FINANCE OF FAITH

Coronet Magazine Tells Of Elmira Fire, Rebuilding

"The Finance of Faith" is the title of an article featured in Coronet magazine for March which tells of the burning and rebuilding of St. Anthony Church, Elmira and of a community cooperating with heroic priests and parishioners in the task.

Written by Jack Denton Scott, the article is subheaded "Only the courage they had found there could help the people rebuild their church."

THE ACCOUNT of the fire and of the campaign that followed which was recorded in the **Courier-Journal** at the time is graphically retold by the author.

The fire occurred on Feb. 26, 1947 and when it had done its worst, "all that remained was the smoldering skeleton of a building with a cross standing high on top of the frame."

The Rev. Albert L. Simonetti, pastor at the time and now pastor of Church of the Annunciation, Rochester and his assistant then, the Rev. Ignatius St. George are cited for their attempt to remove the Sacred Host.

THE ARTICLE pays high tribute to Father Simonetti as pastor. He, it says, "was the keeper of the gates. Father Simonetti, they thought, did his job well."

After describing the loss by fire, the article relates the events of the task of rebuilding. The day following the fire, Father Simonetti gathered the parish together and a campaign for funds was launched.

How the city of Elmira, Catholic and non-Catholic rallied to rebuild the church is told. The article states that while no one is sure who adopted the word, "Andiamo," Italian for "Let's Go" as a campaign slogan, it became widely publicized. (Editor's note: It was learned this week that His Excellency Bishop Kearney voiced the slogan in keynoting the campaign).

Individual parishioners, sacrifices for the fund and contributions of Protestants and Jews are recorded.

Harry Altman of the Jewish Faith in Elmira is quoted: "Watching those Catholics trying to rebuild their church was really something. Mogros (Francis T. Mogros, campaign manager) and the others were so sincere, so eager and unselfish, they reminded me of a story of my own faith. 'I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down,' was the reply of Nehemiah to his enemies, who requested him to descend from the walls of Jerusalem.

"Those trying to rebuild St. Anthony's had all of us in Elmira proud that we were part of the town."

Success of the campaign is recorded and the amazing total of $165,029 raised for the rebuilding is commended.

Sodality To Honor Mary At Ceremony March 20

In keeping with Pope Pius XII's promulgation of the Queenship of Mary, "A Day with Mary, Queen of the Sodality" will be held at St. Agnes High School, March 20.

The program will begin with Holy Mass at 9:15 a.m.

SISTER LOYOLA, co-ordinator of Detroit sodalities, will be guest speaker.

"Bis Saecularl," the Sodality Magna Carta by the Holy Father, will be the theme of the program.

The morning session will be devoted to electives concerning those rules which lead to personal sanctification.

After lunch the panels, discussions, demonstrations, etc. will explain the Sodalist's apostolate in various vocations.

These electives are aimed particularly at sparking leaders to stimulate their fellow sodalists.

RESERVATIONS at $1.75 each are restricted to 500. Sodalists are asked to procure their tickets through their high school moderators. Public school Sodalists may obtain them through their parish moderators.

Coadjutor Named

Asuncion, Paraguay —(NC)— Father Ramon Bogarin, pastor of the Church of Our Lady of the Assumption here, has been named Coadjutor to Archbishop Anibal Mena of Asuncion by Pope Pius XII.

Homemaker Of Tomorrow Named At St. Agnes

Miss Rosemary Palermo, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Philip J. Palermo of 90 Bedford St., received the first place award among senior students at St. Agnes High School recently as the "Homemaker of Tomorrow."

General Mills, Inc. presented her with a gold pin and she will also receive copies of the Betty Crocker cook books. Rosemary is also eligible for the $1,500 state scholarship to be awarded on April 21.

All seniors at St. Agnes take a homemaking course called Christian Family Living. Rosemary received the highest score in a written examination which tested the homemaking knowledge and attitudes of the senior girls.

Fisher Debators Tie For Honors

The debating team from St. John Fisher College tied Harvard University and LeMoyne College for first place in the first annual University of Buffalo Debating Tournament on Saturday, Feb. 26. With an aggregate record of seven wins and one loss, the Fisher debaters out-argued twelve schools from New York and neighboring states including Hobart, the University of Rochester, Geneseo, and Fredonia State Teachers Colleges, Canisius College, Syracuse University, the University of Pennsylvania, Kent State and Buffalo State.

Debating the national topic, additional honors were granted the Fisher delegation when John Palvino and Donald Pandina were accorded second and fourth positions, respectively, in the race for outstanding speaker. The balance of the team included Anthony Sortino and John Pettigrass who compiled a perfect 4 win and 0 loss record in the one day meet, as compared with their colleagues' 3 win, 1 loss record.

The team is coached by Gerard Tucker.

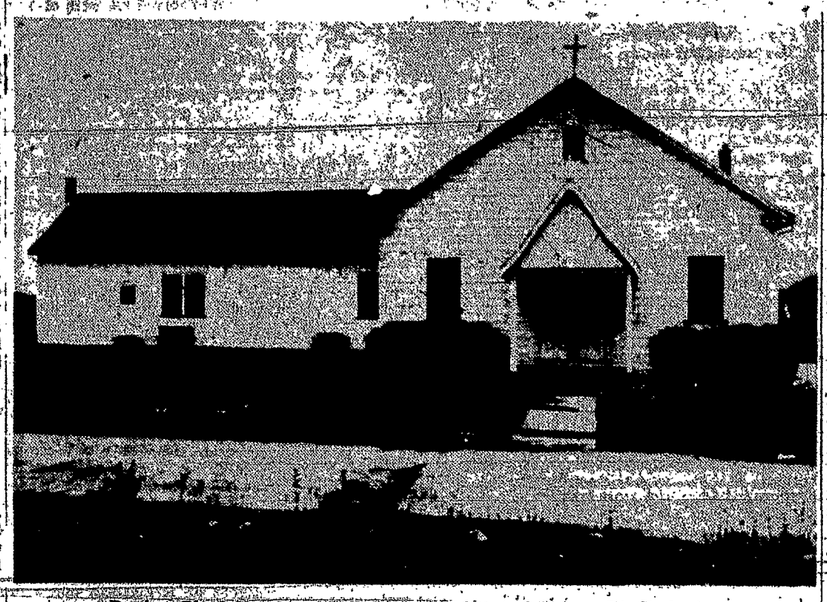
Hospital Guild Slates Dinner

Auburn — A St. Patrick's Day dinner will precede the monthly business meeting of the Mercy Hospital Flower Guild, Tuesday, March 8 at the Osborne Hotel. Mrs. J. E. O'Donnell and Miss Madeline McEvoy are in charge of the arrangements.

Miss Genevieve E. Diehl, president, has requested that reservation be made prior to Monday, March 7. Members who wish to make reservations should call Mrs. John F. Graney or Mrs. J. Harold Wright. The meeting is open to guests.

Mrs. George E. Wittwer is in charge of hospital tray favors for St. Patrick's Day.

Precious Blood Parish, Rochester, Marks 25 Years



Precious Blood Church and Hall, Lexington Ave. and Stenson St., Rochester.

Solemn High Mass at 10:30 a.m., Sun., March 6, will mark the silver jubilee of the Church of the Most Precious Blood, Lexington Ave., Rochester. Rev. Sebastian Contegiacomo, C.PP.S., pastor, will celebrate the Mass. His Excellency, Bishop James E. Kearney will preside and preach.

On Sat., March 5 at 8:30 a.m., a Requiem Mass will be offered for deceased parishioners.

This past Tuesday, March 1, Auxiliary Bishop Lawrence B. Casey launched the parish drive to raise funds to construct a parochial school adjacent to the church. Construction work is expected to begin this spring, according to the pastor, Father Contegiacomo.

THE PRESENT pastor attended the dedication of the church on March 2, 1930, served as assistant priest until June of 1937 when he was named pastor.

Priests of the Congregation of the Precious Blood of the Italo-American delegation have been in charge of the church since its foundation.

The late Rev. Francis X. Kunz, pastor of St. Francis Xavier Church, Rochester, supervised the building of the frame mission church of the Precious Blood prior to the arrival of the Precious Blood Fathers. He had also directed the construction of St. Philip Neri and St. Francis of Assisi churches, Rochester.

The late Bishop John Francis O'Hern at the dedication ceremony preached his sermon in both English and Italian. Attending the rite was Bishop Walter A. Foery of Syracuse, at that time pastor of Rochester's Mt. Carmel Church. Also the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Michael Nolan, Very Rev. Nicholas Santoro, Superior of the Delegation, and the Rev. Fathers Anthony Pece, Joseph Saraceno, and Sebastian Contegiacomo, of the Precious Blood community were present for that occasion.

FATHER ANTHONY Pece was appointed first pastor and administered the new parish during the difficult depression years.

Within a year of the church's dedication, a parish hall was erected by the cooperation of the men of the parish and John Bacchetta, contractor. The hall was blessed by Bishop O'Hern following Mass on Feb. 22, 1931.

"The little church in the country" attracted city people to its devotions in honor of our Lady of Miracles and in honor of St. Anne, Mother of the Blessed Virgin.

Court Rochester of the Catholic Daughters of America furnished the rectory and parishioners and friends aided Father Pece to administer the parish through the depression era.

Father Pece was transferred to St. Anthony's parish, Elmira, in June of 1937, and Father Contegiacomo then succeeded him.

THE CHURCH has since been redecorated, a Hammond organ installed, and a bell tower erected.

An outdoor shrine in honor of St. Anne was built in Nov. 1954.

Suburban development in the area near Precious Blood Church has been steady but not rapid. The rock condition of the undersoil has prevented extension of modern sanitary facilities into that section until recently. The City of Rochester is presently in the process of providing sewer facilities in that section as a result of constant petitions from residents. The parish itself has led the community in seeking these services.

Plans for a parochial school have been prepared by Michael De Angelis and a campaign is currently under way to obtain funds to construct the school in the anniversary year.

FATHER SEBASTIAN Contegiacomo, C.PP.S., came from his native Italy at the request of the late John Francis O'Hern, then Bishop of Rochester. He was born in Putigano, Bari, in Italy, and joined the Precious Blood community in 1910 in his fourth year of high school. Father Contegiacomo made his studies for the priesthood at the Propaganda Fidei College, Rome, and was ordained Nov. 1, 1920.

Assigned to the mission band having its headquarters near Bologna, he spent ten years in mission work in the parishes of that area. Assigned to the Precious Blood Church in Rochester, Father Contegiacomo came with Father Pece in Jan. 1930 to their new homeland. He has served the little Rochester church as assistant and pastor since then.

Father Pece died in Italy this past September.

Parishioners recognize Father Contegiacomo as still the "missionary" who is anxious to develop the spiritual life of all the people. Through his arrangements, children of the parish attending public schools receive released time religious instructions. He has constantly urged the people to a more frequent reception of the Sacraments and attend the special devotions of the church.

Rev. Sebastian Contegiacomo, C.PP.S.

A FLOURISHING Rosary Society, Holy Name Society, and Sodality receive Father Contegiacomo's guidance, and it was during his pastorate that the parish debt was liquidated and a fund begun for the parochial school.

"We have a church for our Lord and our people," Father Contegiacomo said, "and now we want to have a school for our children." He is expending all his efforts now to achieve this goal.

Nazareth College Dean At Conference

Sister Rose Angela, S.S.J., Dean of Nazareth College, attended a conference of Deans of Catholic Liberal Arts Colleges this week at the University of Notre Dame, Ind.

Theme of the program, being held in the Morris Inn on the University campus, is "Christian Culture and Catholic Liberal Education."

MUST THE SISTERS BEG?

The St. Joseph's Home for the Destitute, Arppukara, India, was blessed and inaugurated by Cardinal Tisserant on November 25th, 1953. The Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus were placed in charge of this angelic work. At the present time they care for the lame, the deaf, the dumb and the aged. Five lonely sisters, they now care for over 100 of these pitiful souls. They actually have room for only thirty-five patients. We hope to help them build another modest shelter for the sick. $1,500 will gladden their hearts and care for the sick. Any little mite will do wonders. $1-$10-$25—anything will help cure the destitute and bring the Lord into their hearts. Please do help. Your reward will be great in heaven.

REMEMBER GOD AND HIS MISSIONS IN YOUR LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT. HE WILL REPAY YOU A HUNDRED FOLD.

SANCTUARY BELL NEEDED FOR ST. PIUS X CHAPEL
The tiny bell tinkling at daily Mass is a memory we all cherish dearly. For the Chapel we are building among the refugees of the Holy Land we do need such a heavenly bell. You might wish to give it in memory of a loved one—it costs only $25. Please try to help this truly wonderful work of charity. The refugees will never forget you in their prayers.

OUR MISSIONARIES DEPEND ON MASS OFFERINGS FOR THEIR SUPPORT. HAVE GREGORIAN MASSES CELEBRATED FOR YOUR OWN IMMORTAL SOUL. WRITE AND ASK ABOUT OUR "SUSPENSE CARD" WHICH ARRANGES THESE MASSES FOR YOU.

SISTER MARIE—YOUR ADOPTED DAUGHTER?

Marie is starting her studies with the Sisters of Jesus and Mary in Lebanon. She is hoping that some kind benefactor will support her in her needs. $150 for each of her two years as a novice will make her a missionary for Jesus and Mary. Can you make her your adopted daughter? What a privilege!

MISSION CHAPEL NEEDS

We are in great need of the following sacred articles for our Mission Chapels. Could you give one in memory of one you love?

Chalice	$40	Mass vestments	$50	Candles, year	$20
Stations	25	Censer and boat	20	Confessional	50
Mass bell	5	Pyx	15	Altar linens	25

REFUGEES AND FATHER KENNEDY
Father Kennedy is hoping that he will be able to provide a decent meal for all the Palestine refugees under his care. Easter is coming soon. $10 will buy a FOOD PACKAGE for a whole family. We pray that we shall not fail Father Kennedy and the refugees this Easter. Please help!

HENRY—YOUR ADOPTED PRIEST!

HENRY is beginning his studies for the Priesthood at the Seraphic seminary in Asmara, Eritrea. Poor in everything but his love for God, he is praying for some one to adopt him—giving the $100 he needs for each of his six years of training. Perhaps you might be the answer to his prayers. You may pay in any installments.

GOD REWARDS THE CHEERFUL GIVER.

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Francis Cardinal Spellman, President Msgr. Thomas J. McMahon, Nat'l Sec'y
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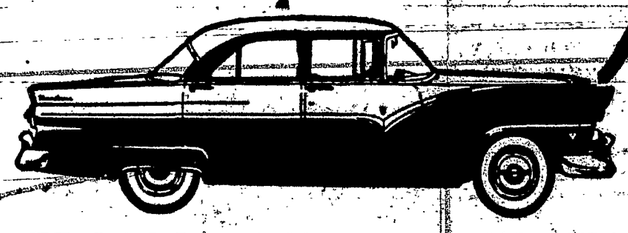

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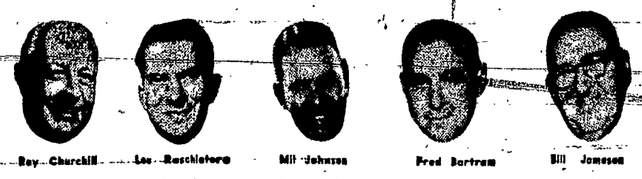
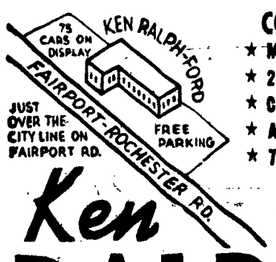


Ray Churchill Lou Raschiatore Bill Johnson Fred Bartram Bill Jameson

5 Courteous Salesmen to help you make your selection



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