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**Fr. Bruton Widely Known  
As Former War Chaplain**

(Continued from Page 1-A)

at St. Bridget's Church, then at Immaculate Conception Church, Rochester. In June, 1918, came the call to service, and Chaplain Bruton went overseas that month to care for the needs of men in the 52nd Regiment Engineers.

**STATIONED IN** a railroad camp barracks in Perigueux, France, Father Bruton was named by the commanding major chaplain of all the troops under his command. In a letter Sept. 22, 1918, Father Bruton wrote:

"While heavily Catholic, there also are many Protestants and a fair number of Jews, which makes me Catholic priest, Protestant minister and Jewish rabbi, as the case may be.

"So far, I have said two Masses each Sunday, held non-sectarian services in the YMCA once a week, and, as rabbi, I have sent the Jews to another city to their synagogue under military passports for the Jewish New Year . . ."

Being the only chaplain in the sector, Father Bruton was awakened at all hours during the night when the hospital train would arrive from the front lines with hundreds of wounded. He wrote of scores of cases of bravery.

During short furloughs, the priest-chaplain added, he enjoyed visits to Paris and to the home of his ancestors near the Hill of Fara in Ireland.

**ON HIS RETURN** to Rochester in 1919, Father Bruton was assigned as a teacher of French and Spanish at Rochester Catholic High School, serving there and at Aquinas Institute until 1928. During much of this time he assisted at St. John the Evangelist's Church.

For the following year Father Bruton served successively as assistant at St. Joseph's, Weedsport; St. Joseph's, Livonia, and St. Patrick's Cathedral.

In 1925 Father Bruton was elected chaplain of the Monroe County Chapter, American Legion — a post he held for 18 years. During one year of this period he also served as State Chaplain of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

These chaplaincies necessitated

literally hundreds of speeches throughout the state and particularly in Western New York. They also made Father Bruton what he continues to be today — a friend and counselor of many veterans of both World Wars.

**IT WAS ON** June 14, 1929, that Father Bruton was called on by Bishop John F. O'Hern to found St. Margaret Mary's parish. His record of the last 20 years in that post has been marked by hard work, perseverance in difficulty, struggle against the wants of the depression period, and an ability to organize his parishioners to unusual attainments.

For most of the period he carried on without an assistant. Currently there are two — the Reverends L. Emmett Davis and Joseph D. Donovan. Also living at and associated with the parish is the Rev. Dr. Charles J. Mahoney, superintendent of diocesan schools.

Father Bruton celebrated his silver jubilee of ordination on June 8, 1941, with a Military Mass on the grounds of the parish. Present were parishioners, war veterans, members of the 21st Regiment of the New York Guard, as well as representatives of the Rochester Fire Department Holy Name Society, of which the celebrant was chaplain, and the Ancient Order of Hibernians, of whom he also had been spiritual director. Father Mahoney preached the sermon, paying tribute to Father Bruton's priestly career.

**THE PRIEST'S** family has been close to him during all the years. His father, who died in 1946 at the age of 94, often visited St. Margaret Mary's. His mother, 85, is still living in Churchville with another of her sons, Verner. A second brother, Leslie, also lives in Churchville, while another, Willis, is located in Rochester. Father Bruton is the proud uncle of the three brothers' 10 children.

Throughout his career, Father Bruton's life has been marked by a simple humility becoming his priestliness. Parishioners of St. Margaret Mary's are indeed proud of "our pastor."

**Boy and Girl Scout Troops  
Flourish in Young Parish**

St. Margaret Mary's parish boasts the largest Boy Scout Troop in the Northern District of the Rochester-Ontario Scout Council.

It is Troop 126, organized in 1946. Albert Thomas is scoutmaster, and Lewis Meisenzahl is assistant. Committee members include

Arthur L. Schoeneberger, chairman; Maurice J. Hyde, institutional representative; Arthur J. Dallor, secretary; George Montgomery, advancement; Vincent Wels, treasurer; H. Lou Gibson and John Chechak, special events; Joseph Pellman and A. Earl Staud, camping; Randall Sargent, sports.

Girl Scouts of the parish organized in 1946 under sponsorship of the Altar Society have been under the leadership of the Mesdames Robert Gilmore, William Young, Edmond Reilly, Joseph Schnorr, Paul Gears, Fred Heintz, Emil Steirle, Arden Howland, Thomas Murphy, Andrew Hickey, Carl Wittman, Joseph Lamon, Ensign Slayton and Cecil Campbell, and Miss Genevieve Marain.

**Parish Bulletin**

"The Alacque News" parish bulletin of St. Margaret Mary Church, was started in 1934. Now known as the "Parish Bulletin" it has become a parochial institution. It is mimeographed and edited each week by Mrs. John Ball.

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