

## In Memoriam Msgr. Edward J. Byrne The Historian

(Following is a tribute to the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Edward J. Byrne, professor of Sacred Scripture of St. Bernard's Seminary who died Jan. 6, 1935, by Herman G. Mettler who has been associated with the prelate in historical research in the Diocese of Rochester.)

On the Feast of the Epiphany, Dr. Edward J. Byrne went to his eternal reward, having devoted over half a century to the apostolic work of spreading the teachings of Christ. Monsignor Byrne, the priest, the educator, the scholar and the man, will be long remembered. This writer wishes to describe Monsignor Byrne, the historian.

Monsignor Byrne was deeply interested in early Indian history, primarily, the missionary contact. He channeled his interest to long hours of research and he became one of the greatest authorities in the area.

This writer, after spending approximately fourteen years of study on archaeological data, could not have come to any conclusion, were it not for the confirmations of Dr. Byrne.

In 1930, Monsignor Byrne, Alexander M. Stewart, George Selzer, and myself banded together for the purpose of bringing to light the early missionary efforts in this territory. This group was aided by work of a previous group, consisting of His Excellency, Bishop John Francis O'Hern, Dr. Andrew Byrne (brother of Edward), Rev. Edward Beyer of Genesee and Rev. William Dougherty of Canandaigua.

The site of St. Jacques Mission at Ganagana (Victor), and the Huron captive site of St. Michael's at Gandaugara (Holcomb), were marked by Dr. Andrew Byrne's group. (The Holcomb site was excavated by the writer by Harry Schoff in 1937-8.)

Perhaps one of the greatest endeavors of Monsignor Byrne the historian, was the marking and naming of the new bridge over the Seneca River on the main highway to Auburn. This was the famous crossing point of the Rev. Rene Menard, S. J., near the village of Tiohero and Anontare. Father Rene Menard had come from the Onondaga country to evangelize in the Cayuga country. Through Dr. Byrne's unending effort, the bridge is marked today by six foot letters, reading "Rene Menard Memorial Bridge." (Rene Menard was later killed among the Illinois Indians.)

The deceased is also remembered for his research on the missionary work of Stephen de Carheil, S. J., at the Mapleton site and on that of Peter Raffier, S. J., at the Great Gully site.

Shortly after the Rene Menard bridge was marked, a

## Mrs. Reitz Heads Hospital Board

Mrs. Gordon Reitz is the new chairman of the Women's Board of St. Mary's Hospital. She is the third generation in her family to serve in a volunteer capacity at St. Mary's Hospital.

Elected with her as officers of the board were: Mrs. John Menihan first vice chairman and Mrs. C. Vincent Costello, second vice chairman; Mrs. John T. O'Hara, recording secretary; Mrs. John Gleason, treasurer; Mrs. Frederick Clark, assistant treasurer; Mrs. William Winans, Jr., corresponding secretary.

Advisory board members are: Mrs. Kendall Castle, Mrs. David P. Lawless, Mrs. William S. Hartigan, Mrs. Charles J. Paisley, Mrs. Edward J. Meyer, Mrs. Joseph M. Murray and Mrs. Charles W. Demmon.

Active board members are: Mrs. Harry B. Crowley, Mrs. Benedict J. Duffy, Miss Madeline Fahy, Miss Eleanor Gleason, Mrs. William Rockwood, Mrs. Leo F. Simpson, Jr., Mrs. Robert F. McGraw, Mrs. Frederick Moser, Mrs. Edward Hanover, Mrs. Alexander Hone, Mrs. John Jardine, Mrs. Harold Jenkins, Mrs. Louis Langle, Mrs. Theodore Lemm, Mrs. Fred Odenbach, Mrs. Leo F. Simpson, Mrs. Rudolf C. Seibert, Mrs. James Stafford and Mrs. Francis Yawman.

Mrs. Seibert is the retiring board chairman.

The help of Dr. Byrne and his associates made possible the erection of a 30 ft. cross and monument at the eastern end of Lake Ontario to the Rev. Claude Dablon, S. J., by the writer. This cross commemorates Dablon's landing at this point on St. Joseph's Day, March 19, 1666. There now stands on this site, a Chapel of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and a summer home for missionary students at Dablon Point (official name).

In 1933, Dr. Edward Byrne and his associates assisted the writer in marking the site of the First Chapel in the Rochester area at Blossom Road (a chapel of log and bark to perform divine services therein), a Franciscan chapel.

Dr. Byrne was not only interested in the history of the immediate area but was well versed in the entire contact period from 1615 to 1711 — from the shores of the Garpe to the land of the Hurons and the Sioux — from the headwater of the Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico — from the Richelieu to the Mohawk. There was no other man any better versed in the travels and sacred accomplishments of these holy missionaries than Dr. Byrne, the historian.

These and so many other well-known facts will constantly bring to the mind of the writer, cherished memories of a zealous prelate, a brilliant historian, and a beloved friend—Dr. Edward J. Byrne.

Herman G. Mettler  
Rochester, N. Y.

## Join Family Communion Observance



TYPICAL of the thousands of families throughout the Diocese of Rochester who joined the Bishop's suggestion for reception of Holy Communion as a unit is above, in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Rochester. The Rev. Francis Hoeft, pastor, is giving the Holy David Fish of St. Bernard's Seminary. (Courier Staff Photo)

## Ontario Family Numbers 38 At Family Communion Mass

Ontario — Mr. and Mrs. John Doyle Sr., their nine children and their families including Mrs. Eleanor Conway, the Misses Ruth and Lucy Murphy of Rochester, Mrs. Doyle's sisters, totaling 38 observed Family Communion at St. Mary's of the Lake Church on Sunday, Jan. 13.

The Rev. Ignatius X. Cameron joined the Doyle family for breakfast at Ontario Center Hotel and commended the family for its turnout.

Mr. and Mrs. Doyle are life-long residents of this vicinity. Mr. Doyle is still an active farmer residing on Lincoln Road, Ontario.

THE FAMILY consists of five boys and four girls: John, married, three children, two grand-children, superintendent of highways; James, married, two children, plumber; William, single, farmer; Robert, married, four children; yard foreman, Kodak Park, George, married, four children, postmaster at Ontario.

Dorothy, teacher at No. 41 school, Rochester; Ruth, principal at No. 1 school, Rochester; Gertrude, teacher, Sodus High School; Jane, married, two children; Mrs. James Galvin, former teacher.

All make their home in Ontario except Jane who resides in Wellcott.

## K.C. Members Set For 'German Night'

Singing of German songs will feature the "German Night" program of Rochester Council, Knights of Columbus to be held Saturday, Jan. 19 in the K. of C. clubroom, Columbus Civic Center.

The program will open with a sauerkraut dinner in the clubroom. Dancing will follow the dinner. William J. Woerner, Jr., is chairman.

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## H. R. Auxiliary Sets Installation Dinner

Annual Installation Dinner of the Holy Rosary Auxiliary, Chapter of St. John, is slated for 7:30 p. m. Wednesday, Jan. 23, at the Pine Tree Inn, Ridge Rd. West. Mrs. Margaret Hull, president, has appointed Mrs. Gladys Walther and Mrs. Daley Noll as co-chairmen. They will be assisted by the Mesdames Mildred Keller, Anne Kuntz, Johanna Jan-24.

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## Datebook Of Catholic Groups

(Deadlines for all items Tuesday at 1 p. m.)  
Friday, January 18  
Dance, Holyhood students, Emmanuel cathedral, 8:15.  
Saturday, January 19  
"German Night Party" Rochester Council, Knights of Columbus, Civic Center, 8 p. m.  
Supper, St. Cecilia's Church, 10:15 to 11 p. m.  
Sunday, January 20  
Meeting, Third Order of St. Dominic, St. Agnes High School, 8:30 p. m.  
Monday, January 21  
Dinner meeting, Joyce Kline Club of Blessed Sacrament parish, Sun. (Private event, admission 10 c.)  
Talent Show, Holy Family schoolroom, 8:15 p. m.  
Card party, St. James Rosary Society hall, even ng.  
Tuesday, January 22  
Card party, St. Charles Borromeo Rosary Society hall, 7 p. m.  
Foughetti supper, Matthew I. Foughetti Memorial Apts. (WV), Rescued Home, 8 p. m.  
Supper, Bridge St. Elizabeth's Guild, 8:15 p. m.  
Wednesday, January 23  
Rummage Sale, St. Mary's Mother of Mary, 11:45 to 2:15 p. m.  
Meeting, Perpetual Help Society, St. Mary's Nurses Home, 2 p. m.

## Classified Ads

RATES — 4c a word. Stamps or cash to cover cost of the ad must be in this office, 35 So. State St., 24 hours before publication date.

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