committee.

Undeclared Court Champions



Twelve wins and no losses was the record made by the Swietonowski-Kopeczek Post 1324 basketball team of Auburn pictured above. Players are: (From left) front, John Wilczek, Alex Marullo, coach; and Ed Krause. Standing (from left) Bill Hullek, Stanley Bykowski, Jerry Daly and Bill Szakala.

K. C. Bowlers in Auburn Tourney

Auburn — Members of the Knights of Columbus Bowling League will compete in Auburn City Bowling Tournament to be held in the A.B.C. Alleys next week. The K. of C. League are scheduled for 7:00 P.M., Tuesday evening, March 22. All bowlers are requested to be at the Alleys by 6:30 P.M., according to Donald Yorkey, secretary of the League.

President Jay Dillon has announced that 8 teams from the League will participate in the Eastern States Division of the Knights of Columbus National Bowling Tournament in Rochester on April 10.

Waterloo Teacher Ends Cadet Training

Waterloo — Miss Katherine Hayes, a former pupil of St. Mary's parochial school, now a senior at State College for Teachers at Buffalo, recently completed her cadet teaching at three schools.

Miss Hayes had her cadet teaching at Colden Rural School, Colden, N. Y.; City School of Practice, Buffalo, N. Y.; Lackawanna School of Special Education, Lackawanna, N. Y.

Miss Hayes is majoring in child education and specializing in the education of exceptional children. She is an active member of the Newman Club, Pi Kappa Sigma Sorority, Phi Delta Phi Sorority and the International Council of Exceptional Children. She was named to the dean's list for the last semester.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bart Hayes, Center Street, Waterloo.

Mission Slated At St. Mary's

Auburn The Rt. Rev. Msgr. William E. Cowen, pastor of St. Mary's Church has announced that a Mission will be held, beginning on March 27 and closing on April 10.

The Mission will be conducted by two Jesuit Fathers, Rev. Walter A. Reilly, S.J. and Rev. John R. Buchanan, S.J.

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Bob Holmes' 565 Keeps N.D. at Top of League

Auburn Captain Bob Holmes kept his Notre Dame in first place in the St. Aloysius Holy Name Bowling League by rolling 565 to be high man for the day.

Santa Clara tied with Notre Dame for first place in the last three weeks won the first two games from LeMoine and looked like the winner of the trophy as Notre Dame had lost the second game to St. John Fisher everything hinged on the last game and it was in this game that Captain Holmes came through with a 223 game to spark his Notre Dame team to their three to one victory as Santa Clara lost their last game and so ended the season in a tie for first place.

Holmes inspired Frank O'Connor, the "shining light" of the "Fighting Irish" to a 207 game which helped Frank total 512.

Jack Friedel kept up the consistent bowling he has displayed in recent weeks by hitting 560 this week which helped him beat his favorite uncle John Terry by eight pins. Terry came through with 552 and when asked why he didn't roll 600, he replied "I am saving that for the rollout with Santa Clara for the trophy."

BESIDES THE contest for first place there was another contest that was just as exciting and that was for highest average for the season. Lou Tomp of Villanova and Steve Tarby of Loyola were the principals in this contest. Both had a 158 average but Steve Tarby had two more pins as the match started.

TOMMY FORGED ahead by twenty-one pins at the end of the first game but Tarby came back with a 23 game to go into the lead by thirty seven pins. In the last game Lou won out with his 185 game while Steve was running into impossible splits which kept his total down. Tom's margin of victory was four pins.

Lou Tomp's 562 total a tie for second high of the day, joined by Carmen Oltasanos 527, sparked Villanova to a three to one victory over Loyola, which helped the victors end the season by vacating the cellar position.

Bill Costello celebrated his becoming a father of a fine baby, son by tying Lou Tomp for second high of the day with a 562 total. Steve Tarby was next with 536.

SANTA CLARA WAS close to the trophy as they won the first two games from LeMoine and were going quite strong in the last game. It was at this time that Joe Stapleton figured the bride's maid was going to be a bride and went out to look for a bridal gown but when he came back Santa Clara had ended a bride's maid by losing the last game by seven pins.

ERNE SMEATON led Canisius to a three to one victory over Holy Cross with his 554 total. Ernie inspired Frank LaRue to a 533 total which included a 223 game. Bill Tarby was back in his 500 form, totaling 506.

Captain Tom Malta of the Crusaders rolled 225 to help him

THE BIG THREE

Georgetown	2637
Notre Dame	2632
Georgetown	2592

THE BIG FIVE

Bob Holmes	563
Bill Costello	562
Lou Tomp	562
Ralph Casbarro	560
Jack Friedel	560
Bud Wilson	560

STANDINGS

Notre Dame	71
Santa Clara	71
Loyola	37
Georgetown	35
Georgetown	33
Canisius	31
Holy Cross	45
St. John Fisher	45
Villanova	45
LeMoine	45

3 Catholic Young Men in Nurses Class at Willard

Seneca Falls — Three young Catholic men from Seneca Falls are numbered among the class of 82 pre-nursing students in the Willard State Hospital School of Nursing receiving their caps and emblems at the capping exercises held in Hadley Hall, Willard, last Sunday evening.

These men are John G. Casey, John Lawler and Louis Rizzieri. John Casey is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George O. Casey, Spring St. He is a former Lieutenant in the Medical Corps of the U. S. Army and spent three years years in the service in World War II. He was stationed aboard a Hospital Ship and made many trips into the foreign theaters of war.

John Lawler, son of Mrs. Mary Purphey, Chestnut St. and a veteran of several months service with the U. S. Navy. John returned to school upon discharge from the Navy and after graduating, began his training at the State Hospital.

Louis Rizzieri, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Rizzieri, Swaby St. was a member of the 1948 graduating class of Mynderse Academy.

These young men have completed their six months probationary training and will continue their studies for another 2 1/2 years in order to become registered nurses.

Freedom Train Met in Geneva

Geneva Rev. Edward K. Ball, pastor of St. Francis de Sales church, gave the opening invocation at the welcoming program for the New York State Freedom Train which visited Geneva Thursday and Friday.

Mayor Cassner E. Hapale gave the welcoming address. Main address was delivered by Attorney Lyman B. Lewis. Col. Frank B. Corry, director of the train, responded to the address of welcome.

Students of De Sales High school and the two parochial schools, St. Francis de Sales and St. Stephen's, visited the train.

2-Day Rummage Sale Slated By Catholic Daughters Court

Auburn Court Auburn, Catholic Daughters of America have announced a Rummage Sale to be held at their South Street Home on March 24 and March 25.

The following members are in charge of the sale: Mrs. Evelyn Frank, Mrs. Mary Kehon, and Mrs. Helen Kistella with a large committee assisting.

All articles for the sale are to be left at the South Street home on March 22 and March 23. The proceeds of the sale will be used for Court Auburn's charitable and War Relief programs.

Prepare Red Cross Fund Drive Dinner

Geneva — Members of the Rosary society of St. Stephen's Church prepared the closing dinner of the 1949 fund campaign of Geneva chapter, American Red Cross.

Mrs. J. Vincent McCann was chairman of arrangements for the dinner.

Parish Unit Sends \$346 To Trumansburg

Hannonsport — That St. Gabriel's Rosary Society had donated \$200 to the rebuilding of the Trumansburg Church recently destroyed by fire was announced at the Society's meeting.

To this was added the amount of a special collection, \$146 making a total of \$346 sent to the Rev. Leonard A. Kelly, pastor at Trumansburg.

Members heard of a profit of \$100 resulting from the bake sale sponsored by the Society.

Forty Hours

Devotions of the Forty Hours are scheduled in the following churches of the Rochester Diocese:

Sunday, Mar. 20 — Assumption, Fairport.

Sunday, Mar. 27 — Holy Rosary, St. Bridget, St. Monica, Rochester; St. Stephen, Geneva.

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