100 Years' Service to God Marked by St. Bridget's Church, East Bloomfe

By ARTHUR P. FARREN

Memories of sturdily religious Irish pioneers of the ust Bloomfield area will be recalled chunday. Nov. 5, when rishioners of St. Bridget's Church commemorate the 100th niversary of the parish.

Records reveal that it was the Sullivana, Harringtona, tores, Fitzmorrises, Sweeneys and other families of Eria o wrote the parish's first historical chapter in 1850.

And down through ten decades it has been their descenda, and others mostly of Irish heritage, who have added to glorious saga of Catholic life in the Ontario County comnity.

It was nearly two centuries ago that the story of Christ! fi t was brought to the site of Bloomfield. At that time the a ywas wildly wooded, untouched by the hand of the white . Into the Seneca Indian village of Gannogarae, on the 122 t of Mud Creek, came Catholic missionary priests, telling ĺμe – od, the Faith, the Church. Many of the Senecas became of co: erts.

Long before the end of the 18th Century, however, the we ward push of the white man forced the Senecas out of tristol Hills area. In 1788 Ontario and Steuben Countles. the included in land purchases by Nathaniel Gorham and we: . Phelps, and during subsequent years the first settlers Olin clearing the trees and applying the plow. Degi

TINUING SETTLEMENT, J. Donnelly, pastor at Victor. CC ly the fact that the secaided IN 1896 Bishop McQuaid apthe v eld, Victor and Mendon, to be ordained. During the two Hloom The n re Bloomfield was given years of his pastorate, fromby the pioneers because of the which he was transferred to SL richnet and beauty of the flow. Michael's Church, Livonia Center, the present rectory was built fields. 478 879 Histo buildini in the 1840s, many Irish the arei

families vorking on the line set-To East Bloomfield on July tled the 7, 1996, came the Rev. Patrick he year 1846 two priest-A. Neville, whose 33-year ten-About Fathers Bernaro miles area pasters in a Reilly, first visited the seren pasters in a Blockmfield, of all parish history. Fathers Bernard and wre was the longest of the brothers William en in the 300-year-Tew Cat Born in Victor in 1864, the son J. J. Donnelly of Charlotte, Rev. fering 3 ts on the hard-sarth

he pioneer cabina, in of John Neville and Mary Con. Wm. Seymour of Nunda. Rev. floors of 1849 Father William Quigley naughton, he attended St. An. Wm. A. Gregg of Lima, Rev. J. ministered to the spiritual wants drew's Seminary, St. Joseph's drew's Seminary, St. Joseph's T. McManus of Geneva, Rey. Theological Seminary of Troy. Martin Hendrick of Avon, and of the people.

In 1850 the Rev. Edmund O'Connor, of St. Mary's Cathedral. His first assignment Church, Casandaigua, which was as assistant pastor of Holy ; had been started two years Family Church, Auburn, from previously, stiended the sixwhich he came to St. Bridget's. teen Catholic families of East Bloomfield. It was in this year that he organized the parish ties. In 1917 he announced the and undertook the raising of a fund for the building of a church. of these times disclose the fol-

Through extreme sacrifices the lowing comment by Father Nesmall group brought about the ville: erection of the first St. Bridget's. Church a 30-by-40-feet white

"The Parish does not grow in normbership for the reason frame building, completed and that the young people, as soon put in use in 1852. he they reach the are of ma-FATHER O'CONNOR PERVED turity, go elsewhere to seek

REDECORATED INTERIOR OF ST. BRIDGET'S CHURCH, EAST BLOOMFIELD

McQuaid Dedicated Present sches on the Albany-Buf. pointed as pastor the Rev. Ma-ute, brought into being lischy J. Garvey, first graduate St. Bridget's Church in 1875 ages of East and West of St. Bernard's Seminary (1983)

Two newspaper items of 75 years ago establish the background of the cornentone laying and dedication of St. Bridget's Church building in East Bloomfield. The clippings, are from the Ontario County Journal, as follows:

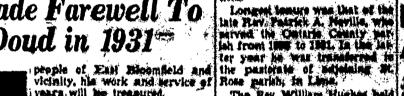
AUG. 2, 1874 The cornerstone Church was dedicated, June 13, of Attica, N. Y., and the architect 1981, he was appointed anne ter, the present rectory was built recounts that, with the of a railroad through in the 1840s, many Irish in the 1840s, many Irish Rochester preached. ter of ceremonies; also, follow- Boston. Following named

visiting ing named members of the The altar is surmounted by a clergy assisted: Rev. J. P. Stew- clergy were present and took large oil perirait of St. Bridget, Rochester, art, Rev J F O'Hare, Rev. F. part in the ceremonles: Rev. by M. Paulzi. On either side of H. Sinclair, of Rochester; Rev. Denis English, Canandaigua: the altar are full length portraits Rev. Martin Hendrick, Avon: of SS. Peter and Pauli doe holds / Pastors Served Rev. C. McGrath of Fairport; the keys, while the other, the Rev J. F. O'Hare and Rev. Mi- converted persecutor, leans on a chael Mragher, Rochester. sword. Finnal deparations were Music was furnished by the furnished by Hiram Holcomb. and St. Bernard's, being ordained Rev. Denis English of Canandal Canandal under the direcchoir from St. Mary's Church,

The dedicatory aermon was by June 8, 1895, in St. Patrick's gua; Rev. William Hughes, pas- tion of Mrs. M. J. Harley, organ-Rev. J. M. Marley; the Mass was read, and Bishop McQuald JUNE 18, 1875-St. Bridget's The contractor was Harry Hall preached.



Nineteen years ago the parishioners of St. Bridget's Church, East Bloomfield, bade farewell to the priest who had been their pastor for



years. will be treasured.

CORDIAL. WELCOME TO-FATHER DOUD AND THE Wast B î ŝi

Fr. Doud in Msg. Hus in So 19th Year at st. Bridgets Celebrate

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1834 - Palker Doub named pastor of Mt. Januariu Church, Naples, On June 20

W. Crest A bruther, William It. Doud lives at 231 Lobe Oak: Ave. er. Rev. Charles L. M. bearer. Rev. Reym St. Bridget's

During 100 Years Beren platers, two of them in three-decide periods, are Maled in the records of 100 year-old St. Bridget's Church in Rast Bloor

late PLAY, Patrick A. Neville, who served the Ostaris County par-ish from 1985 to 1981. In the Jak

The Rev. William Hughes held

the parton was not been and been the parton of the Kast Bleen. June 14, 1985, Details of sevent are contained in the left. The Rev. George W. Doud. the Cathelle Courter Jenne



Calabration of the Diverse

ublee of St. Church occurred on

the Bishop of the Diocese, Bishop no means of livelihood except John Timon of Buildia, appointthe farm, which many, espeed the first resident pastor, the cially the young goes, exchange Rev Nicholas Byrne. Father for the more attractive but Byrne at that time also had more often ill-said positions in charge of what were called the the cities. parish's dependencies Victor "However, there are about West Bloomfield, Honeoye Falls 500 members of the parish who

and East Mendon. are content to remain at home, Father Byrne somewhat enand the farms which they do

larged the church building, to acnot disdain to till render them commodate the gradually growgood returns, and give to their ing congregation. One year later tollers a free and independent. he was succeeded by the Rev. life." Patrick Lee, who served as pas-

tor from 1857 to 1961.

In the latter year there came to the East Bloomfield church a priest who held the pastormie for a 30-year period, the memory of whom remains with many of today's older residents. He was the Rev. Wilham Hughes, appointed July 1, 1861, by Bishop Timon.

in a fine big way on Monday eve-On May 16, 1931, Father Nening. After 33 years in this vilfile was promoted by the late lage, laboring unceasingly for Bishop John F O'Hern to the the greater honor and glary of pastorate of St. Rose Church, God, and for the spiritual welima. In failing health for sev-

Lima. In failing health for sev- ware of many people, he goes Shorisville called the assemblage eral years, he retired from that on Saturday to Lima, where he Shorisville called the assemblage post in 1934, and died at the age will become pastor of St. Rose's to order alter a time and acted of 73 on June 12, 1935 in St. Church.

tor.

Ann's Home, Rochester. THE REV George W Doud, farewell reception in the High and the Rev. James B. Keenan ings" in his pleasing jovisi manpaster of St. Januarius Church, School auditorium on Monday of Rochester; Rev. Roy F. Gam. Der. It was during his tenure, in 1868, that the Diocese of Roch- Naples, was appointed pastor of evening. It was a fine tribule to ester was established. Ontario St. Bridget's on June 20, 1931. a good priest a tribute that

County became part of the new During his nineteen years in the spoke feelingly of the love and East Bloomfield parish he has esteem in which he is held in dlocese

diocrese In 1886 St. Joseph's Church, beautified the grounds and cremes, re-lished, as an outmission of St. modeled the rectory and redeco-Bridget's II remained so until rated the church. Also under his a dependency of St. Rose West Bloomfield a dependency of St. Rose Thro Masses are celebrated ward Rigney and Hugh C. The construction of St. Rose Church Lima St Joseph's par-Thro Masses are celebrated ward Rigney and Hugh C. The construction of St. Rose Church Lima St Joseph's par-Church Lima St Joseph's par-Church Lima St Joseph's par-Church Lima St Joseph's par-Church St. St. States are celebrated the method and Hugh C. The construction of St. Rose Church Lima St Joseph's par-Church Lim Church Lima St Joseph's par Two Masses are celebrated ward Rigney and Hugh C. ish was restored as a mission of each Sunday in St. Bridget's, and O'Neill.

one in St. Joseph's. Father Doud St. Bridget's Church in 1912. St Mary's Church, Honeoye has had the Sunday assistance of St placy's Church, nonecyce has had the Sublacy assistance of members of Canandaigua Coun-sand in 1882 St. Patrick's Church, various diocesan and religious diocesan and religious, and him a beautiful bouquet in be-the Scientific Club of East half of the children of the par-victor, was begun. NEED FOR a new St. Bridget's Church building was evident to Scientific diverse of the Divine Word at time beautiful bounder for the Divine Word at time was a \$100 bill. Another on Riorden, and violin and saxo-Church building was evident to Scientific diverse and the Divine Word at time was a \$100 bill. Another on Riorden, and violin and saxo-First manuage in the program were: vocal selec-tions by Joseph O'Connell of 75-year-old murch building was evident to selection of the par-the Scientific Club of East biometric. Network at the dediction of the par-the Scientific Club of the children of the par-the Scientific Club of the Club of the St. Bloomfield, of which Father Ne-ville has been a member for many years. Many parishioners of the St. Scientific Club of the Divine Word at the St. Scientific Club of the Divine Word at the Scienti

days he had obtained subscrip andaigua have come regularly to string orchestra. Edward Ryan by everybody. homestead at the end of four ing parishes in Lima and Can-

tions of \$13,000 in promissory East Bloomfield to assist the of Victor sang. notes, \$11,000 of which was paid pastor in the instruction of chil-

inside two years. There were dren of the parish. only a few over 100 parishioners at the time.

the last century there were 480 cabins, and the loyalty of their marriages performed in the par- forebears down through the

On August 2, 1874, the corperstone of St. Bridget's brick church, 40 by 110 feet in dimension, was laid. Its dedication by Bishop Bernard J. Mc-Quaid occurred June 13, 1875.

Father Hughes' long pastorate ended with his death Nov. 21. 1891, at the age of 77. For the following five years the parish years. was serviced by the Rev. John-

ish church, and 1,035 funerals. years.

2,053 Baptized in **Centénary Parish**

To each of them, when he became pastor, was given a heritage of sacrifice and courage. To those who have gone before in East Bloomfield's last century, Two thousand fifty-three souls present parishioners owe and exreceived the Sacrument of Bap-press their gratitude through tism in St. Bridget's Church dur- prayer, as they recall next Suning its 100 years' existence. day the long road from those Parish records of the center- earliest days of Sunday Mass on nial parish disclose that during the hard-earth floors of pioneer

greeted the present pastor, the Rev. George W. Doud. The two events were recorded in the Catholic Courier; Journal as follows:

83 years, the Rev. Patrick A.

Neville, and subsequently

EAST BLOOMFIELD GIVES HAPPY FAREWELL RE-**CEPTION TO REV. FAT-**RICK A. NEVILLE East Bloomfield, May 15, 1961 East Bloomfield said good-bye o the Rev. Patrick A. Neville

> REV. PATRICK NEVILLE Pastor of St. Bridgel's from 1891 to 1981

Neville gave an address of "welas toastmaster. come" to Father Doud to which Exceijent talks were given by So his friends gave him a the Rt. Rev. Magr. J. P. Brophy the latter responded with "greet

> ble and Rev. O C. Baker, min- Rev. M J. Cluney spoke on isters of East Bloomfield; Rev. "Reminiscenses" in aligding to J. W. Kelly of Victor, and others, his associations in the past with

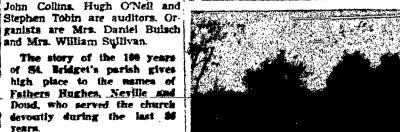
Father Neville spoke most ap this parish.

to lose Father Neville, paid good labor.

U Neill. The invited guests included tribute to him and presented him Other interesting numbers on first resident paster, officiated. members of Canandaigus Coun- with a purse. A little girl gave the program were: Vocal selec-

After the conclusion of the Nov. 8, 1859.

the guests, several hundred of home to Father Neville that al- the general expression of good parisiloners purchased five scree Church are James McDonald and them. The Rev. J. A. Napier of ways, in the hearts of all the wishes to Father Doud.





PARTIAL VIEW OF ST. BRIDGET'S CEMETERY, EAST BLOOM/IELD and the second sec

the members of St. Joseph's June 20, 1831-a nineteen-year Catholic Church tendend a re- Phan -On Sunday evening, June 21,

the members of St. Joseph's June 20, 1931-4 Allerier year period follow or the flamond detine of the flamond detine of the flamond detined a re-ception to their new pattor, Rev. For a five-year period follow or the section of St. Bridget's period follow or the section of the church and the death of Father Hughes, and the golden junder of the church, and the by the Rev. John J. Donnelly, celebration of the thirtleth and then pastor of St. Patrick's versary to the president of the church and then the section of the church and then by the rest of St. Patrick's versary to the president of the church and the section of the section of the church and the section of the church and the section of the section o

Amid a bower of roses, ferns Church, Victory and cut flowers, Father Doud Pastors of St. Bridget's during mot the families of this parish the 100-year pariod wars as fol-

to whom he has been assigned lows: Rev. Edisonad O'Conner, 1808-26: : Rev. Nicholas Dyrae (Aret. spations parter) 1956; Rev. Fuerick Las. 1887-61; Rev. to preach the word of God and administer the sacraments. The assemblage was honored by the presence of three other Whitem Bagiers, Intidi; Bev. Malashy (arvey, 1988 M; Rev. Patrick A. Noviks, 1996 M; Rev. Rev. George W, Doud, 1981. priests, flev. P. J. Neville of Lime, former pustor of West Dioornfield; Rey. J. M. Cluney of Honeoye Falls, and Rev. L. J. Donahoe of Ohlo. During the Evening Rev. P. J.

E. Bloomfield Parish Record Lists 'Firsts'

morris. The Rev. Nicholas Byrne, the service First marriage in the precent

Di Victor sang. Luncheon was served to all in every way, and it was brought served, then all departed with of the Ray. William Hughes,

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of land near the first church for a parish cenetery. First burist in the church cometery was that of

William Mountain, an Apr. 27,

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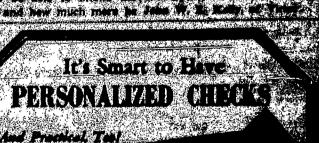
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P. A. Naville work summing an Sunday.
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A a for a second s by, acolytes; and John Lancer of West Bloomfield, and William CALL DAMAGE STATE

visiting chair from Mt. Anteres Der erit st. br

MINNOT MACHINE spoke of be- 14 MM

Victor, was begun. NEED FOR a new St. Bridget's Church building was evident to pastor and parishioners in 1874. In February of that years Sisters Hughes visited each family homestead at the end of four ing garishes in Lima and Can-



C I DIRECTOR

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