

St. Margaret Mary Church

**Father Bruton
Founded Parish
20 Years Ago**

Widely Known as Teacher, Former Legion Chaplain

From the French battlefields of World War I to the sanctuary of the new St. Margaret Mary's Church in Irondequoit represents a great deal of history for the Rev. Charles J. Bruton, pastor of the church to be dedicated Sunday.



REV. CHARLES J. BRUTON

To Father Bruton, founder and pastor of the 20-year-old parish, the 31-year span marks the difference between celebrating Mass on an abandoned racetrack in 1918 France, and in the modern church edifice on today's Rogers Parkway.

This three-decade interval spells the difference between administering to the needs of hundreds of war-wounded American veterans in St. Jean's Base Hospital, and to the needs of more than 2,600 adults and children of the ever growing parish off St. Paul Boulevard.

Widely known in American Legion circles, well known to hundreds of boys whom he formerly taught in Rochester Catholic High School and its successor, Aquinas Institute, Father Bruton is best known to the parishioners of St. Margaret Mary's — to whom he has been friend, counsellor and inspiration.

THE GENIAL priest will be central figure at ceremonies next Sunday when the new church and rectory will be dedicated — the culmination of his 20-year dream for a complete parish institution.

"My joy at being here," he once

10 Parishioners in Religion

Ten parishioners of St. Margaret Mary's Church have entered religious life. They include:

The Rev. Clarence W. Gardner, assistant pastor of St. Aloysius Church, Auburn; the Rev. James F. Baker, assistant pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, Ithaca.

Sisters: John Mary Burke, O.S.F.; Ann Xavier Gantert, S.S.J.; Marion Gumbell, S.S.J.; John Edward O'Brien, O.S.F.; Michael Tenney, S.S.J.; John Mary Van Atta, S.S.J.; St. Gonzaga Wilson, R.S.M.; Helen Marie Yockel, S.V.D.

Father Bruton was born in Ogden, N. Y., Oct. 13, 1891. His grandfather had come from Ireland in 1845 and settled there. After a year at District School No. 7, the priest-to-be attended Churchville Grammar School, from which he was graduated in 1905. Next came study at St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries, and his ordination by Bishop Thomas F. Hickey in 1914.

For the next two years he served as assistant pastor, first

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THE NEW ST. MARGARET MARY CHURCH, ROGERS PARKWAY, IRONDEQUOIT. RECTORY IS AT RIGHT.



REV. L. EMMETT DAVIS

These priests assist the Rev. Charles J. Bruton in carrying on the myriad duties of St. Margaret Mary's parish. Father Davis and Father Donovan are the



REV. JOSEPH D. DONOVAN

regular parish assistants. Father Mahoney diocesan superintendent of schools and a longtime friend of Father Bruton, resides at the parish rectory



REV. CHARLES J. MAHONEY

Parish Recalls First Baptism, Marriage

Among "firsts" in St. Margaret Mary's parish 20 years ago were: First baptism — Willie J. Bruton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Bruton, Rochester; and nephew of the Rev. Charles J. Bruton; first marriage — Mercedes P. Kroschel and Clara Stork. The couple now lives at 4 Oscar St., Rochester.

**New Church
Dedication
Set Sunday**

Complete Parish Property Climaxes Long Struggle

In the relatively short period of 20 years the parishioners of St. Margaret Mary's Church, Irondequoit, have changed a six and one-half acre patch of bare land into a complete parish property.

Today, as pastor and parishioners prepare for the dedication of their 1100-seat Romanesque church, they look back on a two-decade span of parish history which rivals that of probably any church in the nation.

His Excellency Bishop Kearney will officiate at the dedication at a Solemn Festal Mass at 11 a.m. Sunday to inaugurate an expansion program which has resulted in one of the most completely equipped and modern parishes in the diocese.

Standing today on that former patch of bare Rogers Parkway, off St. Paul Boulevard, is the beautiful tapestry-brick church and adjoining rectory; across the street is the two-story brick school and auditorium and a three-story modern convent.

ALL OF THIS brick and mortar, erected in God's name and by the people at this busy, ever-growing community, is a tribute to the work of the pastor, the Rev. Charles J. Bruton, and to the unusual spirit of cooperation with him by the parishioners.

It was in the summer of 1918 that 178 persons gathered with Father Bruton, newly-appointed pastor of the yet un-named parish, to discuss the parish's future. At that time they had nothing but the bare land and the Diocese recently had purchased the six-acre site on Rogers Parkway.

Today the parish has more than 2,600 members on the rolls and a school, headed by St. Francis, with an enrollment of more than 500 pupils. Adding great significance to

the parish program is the fact that the parish and rectory are owned, owned and operated by the people of the parish. The parish is the only one of its kind in the Rochester area.

Parish: Mass Held 9 Announcements

Special anniversary program of St. Margaret Mary's Church was the Mass of the Holy Spirit, held in the new church building on Rogers Parkway, Sunday, Feb. 5. The Rev. Charles J. Bruton, pastor, presided. The Rev. William J. Mahoney, C.S.B., was the celebrant. The Rev. William J. Mahoney, C.S.B., was the celebrant.

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SMM MEN'S CLUB CREDITED WITH UNUSUAL ATTAINMENTS

Parishioners of St. Margaret Mary's Church consider their Men's Club comparable to any parish group in the nation. Certainly the organization is one of the best known of its kind in the diocese. It must be given credit for initiating and carrying through numerous projects which have contributed greatly to the expansion of the parish.

Although the group is most widely heralded for having undertaken and continued the series of crowd-drawing parish parties which brought the parish out of depression indebtedness, the record of Men's Club activities is far more extensive than this one phase.

INCLUDED UNDER its auspices and sponsorship are the parish laymen's retreat, the Holy Thursday Nocturnal Hours, general Easter Sunday Communion, the men's choir, the Library Group, Boy Scouts, Bowling League, Parochial School Softball and Basketball Teams and the Armistice Day Sentry. In addition the club cooperates with the Allar Society in sponsoring the annual parish bazaar.

Varied and famous national figures were featured by the club at banquets and smokers it conducted through the years. Featured guests have included: Bishop Kearney, Monsignor P. William Stauffer, Chinese Consul Dr. Tehyi Hsieh of Boston; State Attorney General

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Simple Architecture Marks Romanesque-Style Building

The new St. Margaret Mary Church to be dedicated next Sunday is equipped with a loud-speaking system — but it isn't required, according to the Rev. Charles J. Bruton, pastor.

So remarkable are the acoustics in the new edifice, Father Bruton relates, that the priest in the pulpit can be heard distinctly in every part of the church.

Simplicity of architecture marks the exterior of the building, which is of modified Italian Romanesque style with a high nave and low side aisle ceiling. Built in the form of a cross, it rises 90 feet high and is 48 feet wide at the nave.

CONSTRUCTED OF steel superstructure, it has masonry walls of pressed brick and limestone, and a variegated slate roof. The appearance of both the church and adjoining rectory harmonize with the previously erected school and convent across the street.

The rectory is directly connected with the church and includes several offices for the priests and for church personnel. It has an attached garage. Final cost of the two structures was \$400,000. Joseph P. Flynn was architect and general contractor was A. Friederich & Sons Co.



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