

Seneca Falls Parish Started By Immigrant Irish In 1831

By ROBERT SMETT

Dedicated to three different saints during its 125 year history, St. Patrick's Church, Seneca Falls, has also been part of three dioceses.

In 1831, when Andrew Jackson was president of the United States, Seneca Falls fell within the boundaries of the New York City Diocese.

Only twenty-six priests cared for the Catholics of the diocese which stretched from New York City to the Niagara frontier. In these early years the Seneca Falls parish was known as St. Jerome's.

The Diocese of Buffalo was erected in 1847 and the Seneca Falls Church then came under

the jurisdiction of Bishop John Timon, first ordinary of the new diocese. Shortly after, St. Jerome's became known as St. Thomas Church.

THE NATION was mourning the assassination of President Lincoln when the Seneca Falls church finally was dedicated to its present patron, St. Patrick.

Three years later in 1868, the parish found itself part of another new diocese when Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid was consecrated first bishop of the Rochester See.

Blessing of a new rectory and cloister this Sunday at St. Patrick's will be the latest stride in the progress of the 125 year old parish.

Coupled with the century and a quarter jubilee celebrations will be the Silver Anniversary of the present church on West Bayard St., according to the Rev. John P. O'Beirne, pastor. Present assistant pastor at St. Patrick's is the Rev. John B. Kleintjes.

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Edward K. Ball, V.F., dean of the Ontario-Seneca-Yates Deaconry, will officiate at the rectory blessing ceremonies.

FATHER O'BEIRNE was appointed pastor of the Seneca Falls parish in April, 1945. He came to St. Patrick's from St. Michael's, Penn Yan, where he was administrator since 1940.



FATHER O'BEIRNE Pastor



FATHER KLEINTJES Assistant

Prior to this, Father O'Beirne served as assistant pastor at St. Patrick's, Corning; St. Mary's, Auburn; Holy Apostles, Rochester and Sacred Heart Cathedral, Ordained in 1922. Father O'Beirne is a graduate of St. Andrew and St. Bernard Seminaries and a former parishioner of Corpus Christi Church, Rochester.

Upon his appointment to Seneca Falls, Father O'Beirne immediately set out to establish a building fund to use in completing the parish plant and in making needed repairs.

Properties adjoining the rectory and school were purchased and in 1950 a campaign was initiated for funds to construct an auditorium-gymnasium next to the parish school.

The completed auditorium was formally opened in 1951 and the former parish hall in the school was converted into classrooms to meet the demands of an increased enrollment.

GROUND WAS broken last year for the new stone rectory and cloister, designed by architects Beardsley and Beardsley, and was occupied this June.

Of the same Norman-Gothic design and materials, as the church, the new buildings are constructed of Ohio sandstone ranging in color from deep browns to pink. The exterior trim is all of stone and the roof is of variegated tiles.

Originally a mission church of St. John's parish, Salina, N. Y., St. Patrick's was formed in 1831 by a small group of Irish immigrant Catholics who had settled in Seneca Falls.

MASS WAS celebrated monthly in the home of a parishioner by the pastor, the Rev. Francis Donoghue, who also had missions in Auburn and Geneva.

THE FIRST church in Seneca Falls was built and dedicated to St. Jerome in 1836 on property donated by Judge Gary V. Sackett, who was not a Catholic. The same year Father Donoghue became permanent pastor of Geneva. The Seneca Falls church remained an out-mission of Auburn.

St. Jerome's was successively cared for by the Rev. M. Balfe, the Rev. J. O'Donnell, a Father Connelly, the Rev. Michael Heas, the Rev. William Grace, and the Rev. Patrick Bradley.

Under the Rev. Thomas O'Flaherty, who became pastor in 1845, a new brick church, measuring forty by sixty feet, was erected on West Bayard St. and was finally dedicated in 1849 under the patronage of St. Thomas.

First resident pastor of St. Thomas was a Father O'Farrell who took up residence in Seneca Falls in 1848. He was succeeded by the Rev. William



St. Patrick's — Main Entrance

Carroll in 1851 who immediately set about to have the church enlarged.

Father Thomas Brady, who became pastor in 1855, founded the first parish school using the old church on Swaby St. for a day school for children and his residence for a night school for those who were obliged to work. He himself taught both schools until he was able to procure teachers. Father Brady inaugurated a debating society, a Sodality, St. Vincent de Paul Society and purchased a library for the use of the parishioners.

The church was again enlarged, a tower built, vestries added and St. Columbkille Cemetery was acquired in 1863 under the pastorate of the Rev. Edward McGowan. In 1864, the expanded church was dedicated under the patronage of St. Patrick.

Following Father McGowan, pastors of St. Patrick Church assigned for short periods of time included the Rev. Fathers Michael O'Brien, Hugh Mulhol-

land, Martin Kavanagh and Terrance Keenan.

A NEW rectory was constructed in 1870 under the Rev. Bernard McCool and building of a school began in 1875. A house was purchased for a convent on Bayard St. and the Sisters of St. Joseph took up residence in 1879.

Father McCool was succeeded by Father George Osborne, in the same year, who in turn was followed by Father William A. McDonald in 1888, Father James O'Connor in 1891, and Father Michael Dwyer in 1910.

During Father Dwyer's pastorate the Gould and Rumsey properties were purchased as sites for a future church, school, rectory and convent.

Father Dwyer was forced to retire in 1922 because of ill health and Father Quirk was appointed administrator and later pastor on the death of Father Dwyer in 1924.

Father Quirk immediately began to arrange for the construction of a new convent. The old convent next to the school was razed to make room for an addition to the school.



St. Patrick's Church and New Rectory (far right in sketch) in Seneca Falls.

Building of the present church began in 1929 with Joseph P. Flynn, architect and Roda Hogan, contractor. The completed church was solemnly dedicated on Feb. 15, 1931 by Bishop John Francis O'Hern, third bishop of Rochester.

In April, 1945, Father O'Beirne succeeded Father Quirk who asked to be relieved of his pastoral duties because of illness.

THROUGH THE century and a quarter of its existence, the Seneca Falls parish has given ten priests to the Church. They are the Reverend Fathers Thomas Roesdter, Daniel Curran, Charles Curran, Owen Farron, James A. McGuire, Patrick S. Gilmore, James Mangin, George T. Jones, Peter Creilly, Joseph Bealini.

Former parishioners who have entered Sisterhoods include: Sisters Melita Rafferty, Gustava McConnell, Ambrose Murphy, Isadore McKeeon, Lucilla McGraw, Agnes Marie McGraw, M. Leonilla Murphy, Augusta Cruise, Severina McGuire, Miriam Teresa Hughes, Leonida Ferguson, Margaret Clare Magill, Vincentia Creilly, Dosthaa Urquhart, Mother Mary Joseph Clary and Mother Marie Madeleine Clary.

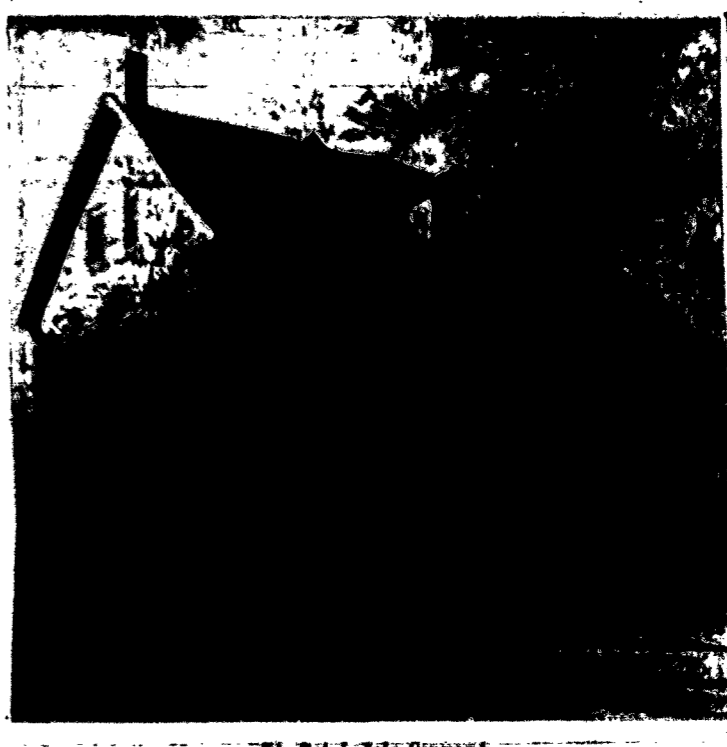
St. Patrick School at present offers all eight primary grades and kindergarten, with 650 pupils. Eight Sisters of St. Joseph and three lay teachers are on the staff. Sister M. Emmanuel is principal and superior.

Looking back through one hundred twenty-five years of progress, St. Patrick's has risen from a handful of Irish immigrants to a large and active parish which has given many vocations to the church.

What began in a tiny clapboard chapel in the early nineteenth century, now boasts a beautiful church, rectory, convent, school and auditorium, one of the finest parish plants of the area.



St. Patrick's School



St. Patrick's Convent

Bishop Kearney Offers Victor Centennial Mass

Victor — His Excellency Bishop Kearney celebrated the centennial Mass at St. Patrick Church, Victor, last Sunday, followed by a dinner in Victor.

Dance Sponsored At Mt. Carmel High

Auburn — The dance committee of Mt. Carmel High School, Auburn, sponsored its first dance of the season Monday, Oct. 1 from 7:30 to 10:30 p. m. in the school gymnasium. Designated a school buck dance, it extended a special welcome to the freshman class, whose members attending were obliged to don costumes selected by the juniors.

Serving on the committee were: Ronald Cosentino, chairman; Patricia Duffy, co-chairman; Marianne Tozzi, Faith Ide, Carol Fennessy, Mary Schmidt, Sabina Kulkowski, Mary Anne Angello, Linda Carlo, Frank Czechowicz, Dennis Stracuse, William Blata and William Burns.

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Minstrel Show Set In Auburn

Auburn — Ancient Order of Hibernians and Ladies Auxiliary Minstrel Show titled "Irish Hit Parade" will be held Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, Oct. 9 and 10 in the Central High School Auditorium.

Included in the show will be a one-act play directed by Mrs. Sally Fraher and featuring Mrs. Fred Herrill, Mary Jane Mitchell, Jean Kavanagh, Shirley Sullivan, Mrs. Charles Phillips, John Madden and John Cullen.

Also featured in singing and dancing routines are John Cunningham, Fred Hemling, William and Joe Shaw, Pat Gogen, Thomas McNabb, Mary Callmer, Bing Bielowiez, Carol Ann Fennessy, Mary Brett, Mrs. John McDermott, Sheila Ward, Sara Fraher, Larry Casey, Dick Syrocki, Ervin Ray, Earl Klock, Rebecca Derwent.

Howard Bishop is general chairman and stage manager is John Griffin. Francis Newcomb is director assisted by Mrs. Fraher and Mrs. Day.

John Madden Jr. is master of ceremonies with Len Sathre, Jack Friedel, Elizabeth Russell, Pauline Griffin and Eileen Ward as end men.



Open House In Kindergarten Room

A KINDERGARTEN room has been established at Holy Family School in Auburn; open house was held Sunday following a breakfast in the school auditorium. Photo shows a group as they look over the new furnishings in the room.

First Meeting, Elects Wayne Deanery DCCW Holds

Newark — To Jesus through Mary was the theme of the first meeting of the newly organized Wayne County Deaconry Council of Catholic Women held Monday, Sept. 24th at St. Michael Church Hall, Newark.

Rev. James O'Connell of Ontario, Moderator, opened the meeting with a prayer to Our Lady of Ransom whose Feast was celebrated that day and welcomed the group of 100 women from affiliated organizations throughout Wayne County.

This Council is the newest unit in the Diocesan Council having been formed at the request of His Excellency Bishop Kearney on June 17. In the past Wayne County had been a part of Geneva Deanery but with the designation of Wayne County as a separate Deanery by Bishop Kearney and the appointment of the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph V. Curtin of St. John The Evangelist Church, Clyde as Dean, it was the wish of the Bishop that the women band together in a Deaconry Council during this, the Silver Jubilee Year of the Roches-

ter Diocesan Council of the N.C.C.W.

FIRST ORDER of business was election of officers as follows, President, Mrs. William Noonan, Newark, Mrs. George Ketchum, Clyde, Vice-president, Mrs. Harvey Wiebeld, Newark, Secretary, and Mrs. C. Irving Sprong, Sodus, Treasurer. Father O'Connell seated the officers and congratulated them on being elected the first officers of the organization.

Accepting her office, Mrs. Noonan spoke of the privilege it would be for her to work with such a fine group of women banded together for Catholic Action under Our Lady of Good Counsel. She reminded the women that this is their organization and without their cooperation and interest the officers would be of no value.

In outlining proposed plans for the year, First Saturday Luncheons were discussed and it was agreed to hold a series of five, beginning in February and ending in June. These will be held in the various towns in the Deaconry to stimulate interest. Tentative plans call for a Day of Recollection and if possible a week-end at the Cenacle.

Father O'Connell closed the meeting after telling the women that in becoming members of Mary's kneeling army of 9,000,000 women they can exert tremendous influence in their Parish, Diocese and Nation by dedicating themselves to daily prayer.

President Hails Catholic Youth Week

Washington — (NC) — President Dwight D. Eisenhower paid tribute to the 7,000,000 youngsters who will participate in the sixth annual National Catholic Youth Week observance from October 28 to November 4.

Nazareth Freshmen Installation, Talk Set By Society

Auburn — A travel talk by the moderator and installation of officers will highlight the October meeting of the Rosary Society of Holy Family Church, Thursday, Oct. 11 at 8 p. m. in the school auditorium.

The Rev. John P. Norris, assistant pastor, will show colored pictures taken on his recent trip through Ireland, Scotland and at Lourdes Shrine.

Mrs. Joseph Gargan will be installed as president with the following officers: Mrs. Thomas J. Colley, vice-president; Mrs. Andrew Tabone, recording secretary; Mrs. Thomas Noonan, financial secretary; Mrs. John J. Karplinski, treasurer.

Mrs. Veronica M. Smith, program chairman, will be in charge of the social hour with which the evening will be concluded. All women of the parish are invited.

College Health Unit Aides Named

The Rev. Frank DeSales Flood, C.S.B., of St. John Fisher College and Sister Margaret Mary and Sister Mary Jamesetta of Nazareth College are members of the Health Association of Rochester and Monroe County, an announcement by Ernest J. Howe, president disclosed today.

Victor Murphy, M.D., was appointed chairman. He is director of the medical department of Rochester Institute of Technology.

The College Health Committee was organized in 1953 with six local colleges represented in the membership. A desire and need for activity in the health field resulted in a combined program to advance health education at the college level. This year the Committee became a permanent member of the Health Association's group of community health education services.

Other committee members are: Mrs. Florence McNair, who also represents Rochester Institute of Technology; William A. Stebbins and Dr. Ernest Tuttle, Brockport State Teachers College; Margaret Rambo, R.N., Roberts Wesleyan College, and Miss Merle Spurrier and Dr. John McAnmod of the University of Rochester.

French Leader Enters Carmelites

Paris — (NC) — Madame Guy de Wendel, president of the Women's League of Catholic Action of the Moselle Valley and widow of the former president of the Chamber of Commerce of Metz, has entered the Carmelite monastery at Faray le Monial.

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