

Bishop McQuaid, Founder Of Rochester See

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were not restricted to the parochial school. Far in advance of the thinking of his time, he saw the need to build a clergy for the future. He brought under his direct supervision those young men who aspired to the priesthood when in 1870 he established St. Andrew's Seminary.

In this minor seminary, the students received the necessary classical training preparatory to taking their theological studies. About St. Andrew's he said "all the students are required to furnish in their brains and display a sincere desire for a vocation to the priestly life.

Bishop McQuaid saw to it that Mother Church took care of the other necessities.

ROCHESTER'S first Bishop had even bigger ideas for the training of future priests. He wanted a theological seminary and as early as 1873

began planning. By 1879 he was sending young men to the best schools in Europe to prepare for teaching work.

His first formal announcement of a desire to build a major seminary brought grave misgivings from even his closest friends. But Bishop McQuaid was obdurate. Fired by his enthusiasm, even his staunchest opponents were won over to his thinking.

The first stone of St. Bernard's Seminary was laid Mar. 31, 1881 and the building was dedicated on July 12, 1893. It was in 1901 that the Holy See in a Papal Brief granted St. Bernard's the faculty of conferring degrees in philosophy and theology, a privilege rarely granted to diocesan seminaries at that time.

The record of St. Bernard's is written in glorious letters in the 20th century history of the Roman Catholic Church throughout the world. Its graduates have ministered wisely and well in God's vineyard.

Bishop McQuaid also established Rochester's huge Catholic cemetery, Holy Sepulchre. Holy Sepulchre was opened in 1872 and consisted of 400 acres beautifully laid out and embellished with trees, plants and other foliage. A Gothic Chapel stands near its entrance.

WHEN Bishop McQuaid came to Rochester he was 45 years old, a man of fine physique, physically, mentally and spiritually equipped to handle his new duties. He was unflinching in his efforts for the new Diocese. He gave of his time and energy selflessly.

The strain and physical exhaustion showed on the Bishop and in 1905 he saw the need for an assistant. It was then that Thomas Hickey was consecrated coadjutor with the right of succession in the Rochester See.

After a lingering illness covering more than six months, Bishop McQuaid died in the Episcopal residence at 9 a.m. Monday, Jan. 18, 1909 at the age of 85.

Until the hour of his death, the Bishop's mind was lucid and he talked freely with those about him. At his bedside with two physicians and Bishop Hickey.

The founder of this Diocese had gone but his work lives on in monuments whose ultimate value only God can assess.



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