

St. Feehan's, Chili Parish, Observes Centennial

St. Feehan's parish in Chili will observe its centennial with Mass at 12:15 on Sunday, Nov. 14. His Excellency, Auxiliary Bishop Lawrence B. Casey will preside and preach, and the celebrant will be the Rev. Donald J. Murphy, pastor. Other religious and social events will highlight a week-long celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Chestnut Ridge Road church.

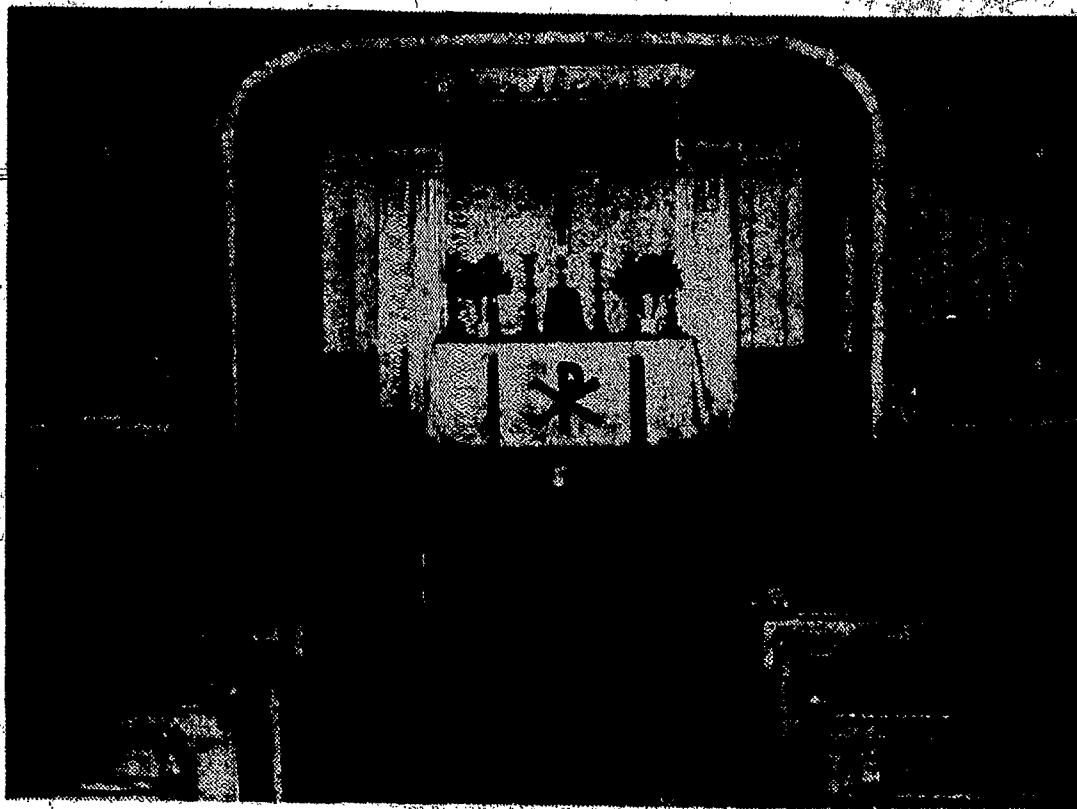
In the first few decades of the 19th century, Irish families settled in the fertile rolling countryside called Chili, built their log cabins near the then just completed New York Central railroad and soon wanted a church of their own. The trek to St. Patrick's, seven miles away in Rochester, was arduous in those days of teams and wagons. The Golden's and the Cummings' petitioned Bishop John Timon of Buffalo (Rochester was not yet a diocese) to send them a priest for Mass and Sacraments on Sundays.

The homes of Patrick Golden and John Cummings served for a few years but the people were anxious to have a church, like the ones just built in Scottdale in 1853 and in Buffalo in 1854. The Rev. James McGlow, pastor of that area, encouraged the men to begin the construction themselves. Without aid of architect or contractor, they set out the foundation in November of 1854 and it took them a year to complete their church.

Located on a plot of ground donated by Mr. Golden, the church was near the railroad tracks on the east side of Golden Road. In the spring, the church was surrounded by water, and the ground was soft and humid most of the summer. Although officially named in honor of St. Feehan, the great Irish abbot and missionary, the white frame edifice was usually called "The Swamp Church."

Rochester was established in 1838, and in 1873, Chili was placed under the care of the pastor of Churchville, the Rev. William Mulhern, the first resident pastor in that area. St. Feehan's remained a mission church until this past summer when the Rev. Donald J. Murphy was named pastor of an independent Chili parish.

In 1888, the Rev. Dennis J. Curran, energetic and aggressive, was appointed pastor of Churchville and Chili. He realized that the "Swamp Church" was badly located and accordingly, bought three acres of land from Mr. Mc-



Interior, St. Feehan's Church, Chili

Entee and contracted with Mr. Elmer Taft to move the church from the swamp to its present location.

With the help of Mr. Patrick Mulholland and crews from the railroad, the ground was leveled as it is today and a cemetery laid out nearby.

Father Curran also directed the building of a combination dance hall and wagon shed, still standing and now used as school and rectory.

IN ITS NEW LOCATION, the church was called the "Irish Church" to distinguish it from the "German Church" of Holy Ghost at Coldwater.

"The Rev. J. J. Bresnahan became pastor in 1890 and in addition to the spiritual care of the people, he supervised the building of vestries, remodeling the ceiling and walls, and putting sidewalk and pews in place. Father Bresnahan enlarged the dance hall and shed to provide for the increasing numbers who were attending the religious and social events of the parish.

Father Philip Golding, probably related to the Golden's of the parish's early days, came as pastor in 1914, and served the combined Churchville-Chili parishes for eighteen years.

Under the pastorate of the

Rev. Joseph E. Gullfoll, the church was redecorated and during the summer, a catholic school was inaugurated for the children to supplement their after-school classes during the year.

In 1944, the Rev. John J. Burke removed the interior of the church and inaugurated improvements in the hall which had been neglected and little used for several years.

For most of its hundred years, St. Feehan's has been a quiet, farming community parish. Records of Baptisms report but one or two a year, sixteen was "very high" in 1882. In 1890, Chili had 2,985 residents, and that number was even less in 1900. Recent suburban development has changed all this and population now totals over 6,000.

Continued increases are expected and for that reason, St. Feehan's was separated from its mother church at Churchville and given the task of standing on its own. The Sisters of St. Joseph have opened a school in the existing dance hall, and the men have fixed up a corner of the old wagon shed to serve as an apartment-rectory for Father Donald Murphy, Chili's first resident pastor. Renovation of the building was done by the men of the parish, even as their predecessors had built the church themselves.

NEW PROPERTY has been secured to provide for a complete parish unit of church, school, rectory and convent. This new site

is a mile east of the present church, and fronts on Chestnut Ridge and Chili Avenue.

The size of the present church is fast being outgrown, but a new location and a new edifice will not lessen the love and devotion of the members of the parish for the original building that embodies the simple faith of the early pioneers of this area. It will remain in use as long as possible, for who can deny that its hundred years of sheltering the faithful of Chili, of housing the Eucharistic Lord, and being the site of so many prayers marks it as a relic deserving our profound



Century Old Church At Chili

respect. It will stand as a challenge to the generations of the future by being a witness to the courage of the past.

Pastor Of Growing Parish

Rev. Donald J. Murphy, recently appointed pastor of St. Feehan's parish, has taken an energetic and personal interest in all the improvements made at the church and school during the past few months.

His rectory is a grade-over corner of an old wagon shed and provides him with an office, bedroom, kitchen and combination living-dining room. Father Murphy helped the men of the parish adapt the rest of the shed into classrooms and a parish meeting hall.

There are so many new corners that we will have to keep expanding our facilities. Father Murphy reports that the parish is a completely new and modern parish unit about a mile east

of the present church.

Father Murphy was ordained in 1935, and after serving as Assistant Pastor at Immaculate Conception parish, Rochester, he enrolled in the Chaplains Corps of the Army. He was awarded the Bronze Star for service on the western front and the Silver Star for the French Campaign. During his army duty in Europe, Father Murphy several times visited the saintly St. Theresa Neumann.

After mustering out with the rank of Captain, Father Murphy was assigned to St. Thomas parish, taught at St. Mary's Hospital. He was then appointed Assistant Pastor of the combined Churchville-Chili parish until June of this year when he was named pastor of St. Feehan's.



REV. DONALD J. MURPHY, Pastor

COURIER-JOURNAL
Friday, November 12, 1964

HOUSE FOR SALE
St. Margaret Mary's Parish
Five Acres near St. Paul School
First Time Offered 1.1

See beautiful new home with 1 1/2 acre lot. Features include: modern kitchen with granite counter, built-in refrigerator, central air conditioning, full basement, and beautiful well-shaded yard. This is the one to see!

OPEN SUNDAY 2:30-5:30
Call ...
A. J. Petranto
Broker
BA5014 LO 5379

EXCLUSIVE! For The FIRST TIME in America!

IMPORTED ROSARY GLOWS IN THE DARK!

So beautiful and inspiring it's guaranteed to warm your heart. Oval shaped, luminous beads sparkle in the dark! Tamish-proof chain, crucifix and rosary! A soul-stirring gift! You must be delighted or your money back. Only \$2.50 each, ppd. Mail the coupon NOW!

Write to: ...
18 West 34th Street, New York, N.Y.
Please send me ... Luminous Rosaries at only \$1.50 each, postpaid. If not delighted, 3 day return in 10 days for refund.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Trant's
Rochester's Oldest and Largest Religious Goods Store

For Christmas... For Collectors...

A Beautiful New Line Of Genuine Imported HUMMEL FIGURES

As a gift... a delightful ornament for any room... or an addition to your collection, these new Hummel figures are completely fascinating. An entirely new and wide range of subjects in the inimitable Hummel manner. Come in at once for best choice of these truly remarkable pieces.

\$2.50 to \$25.00

Pure White Madonnas

It will be a wonderful and "white Christmas" indeed to give or receive one of these lovely Madonnas. These delicate statues in pure white are exquisitely carved... Also available with crib.

USE TRANT'S LAYAWAY PLAN FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS PURCHASES

Christmas Nativity Sets

A beautiful and inspiring addition to the Christmas spirit in your home. Choose from a large variety from \$2.50 to \$90.00.

CLOSEOUT ON STURDY CARDBOARD NATIVITY SETS

A limited supply of these popular sets in sturdy, colorful cutouts. Come in or order at once. Supply will go fast.

Please include 2% Sales Tax on Mail Orders if resident of Monroe County

See the Finest Religious Card Selection In Rochester

Beautiful Thanksgiving and Christmas Cards

Come in now while you still can choose the best from our handsome assortment.

- NEW!... BRAILLE CARDS FOR THE BLIND
- FRENCH, GERMAN, ITALIAN IMPORTED CARDS
- PERSONALIZED RELIGIOUS BOXED CARDS

Come in and see this wonderful variety of cards priced to fit any and every budget.

TRANT'S INC.
THE CATHOLIC SUPPLY STORE
96 Clinton Ave. N. - 115 Franklin St.
Rochester, N.Y.
BA 5447
Open Six Days A Week, Thurs. Eve. to 9 P.M.

SERENE THE WAY!



You, probably, confidently shall we go on our way, knowing that the Dark of Peter may be shaken but never submerged. This week we hope some kind Near East friend will answer the urgent appeal of Archbishop Gregory of Trivandrum in India. "If only you could send me \$1500 for a little chapel at Koduvallur - a small refuge for the people's wretched shelter. We have 400 Catholic families there, 15 of them, 225 people, recent converts. Please do help me." Won't you try?

MALACHI RIGHT? This old prophecy calls St. Peter X "Mile ardeni," that is "burning fire." Read about it in "Once Upon A Time" which we send to all who give a mite for our new Shrine of the Saint beyond the Jordan. For every \$10 gift we send a beautiful picture in color. Can you give a special tabernacle, costing \$50?

GETTING READY About this time Mary and Joseph were preparing for the first Christmas. Are you getting ready for your feast of giving? That lovely \$10 gift for a food package to a homeless Bethlehem refugee? That request that we send to a friend or loved one our GIFT CARD, a Christmas special, Holy Land?

GREEKS BEARING GIFTS. Emmanuel is beginning his studies for the missionary priesthood at the Pontifical Greek College in Rome and he will need \$400 over these six years. Can you adopt him, giving this sum in any amount? "You shall call his name Emmanuel, that is, God with us." What a Christmas gift to God!

IDEAL MADONNA. Mary lives among us in her nuns. Won't you make one your adopted daughter? There is Sister Lily, a novice with the Rosary Sisters in Jerusalem. She needs \$150 for this last year of her training. Remember that one of the titles of Mary is "Lily of Israel." Make Sister Lily your gift to Mary.

SWADDLING CLOTHES. We need always clothing and shoes for our refugee children of Palestine, and send them to our warehouse, HAWELL STREET AND EAST-CHESTER ROAD, BRONT, NEW YORK CITY.

PALACE OF GOLD. Because we are getting so many requests for aid to our old folks in the Near East, we are starting a NEW dollar-a-month Club. We must show due reverence for our aged. "In a palace of gold, they should live when they're old." Won't you be among the first to join, so we can help Father Eugene's old folks in Jerusalem?

OUR NEEDIEST CASES. Not even all these want ads of God can take care of our many neediest cases at Christmas. That is why we appreciate your STRINGLESS GIFTS. "Use it where most needed." Please do help us in helping our foundlings, our orphans, our Sisters and priests. The Little Lord will smile on you.

NEW PAMPHLET. When you send that priceless stringless gift, ask for our new pamphlet by Father Englert, C.S.S. R., "CHRIST IN CHRISTENDOM."

Near East Missions
Points Capital Spiritual Presidency: Rev. Thomas J. McElhenny, M.S.C.
Send all communications to:
CATHOLIC NEAR EAST WELFARE ASSOCIATION
480 Lexington Ave. at 46th St. New York 17, N.Y.

STORIES OF THE CENTURY

Every Fri. at 7 P.M.

WVET-TV

CHANNEL 10

Don't miss this great new television program. Authentic stories as they really happened, featuring such famous and notorious characters as—

BILLY THE KID • JOHNNY RINGO
THE JAMES BROTHERS
DOC HOLLIDAY • SAM BASS
THE DALTON GANG
GERONIMO • CATTLE KATE
and others

Sponsored by
GENESEE
The American Beer People Like