

Saint Patrick's, Corning To Mark Golden Jubilee, Sunday

His Excellency Bishop Kearney will preside at a Solemn High Mass in St. Patrick's Church, Corning on Sunday, Nov. 2, at 11 a. m. commemorating the Golden Jubilee of St. Patrick's parish.

Celebrant of the Mass will be the Rev. William M. Cannan, pastor, who is directing the program of the 50th anniversary to include a reception, and Masses for deceased parishioners and for all benefactors and living members of the parish.

Assisting in the Mass coram Episcopo will be Assistant Priest, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. William J. Brien, V.F., pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Elmira, and Dean of the Elmira Diocese; Chaplain to Bishop Kearney, Very Rev. Alexander Beaton S.A. and Very Rev. James T. Connolly C.S.S.R.

DEACON OF THE MASS will be Rev. John P. O'Beirne, Seneca Falls; and Subdeacon, Rev. Daniel F. Sullivan, Elmira Heights. Very Rev. Msgr. John E. Maney, Vice Chancellor of the Diocese, will be master of ceremonies to the Bishop. Rev. Leo G. Schwab, Elmira, will be first master of ceremonies and Rev. Alfred Hoar, Corning, second master in the Mass.

Other officers of the Mass will be: Rev. Bernard Newcomb and Rev. Joseph Dailey, acolytes; Rev. Thomas V. Cleary, thurifer; Rev. Joseph J. Donovan, cross bearer; Rev. Harold Rogers, candle bearer; and Rev. Daniel Hogan, book bearer.

The Mass will be followed by a dinner in the parish hall for clergy and Sisters.

A RECEPTION for all friends and parishioners will be held in St. Patrick's Hall from 4 until 5:30 p. m. The day's events will be closed with Solemn Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament at 5:30 p. m.

The congregational roots of the parish actually date back to 1886, when Father Peter Colgan, pastor of St. Mary's (the only Catholic Church in Corning at that time), saw the need for additional facilities to serve the rapidly growing Catholic population in the east end of town.

To meet the need, the old Salvation Army barracks on the southwest corner of Market and Steuben Streets, was purchased in January, 1886. Ten months later, the structure, remodeled into a chapel, was dedicated in honor of the patron Saint of Ireland, and became the temporary spiritual headquarters for Catholics in that part of Corning.

With Bishop McQuaid's announcement that St. Patrick's congregation was to become a separate parish, Father Walter J. Lee, assistant at St. Mary's, Corning, was appointed the first pastor to assume responsibility for the spiritual welfare of the 112 families that they comprised the parish.

Father Lee was born and educated in Buffalo. He attended Niagara University and the Seminary of Our Lady of the Angels. He was ordained to the Holy Priesthood in 1895 in the Old Cathedral of St. Joseph in Buffalo, following which he went to Corning as assistant to Father Colgan at St. Mary's.

Father Lee continued in the service of St. Mary's until his appointment to the new parish of St. Patrick's.

THE MULTIPLE PROBLEMS of organizing a new parish, selecting a suitable landsite and undertaking the construction of a church, school, rectory and the acquisition of a convent faced Father Lee. He had also the task of raising enough funds to do all these things, with only a few

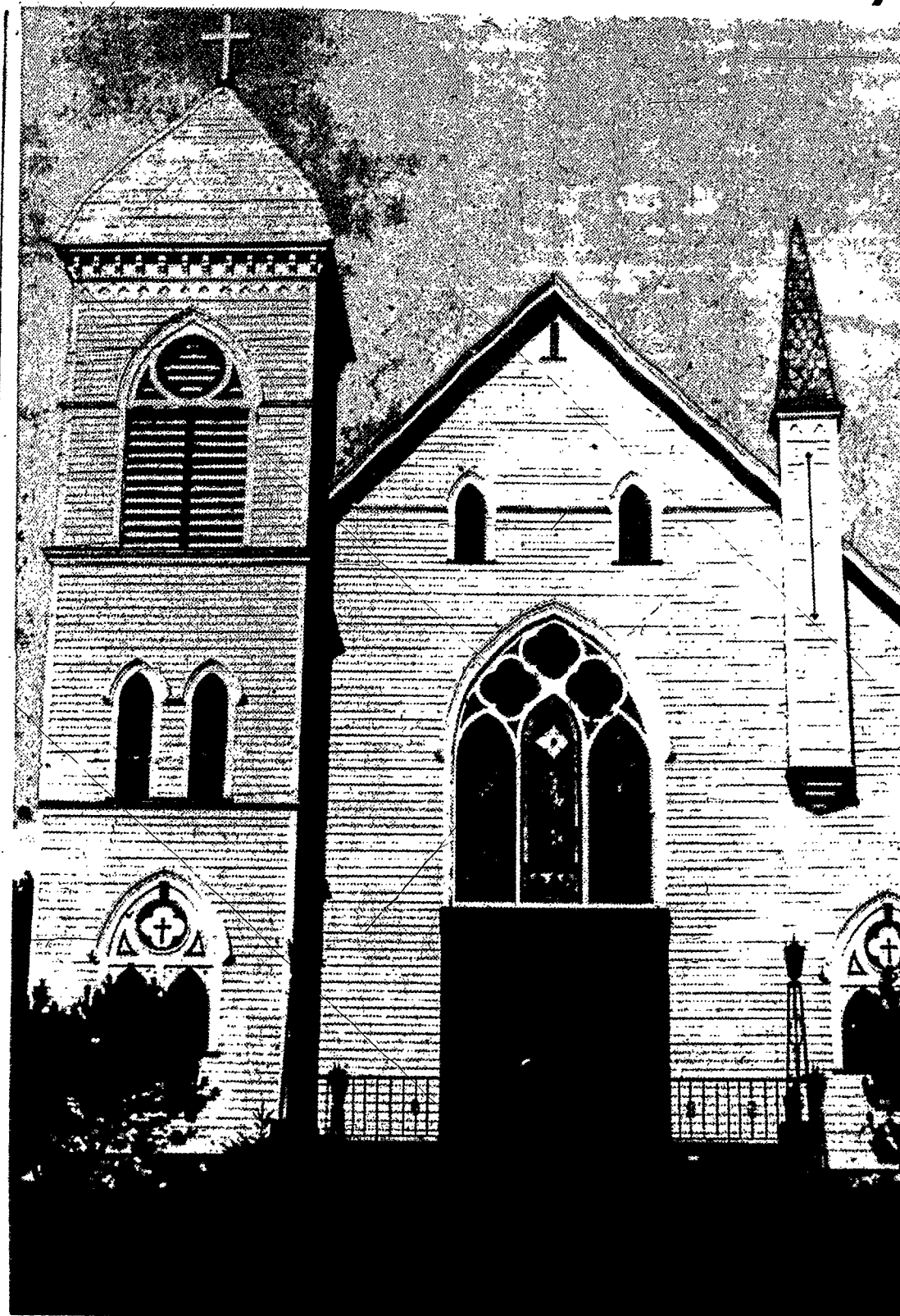


REV. WILLIAM M. CANNAN

Mass for all deceased parishioners will be offered at 7:45 a. m. on Monday, Nov. 3. A Mass for all benefactors and living members of St. Patrick's parish will be celebrated on Tuesday morning, Nov. 4, at 7:45 a. m.

An account of the origin and growth of St. Patrick's Parish, Corning, has been prepared under the direction of Father Cannan, pastor, as "a reminder of our debt of gratitude to those who have gone before us—the fruits of whose labor we enjoy today."

THE 20TH CENTURY was only two years old when, on August 10, 1902, His Excellency, Most Rev. Bernard J. McQuaid, First Bishop of Rochester, announced the formal establishment of the second Catholic parish in the City of Corning, to be known as St. Patrick's.



JUBILEE CHURCH—Dedicated on the Feast of All Saints, 1932, this edifice of St. Patrick's Parish, Corning, will be the scene of the Solemn High Mass coram Episcopo marking the parish's golden jubilee on Sunday, Nov. 2.

more than 100 families to provide the financial foundation for his venture.

With selection of the church site on East Erie Avenue (now Denison Parkway), came the ground breaking on April 14, 1903. Father Lee's prayers for Divine blessing for the project could not have gone unanswered, for within six months the new structure was dedicated by Bishop McQuaid on the Feast of All Saints.

Completion of the combination Church and school realized Father Lee's first dream. Where nine months previous had been an empty plot of land, now stood the second Catholic Church of Corning, "a monument to the faith of its people and a fitting place in which to worship their God."

IN 1903 WAS begun Catholic education for children of the parish under the instruction of the Sisters of St. Joseph, whose convent at that time was located at 320 East Erie Avenue. Initial enrollment at St. Patrick's School was 196 pupils and the faculty of five nuns, including Sister Superior, M. Sylvester.

Through 49 unbroken years, these nuns and their equally capable successors have dedicated themselves to the intellectual and spiritual development of the children of St. Patrick's.

For the next 18 years, St. Patrick's continued to prosper and grow under Father Lee's administration. The only other major addition to its physical property was the building of the present rectory in 1903.

It was during those years that many of the organizations and societies of the parish came into being and flourished.

IN OCTOBER, 1921, the people of St. Patrick's reluctantly bid

farewell to Father Lee when he was appointed to a new pastorate at the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Ithaca.

The Rev. Edmund A. Rawlinson was appointed by Bishop

and Father Rawlinson was faced with the prospect of building a new church, as his growing congregation began to overtax the limited facilities of the combination Church-School building.

He made his financial plans well in advance of the actual date he announced to build, January 3, 1932.

ON THE FEAST of All Saints, exactly 29 years after the dedication of the original church building, the new St. Patrick's Church was consecrated by Bishop John F. O'Hern.

An account of the ceremony in the Corning Evening Leader said: "Bishop O'Hern presided at the dedication service; the Rt. Rev. Msgr. James Griffin, V.F., acted as assistant priest; the Mass was celebrated by the Very Rev. Dean Walter J. Lee, founder and first pastor of the parish, now pastor in Geneva.

Assisting him were the Rev. Arthur Smith of Elmira as deacon, and the Rev. Michael Groden of Horseheads as subdeacon, both formerly located at St. Patrick's Church.

"The cablegram from Pope Pius XI was read by Father Rawlinson during the service. It was addressed to Bishop O'Hern and follows in full:

"The Holy Father gladly imparts his Apostolic Blessing to Your Lordship, Father Rawlinson and the people on the occasion of the dedication of this new Church in Corning. (Signed) Cardinal Pacelli"

During the next decade a continuing program of property improvement saw the installation of a new bell in the church tower, the refurbishing of the school and complete interior redecoration of the church.

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Only in Corning a few years

as the Stella Maris Society was formed. St. Patrick's Cadets, the parish youth organization, became the pride of the entire Corning Community.

THESE SAME YEARS saw young men from the parish enter the various seminaries and return as priests. They saw young women don the religious garb and turn their lives over to the service of God.

Father Rawlinson guided his parish with a steady and loving hand through nearly three decades of national turbulence—the pseudo-prosperity of the '20's, the economic depression of the '30's, and the war-torn '40's.

In the 50th year of Father Rawlinson's service to God, he was elevated to the rank of Domestic Prelate with title of Right Reverend Monsignor by Pope Pius XII on Oct. 11, 1947, a surprise only to him.

During the 14 months that followed, the health of Monsignor Rawlinson steadily failed and on Dec. 18, 1948, he died.

The new year, 1949, brought back to St. Patrick's as pastor a man who 20 years earlier had served as an assistant, Father William M. Cannan.

BORN IN Rochester, Father Cannan was a student at St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's Seminaries and was ordained June 11, 1921 in St. Patrick's Cathedral by Bishop Thomas F. Hickey. As an assistant, he served at parishes in Rochester, Corning and Hornell, and received his first pastorate at St. Mary's, Rexville in 1932.

During the following 16 years, Father Cannan served as pastor of St. Patrick's in Cato; St. Gabriel's, Hammondsport; St. Catherine's, Addison and St. Charles' in Elmira Heights.

Since appointment to St. Patrick's by Bishop Kearney on Jan. 26, 1949, Father Cannan has continued unbroken the chain of competent, progressive leadership which has characterized the pastors of the parish for the past half-century.

The parish has not only increased in size, but many property improvements have been made. These include the modernization and redecoration of the parish hall, and installation of new plumbing and heating facilities in the school.

FATHER CANNAN'S interest in the various parish organizations has resulted in a rejuvenation of the Holy Name and

Stella Maris Societies. And his active sponsorship of the St. Patrick's Cadets has made them the outstanding youth Drum Corps in the Southern Tier.

"The success of any organization seldom depends on individual leadership alone," a Jubilee Souvenir booklet said.

"For, without enthusiastic cooperation and loyal obedience from his followers, no leader can aspire to high goals. Thus, while we have not singled out for recognition any individuals other than the three pastors in this account of the first fifty years of St. Patrick's, it does not indicate any lack of appreciation for the support and assistance of the thousands of parishioners who have shared the responsibility for the parish's welfare over the years. It is with them that the special blessing of our Golden Jubilee are first to be shared.

"St. Patrick's Parish is but a small segment of the great Mystical Body of Christ, but it has been a loyal and loving one. On this Fiftieth Anniversary of its birth, the people of the parish unite with their clergy in offering to God the sincere promise that the future will always find St. Patrick's, under the special protection of its patron saint, as obedient and devoted to Him and His Vicars on earth as it has been during the First Fifty Years."

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