

St. Margaret Mary's Observes Silver Jubilee Complete Parish Unit Built In 25 Years

Solemn Masses on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday will mark the Silver Jubilee observance of St. Margaret Mary Parish, Rogers Parkway, Rochester. These Masses will be in Thanksgiving and for the intentions of living and deceased parishioners. His Excellency, the Most Rev. Lawrence B. Casey, Auxiliary Bishop of Rochester, will preside and preach at Sunday's Mass at 11 a.m. Celebrant of the Masses will be the Rev. Charles J. Bruton, pastor and founder of the parish.

On the Feast of the Sacred Heart, June 14, 1929, the Most Rev. John Francis O'Hern, then Bishop of Rochester, appointed Father Bruton to establish a new parish in the Tower of Iron. O'Hern, Father Bruton was, at that time, Assistant Pastor at old St. Patrick's Cathedral. Inasmuch as this was the Feast of the Sacred Heart, it was agreed that the new church would be dedicated under the title "Saint Margaret Mary," the Saint to whom our Lord revealed the devotion of the Heart.

The parish was incorporated on July 15th with John St. Burke and Frank W. Egan as lay trustees. Six and one-half acres of land had been previously purchased at the end of Rogers Parkway by the diocese from George Benjamin Tins.

CONSTRUCTION of a frame church was begun immediately and a census of the Catholics in that area was taken during the summer months. At a meeting of the parishioners on August 30, 1929, at the Masonic Temple on St. Paul Blvd., 178 parishioners met to elect their pastor.

Holy Mass was celebrated for the first time in the quickly completed church on September 15 at 10 o'clock. Bishop O'Hern presided at the dedication and consecration of the ground. The church was dedicated to the Holy Heart of Mary.

During the parish's first year, it became increasingly clear that a parochial school was needed. In June of 1930, construction began and the first classes were enrolled for September. The Sisters' Convent at 300 Schollefield Rd. now had to be enlarged to accommodate the additional teachers assigned to teach the

ever increasing number of school children. Finally in 1938, a second and more adequate convent was erected.

TO PROVIDE for the constantly rising enrollments, a wing was added to the school in 1947. A Fund Campaign had been so successful that the new construction was paid for by the time it was completed.

As the parish continued to expand and new homes were being built one after another in the Irondequoit area, the little church was taxed to its capacity. Masses were crowded and had to be scheduled close together. In 1949, another drive for funds resulted in a final report of \$125,000 pledged for a new church building.

On the feast of the parish patroness, Oct. 17, 1949, Rt. Rev. Mgr. William M. Hart, V.G., presided at ground-breaking ceremonies. Less than a year later, the Rectory adjoining the church was ready for occupancy and the church itself was ready for Mass on Christmas Day.

Over one thousand five hundred people filled the newly completed church for its first Mass which was celebrated at midnight, Christmas Day in 1950.

The frame church which had served the parish for twenty years was carefully dismantled and taken to West Webster where it has been reconstructed and dedicated as St. Rita's Church.

During the past twenty five years, St. Margaret Mary's parish has been noted for its active lay groups, especially the Men's Club and the Altar Society. The Men's Club was organized in November of 1929 with sixty-two charter members, many of whom are still enrolled and active. The Altar Society had been organized



St. Margaret Mary's Parochial School, Rochester, N. Y.

in October and has regularly taken care of the sanctuary and assisted in all parish programs. Young people of the parish are organized into the various Scout groups and the Sodality.

During the difficult years around 1937, a series of Friday Night Parties was conducted with increasing popularity and they resulted in providing needed funds for the parish. By 1948, the entire parish debt was liquidated and the parish was enabled to plan for both school and church construction.

Three boys of the parish have advanced to the holy priesthood: Fathers Clarence Gardner, James Baker and Edward Christoph.

SEVERAL PRIESTS have served as Assistant Pastors during the past twenty-five years: the Reverend Fathers Walter Kohl, Earl Riz, Gregory Dugan, Darcy Bolger, Leo Hastings, Bernard Hickey, Joseph Donovan, Emmett Davis, Robert Dobbertin, John Walsh and John Maloney. Basilian priests from Aquinas have visited the parish to assist with Sunday Masses and other church ceremonies.

Several young women of the parish have entered the various Sisterhoods.

ST. MARGARET MARY'S parish is a monument to the

faith and generous spirit of the people of western Irondequoit. Established in the eye of our nation's worst depression, it survived because God had provided a capable pastor and a devoted people. Their twenty-five years is a history of constant progress. The record of material achievement, however, is but a hint of the true story of souls who have been brought close to the Savior through the parish and its patroness, St. Margaret Mary.

Men's Club Famous For Aid To Parish

One of the outstanding features of St. Margaret Mary's twenty-five year history is its Men's Club. Organized within a few months after the founding of the parish, the organization has provided exceptional services to the pastor in maintaining church and school. Many of the present active members were among the first group which met in 1929. The men have conducted several successful campaigns to raise funds for school expansion and construction of the recently completed church. They also arranged a series of Friday Night Parties to meet expenses weighing heavily on the then small parish.

God's Absence In Schools Hit

Cleveland — (NC) — The average American college and university as well as the nation's public elementary and high schools are "suffering from the absence of religion," Msgr. Clarence E. Eiwel, superintendent of Cleveland diocesan schools, declared here.

Spacious Baptistry Near Church Entrance

The Baptistry of St. Margaret Mary's Church is a specially constructed room near the side entrance, allowing easy access to church or rectory. It is designed to accommodate several groups without crowding and facilities are available for warming the baptismal water so as not to chill the babies who will receive the Sacrament. Indirect lighting and stained glass windows lend a subdued atmosphere befitting the dignity of the rite.



Interior of Romanesque church of St. Margaret Mary, Rogers Parkway, Rochester, N. Y.

Genial Priest Marks 25 Years As Pastor

The Silver Jubilee celebrated Sunday, October 31, will be a double anniversary at St. Margaret Mary's Church, Rochester. It marks not only the twenty-fifth anniversary of the parish, it also signals a quarter century of devoted service rendered by the founder and only pastor, the Rev. Charles J. Bruton, Ph.D., M.R.

In 1929, established the new parish and has guided its constant progress since then. During this time, he has changed a six acre peach orchard on Rogers Parkway into an oasis of God's grace and architectural charm. Church and school, rectory and convent are all a picturesque unit and have been completed within the brief span of two decades.

He served as Assistant at St. Bernard's Seminary, Rochester, N. Y., in 1916. He also served as a chaplain and served with the 52nd Regiment Engineers in France during World War I.

FATHER BRUTON, appointed

Father Bruton, born in Ogden, N.Y., Oct. 15, 1881, at

Back in Rochester after the War, Father Bruton taught French and Spanish at Rochester Catholic High School and at Aquinas Institute until 1922.

He served as Assistant at St. Joseph, Weedsport; St. Joseph, Livonia; and at the Cathedral of St. Patrick on Plymouth Ave.

The Monroe County Chapter of the American Legion elected him chaplain in 1925, a post he held for 11 years. During this time, he also served as State Chaplain of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Appointed in the summer of 1929 to establish the new parish dedicated to St. Margaret Mary, Father Bruton had to face a bitter financial struggle through the years of our nation's worst depression. He administered the parish for several years without the help of an Assistant but relied on generous parishioners to provide more than ordinary aid. Father Bruton has repeatedly cited the "wonderful spirit of cooperation" he has had from the parishioners. Through his priesthood, Father Bruton has radiated a genial humility which has inspired the people to a loyal devotion to their parish and to their holy religion.



St. Margaret Mary's Parish Pastors

25th ANNIVERSARY St. Margaret Mary's Parish

Rogers Parkway Rochester, New York



REV. CHARLES J. BRUTON, Ph.D., M.R., Pastor, will also observe an anniversary on this parish jubilee. Appointed by Bishop O'Hern to establish St. Margaret Mary's in 1929, Father Bruton has been its only pastor for 25 years. He has seen the parish grow through the difficult years of the depression to become one of the largest parishes in the diocese. Father Bruton will celebrate the jubilee Masses to lead his people in sending their thanks to God.



ST. MARGARET MARY'S CHURCH, recently completed Romanesque edifice, will be scene of Silver Jubilee celebration, Oct. 31-Nov. 2. Photo by Nathan Yank

1929-1954

Program

Sunday, October 31, 1954, 11 a.m.
Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving
His Excellency, Most Rev. Lawrence B. Casey, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Rochester will preside and preach.
Rev. Charles J. Bruton, Ph.D., M.R., Celebrant

Monday, November 1, 1954, 7:45 p.m.
Solemn Mass for all Parishioners
Father Bruton, Celebrant

Tuesday, November 2, 1954, 9 a.m.
Solemn Requiem Mass for all deceased parishioners.
Father Bruton, Celebrant