

Building for Arctic League Dedicated By Elmira Clergy

Clergymen of the three faiths dedicated a community building in Elmira to "The well-being and happiness of every neglected and forgotten child," according to a special news service dispatch.

The structure will provide a place where the children of the Arctic League, an organization which for 25 years has been providing clothing, toys and other necessities for children of the Arctic area, who otherwise would not receive a visit from Santa Claus on Christmas.

The building was erected at a fraction of the normal cost because labor and materials were furnished free, at cost or below cost by labor unions, building supply dealers, construction contractors and others.

Frank E. Tripp of Elmira, general manager of the Gannett

Laymen Also In Parish 50 Years



PARISHIONERS' tribute to Monsignor Thomas F. Connors, (center) pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church, Rochester on his half-century as pastor brought together laymen who had been with him when the parish was founded. Mon-

signor William E. Cowen, now of Auburn (left) who assisted many years at the church joined in tribute. Parish's pioneer laymen shown are (from left) Richard T. Ford, Thomas F. McCarrick and John T. Hanely, toastmaster at the dinner for 750. (Courier Staff Photo)

'Father Connors' Hailed By 750 At Laity Dinner

Hailed as "another Christ" and "a great humanitarian," the Rt. Rev. Magr. Thomas F. Connors, pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church, received glowing tribute from more than 750 parishioners and friends at the Parish Golden Jubilee dinner Thursday night, Nov. 8.

The parish auditorium was crowded to capacity in honor of the 51-year-old priest, who founded Blessed Sacrament Church 50 years ago and is still active as its pastor -- a unique distinction.

Responding to the numerous tributes extended him, Monsignor Connors declared:

"I deeply appreciate the beautiful spirit that animated you to come here tonight on this joyous occasion. I wish that all you have listened to about me were true. I am humbly conscious of this high praise, but I am conscious too of my many faults.

"You have been good to me -- too good to me, God, who is kind and patient, has been good to me. I do want to go down to my grave with the thought that I never have broken the sacred vows of obedience and chastity I took at my ordination.

Pointing out that his 33 years of priesthood often had been a "hard struggle," Monsignor Connors said that much of the reason for "the grace to carry on" were the prayers and advice of his mother at the time he entered the seminary.

HE TOLD how as one of 10 children, he had had a job as a bookkeeper to aid in supporting the family, and worried whether he should enter the seminary when his parents "were having it hard to make ends meet."

Advised by his confessor "to follow your apparent vocation," he said he asked his mother whether he should not decide "to stay home and help," and quoted his mother as replying:

"I will not ask you to become a priest -- that is a question you and God must settle.

been an Angel of Visitation -- an Angel of God to the dying.

"You are privileged beyond most people to have a wonderful and utterly unselfish pastor. We priests have the warmest feeling for him for his wise counsel, his consideration, his pricelessness of example."

McCarrick, who was attorney for Rochester Diocese under the late Bishop Hickey, said Father Connors always tried to avoid praise and that his life "has exemplified the teachings of the greatest Man Who ever lived better than any man I have ever known."

McCarrick declared that from the beginning of his pastorate, Father Connors "won the respect, admiration and cooperation not only of his own parishioners but of his neighbors as well." He described how the young pastor used to mount a bicycle in pursuit of ambulance sirens to administer to the victims.

Sacrifices of early parishioners, McCarrick emphasized, "when Sunday collections amounted to \$20 or \$25," left to future generations "a legacy of complete parish life and outstanding Catholic education."

He praised the jubilant pastor in administering and extending the parish properties through the years.

The speaker also pointed out that Father Connors had been influential in the establishment of the Rochester Catholic Charities and in particular St. Elizabeth's Guild House on Field Street -- a boarding home for young women.

Among the first parish ushers, McCarrick recalled, were Richard T. Ford, Charles Rauber, Judge Benjamin Cunningham, Edward Madden and Charles McCarthy. Mr. and Mrs. Ford were present as honorary chairmen and Ford termed Monsignor Connors "a great humanitarian and saint, a great businessman and leader."

TOASTMASTER was John T. Hanely, one of the 12 altarboys who served at the cornerstone laying ceremony in 1901 and a member of the first graduating class of the parish school. Hanely introduced two former parishioners who had come to Rochester from Schenectady for the dinner: Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Shannon.

Several former assistants of the parish were introduced, and messages of congratulations were read from his Excellency Bishop Kearney, who was attending a convention in Chicago; His Eminence Edward Cardinal Moynihan of Detroit; former Archbishop Bishop of Rochester, Diocese, and Mayor Samuel R. Dicker.

Two present assistants, the Reverend Fathers Thomas J. Manley and Francis J. Pegnam, gave the invocation and benediction. Instrumental music was provided by an Eastman School of Music trio.

Mrs. McCann Heads Polio Campaign

Geneva Mrs. Arthur J. McCann, 508 Washington St. has been appointed chairman of the March of Dimes Campaign in Geneva. She will be responsible for the fund-raising campaign during January and in her year round post, she will also give assistance to polio patients in Geneva.

Mrs. McCann, wife of Geneva's mayor, will name workers and committee chairmen later. She is a member of the City Planning Commission.

At a dinner meeting at the Hotel Canandaigua Nov. 8, Ontario county chairmen discussed plans for the campaign.

E. Burr Gibson of Webster represented the National Polio Foundation. John W. Niblock, Canandaigua, presided at the meeting.

Elmira Catholic Highlights

Congratulations are in order for one of Elmira Catholic High School seniors, John Watts, who has won first prize in the local Constitution essay contest sponsored by the Elmira Real Estate Board.

The winning essay "What The Bill of Rights Means to Me," is now eligible for entry in the national contest sponsored by the National Association of Real Estate Boards. The winner of the national contest will receive an all expense five-day trip to Washington, D. C. This award will be made during the annual January meeting of the N.A.R.E.B. in Washington.

Practice has started for the senior play "Big Hearted Herbert." John Watts is featured as Herbert Kalness, know it all head of the house and Alice Bannon is his loving and even patient wife.

Dick Meeker as Robert Kalness, Bill Herriot as Herbert Kalness Jr. and Gloria Richardson as Alice Kalness are Herbert's three children. Mary Alice O'Connor portrays Martha, the maid, and Jim Farley portrays

are planning an assembly for Thanksgiving. In view of their past efforts, we are all eagerly anticipating their newest endeavor.

Forty Hours

Devotions of the Forty Hours will be conducted in the following churches of the Diocese of Rochester:

Sunday, Nov. 18--St. Jerome, East Rochester.

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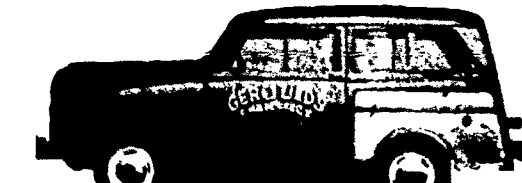
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St. Anthony Mass Slated In Geneva
 Geneva--A Mass honoring St. Anthony will be celebrated Sunday, Nov. 18, for the members of the St. Anthony Society of St. Francis de Sales Church, at 8:30 a.m. in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary.

Transportation to the seminary for the Mass will be provided by two buses. A bus will be at the corner of North and Geneva St. at 8 a.m. and another at North and Exchange St. at the same hour.

At the last meeting of the Society Rose Vassallo was named chairman of the Christmas party, set for Dec. 17, at 7 p.m.

Annual election of officers will be held Dec. 2, in the school at 2:30 p.m. Mrs. Laura Di Campi is chairman of refreshments.

Social Justice Club Lists Fr. Schnacky
 The Social Justice Club of Rochester will meet in St. Joseph's School hall, Franklin St., Saturday, Nov. 17, at 8:15 p.m.

The Rev. Albert H. Schnacky will show colored slides and will speak on the various phases of his work as diocesan director of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine.

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