

Annual Program In Schools Seeks Religious Vocations

The Schools of the Diocese of Rochester have always been outstandingly vocation-minded. The many opportunities open to our young men and women in the service of Christ have been brought to their attention in the classroom and in assembly period. Not only have the needs of our diocesan priesthood and sisterhoods been made known to our young people but the needs of the Church at large as well. Diocesan educators have always striven to manifest a genuinely Catholic attitude towards the whole subject of vocations.

During the incumbency of the Rt. Rev. Msgr. John M. Duffy as Diocesan Superintendent of Schools an effort was made to focus attention on the work of vocations in our schools by dedicating a special week in this month of May to a more intensive study of the subject of vocations. Later this Vocation Week as it was called, was lengthened to a Vocation Month and the entire month was dedicated to the fostering of vocations to the priesthood, both school and sisterhood.

More Emphasis

Constantly seeking to make the vocation program of our diocesan schools more effective, Monsignor Duffy transferred the observance of Vocation Month from May to March. It was felt that more attention could be devoted to this important facet of Catholic education by highlighting vocations during the month of March than towards the end of the scholastic year in May. Consequently for the past eight years March has been known as Vocation Month in every elementary and secondary school of the Diocese of Rochester.

Vocation Month and its objectives are signaled in var-

ious ways. Traditionally it is opened each year by a radio broadcast on vocations by His Excellency, Bishop Kearney. Throughout Vocation Month the radio carries talks on vocations by other speakers prominent in the work of fostering vocations.

Bishop's Broadcast

In addition to his radio broadcast, Bishop Kearney annually writes a letter on the subject of vocations which is read and commented on in every classroom in the diocese. Throughout Vocation Month, efforts are made to focus attention on vocations by means of vocational exhibits, posters, art work displays of vocational literature, the reading of letters from alumni who have entered religion, etc. The spiritual note is constantly stressed by the recitation of the indulgenced Prayer for Vocations each morning before class during Vocation Month.

One of the most interesting features of the entire Vocation Month program is the custom of inviting a group of vocation speakers who visit every elementary and secondary school in the Diocese. This group is composed each year of eight speakers: priests, brothers and sisters. Each represents a different part of the Lord's Vineyard and each is especially qualified in the work of fostering vocations.

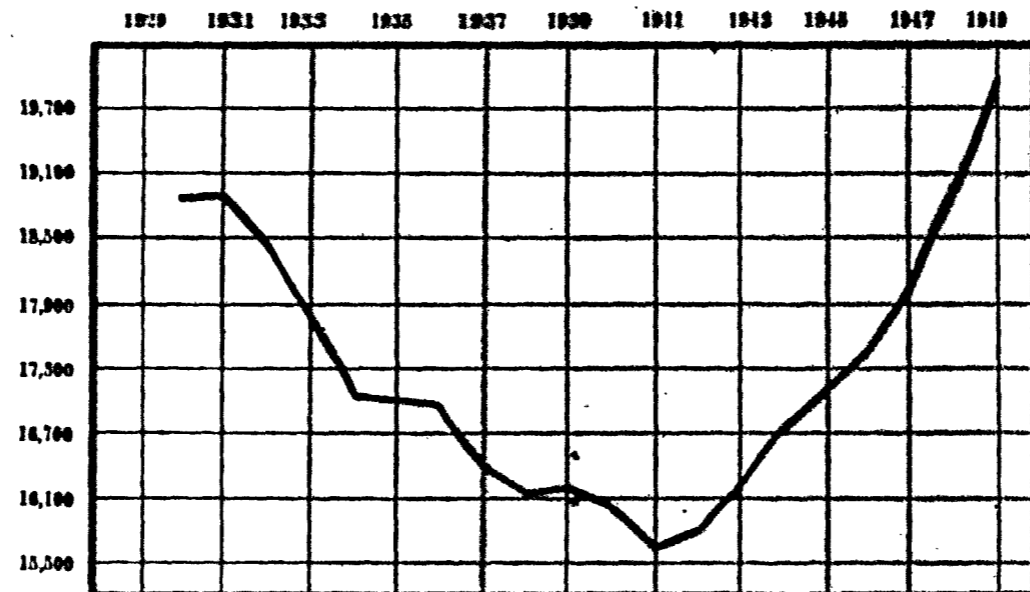
Representatives of missionary dioceses in our own country, Jesuits, Redemptorists, Paulists, Maryknollers and a score of others have presented their work to the schools throughout the diocese. Brothers and Sisters of a large number of communities have likewise made their appeal for recruits.

National Acclaim

Vocation Month as observed in the Diocese of Rochester has won national fame as a most effective means of fostering vocations. Bishops of missionary dioceses and superiors of religious communities of both men and women have commended the program as one truly Catholic in spirit and in practice.

Father Charles Boyle represented the Diocese and presented its program at the Regional Vocational Conference held in Trenton, New Jersey in 1948. This conference was sponsored jointly by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith and the Missionary Union of the Clergy. It brought representatives from every diocese in the Eastern part of the United States to compare notes and exchange ideas as to the most effective means of insuring the maximum response to the invitation of Our Divine Lord: "Come Follow Me."

Total Enrollment: 1930 - 1950
Elementary And High Schools
City of Rochester



Year	Elementary	High School	Total	Year	Elementary	High School	Total
1930	16,833	2,110	18,943	1940	13,258	2,744	16,002
1931	17,741	2,255	19,996	1941	12,813	2,680	15,493
1932	16,191	2,214	18,405	1942	12,522	2,692	15,214
1933	15,617	2,181	17,798	1943	13,016	2,267	15,283
1934	14,810	2,244	17,054	1944	13,177	2,617	15,794
1935	14,643	2,330	16,973	1945	13,463	2,646	16,109
1936	14,543	2,372	16,915	1946	13,571	4,151	17,722
1937	14,060	2,362	16,422	1947	14,277	4,318	18,595
1938	13,707	2,477	16,184	1948	14,914	4,156	19,070
1939	13,523	2,783	16,306	1949	15,643	4,244	19,887

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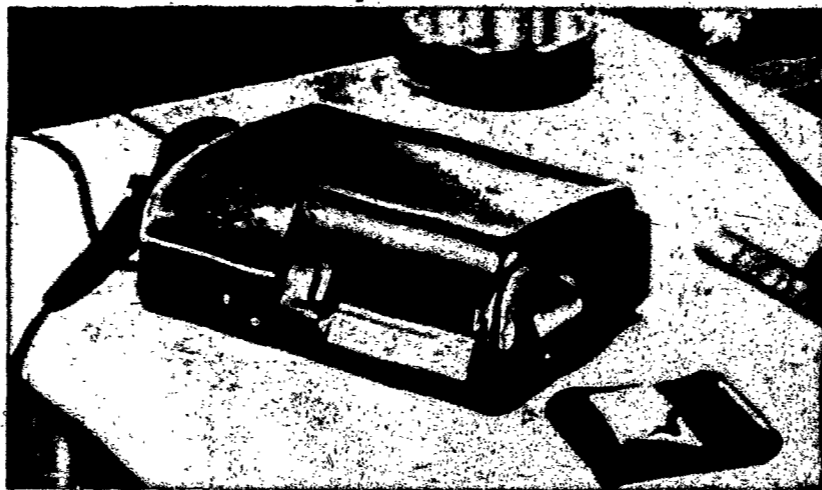
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