

St. Ann's Home Marks 50 Years

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was negotiated to pay the balance of the debt.

BUILDING operations progressed rapidly so that public inspection and dedication of the new north wing were able to be held on the Feast of St. Ann, July 26, 1912. Bishop Hickey, accompanied by Bishop Charles Colton of Buffalo, came in the afternoon to bless the new addition.

A real festive spirit reigned as visitors paraded in and out during the afternoon and evening. Incandescent lights were strung from the street car stop on the avenue to the main entrance of the Home.

St. Monica's Parish Orchestra furnished music and vocal selections were offered by a quartette composed of Mrs. John O'Connell, Miss Margaret Heveron, Angelo Newman and William Predmore.

These interesting details marking the opening of the north wing may seem too trivial to record here, but they indicate, at least, that early in its career St. Ann's Home had won the respect and admiration of the Rochester community.

The next major expansion of St. Ann's came in 1930. That year, on the Feast of St. Joseph, March 19, Bishop John Francis O'Hern, then head of the Diocese, and Sister Eusebius conducted simple groundbreaking ceremonies for the new south wing.

THIS NEW ADDITION was planned as an infirmary building where the care of sick and bedridden residents could be centralized. Its erection at this time solved a longtime, critical need at St. Ann's.

The infirmary or south wing was completed and ready for dedication on Sunday, February 22, 1931. In his dedicatory address, Bishop O'Hern explained the importance of the infirmary to the work at St. Ann's. "It will centralize and unify," he pointed out, "the work for many who by reason of age and infirmity are bed-ridden and, therefore, need special care and attention."

Instead of being scattered on different floors and in various wings of the institution, the aged sick, the Bishop continued, "now will be housed in this new infirmary wing under the direct and immediate supervision of nurses and supervisors who will wait on them."

Among the advantages found in the new infirmary, Bishop O'Hern cited the provision of beds for the sick and modern conveniences for their service including a passenger elevator.

Construction of the infirmary was made possible, the Bishop revealed, through the generous legacy of Mrs. Anna Wilkins, one of the founders of St. Ann's and an outstanding benefactress of the institution during her lifetime.

THE YEAR OF 1936 saw a change in the direction of St. Ann's Home when the venerable Mother Eusebius who had opened the institution in 1906 retired from her post as administrator. This valiant woman had devoted her entire career to the care of the aged, beginning the work in 1898 when Mother Hieronymus' Home of Industry was changed into a Home for Aged Women.

Many sincere tributes to Mother Eusebius' work were expressed when she died at St. Ann's on the Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, 1941, five years after her retirement.

Typical of the tributes was this recollection from one who

knew Mother Eusebius:

"From early morning until late at night, she was at hand, waiting to greet the visitor at the door, listening to the difficulties and problems that vexed the minds of her guests, and bending to hold the crucifix to dying lips."

The tradition of selfless devotion to the care of the aged, so firmly established by Mother Eusebius, has been faithfully maintained by her successors in the post of St. Ann's administrator. These are Sisters whose names are reverently enshrined in the annals of St. Ann's—Sister M. Sionia, Sister M. Justina, Sister M. Eustace, Sister M. Benigna, and Sister M. Gerald.

The present administrator, Sister Mary Walter, has been in charge of St. Ann's since 1952. Her tenure has seen a continuation of the fine traditions established by her predecessors. To her spiritual sensitivity for the needs of the aged, Sister Mary Walter has joined a modern outlook in the direction of her institution. This fact has spelled much progress for St. Ann's during recent years.

UNDER HER administration St. Ann's has seen the erection of the latest addition to its properties. This is the modern 3-story convent for the Sisters who staff the Lake Avenue institution. Construction of the convent, which released 18 rooms formerly occupied by the Sisters in the main building to the use of aged guests, was started in 1953 and completed in 1954. In April of that year Bishop Kearney offered the first Mass in the chapel of the new convent and blessed the building.

NO HISTORY of St. Ann's Home would be complete without some word about the devoted efforts and assistance of the laity during the past half century to help keep the institution going financially.

Miss Elizabeth Costello a guest now living at St. Ann's tells a humorous story which typifies the laity's support of the Home. Miss Costello recalls how, as a young girl she rode her bicycle to St. Ann's when the cornerstone ceremony was conducted. She found herself next to two Irish ladies and overheard their conversation. As the proceedings were going on, one of the Irish ladies turned to her friend and asked: "How do ye suppose they're going to keep this place going?" Her friend had a quick answer: "Don't worry yourself. This year tin cints and me tin cints that'll do it."

The old Irish lady was right. The donations of the people of Rochester kept St. Ann's going. This was especially true in the early years when St. Ann's was heavily mortgaged and depended solely on popular charity to meet its annual deficit in operation.

FOR MANY YEARS, the major effort of the laity to supplement the income of St. Ann's Home was the annual "Donation Day" conducted by the Catholic women of the city. Usually joined with a bazaar and sometimes a supper, the Donation Day was able to raise several thousand or more dollars each year for the benefit of the Home.

Both clergy and laity from the whole city were faithful in their attendance at this annual event. Press reports for one year tell how Bishop McQuaid appeared at the Donation Day bazaar with his pockets filled



Mass begins day for Father Quirk at St. Ann's.

St. Ann's Chaplain

Retired priest finds busy apostolate at Home.

SPIRITUAL LIFE at St. Ann's Home centers around the chaplain, the Rev. Bartholomew L. Quirk. The quiet venerable priest came to St. Ann's after 30 years of parish work. At St. Ann's he celebrates Mass daily, conducts Benediction and other church rites for the residents there.

"When I first went to St. Ann's, I thought maybe I couldn't be much of a priest anymore," remarked Father Quirk.

"After thirty years of priesthood, I didn't particularly like the idea of retiring from parish life, but my health demanded it. But down at St. Ann's, I feel just as much a pastor as ever," he said. "There's Mass, Benediction, visits to the sick, and I can help settle the worries and problems of the residents," Father Quirk said.

Besides his chaplain duties at St. Ann's, Father Quirk also conducts burial rites at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Father Quirk's parish work survives not only in the faith and grace he imparted through his preaching and sacramental administrations, but in the two

parish churches erected under his capable direction.

As assistant to the late Father Arthur Hughes, Father Quirk aided in raising the funds to construct Holy Rosary Church, Rochester, one of the architectural gems of the city.

As assistant and later as pastor at St. Patrick's Parish in Seneca Falls for twenty-four years, Father Quirk supervised construction of the school, convent, and church there.

The convent was hailed as a "model" for other parishes to copy when it was completed in 1926.

The Irish Gothic St. Patrick's Church at Seneca Falls completed in 1931 was the culmination of Father Quirk's dreams to build a "dwelling for the Lord."

Father Quirk was educated in St. Mary's parochial school, Auburn, and Auburn High School. He made his studies for the priesthood at St. Andrews and St. Bernard's Seminaries and was ordained in 1914. In 1945 he was named chaplain at St. Ann's Home.

with a goodly supply of money so that he could patronize all the booths. His Coadjutor, Bishop Hickey, despite a severe cold and loss of his voice, also was on hand.

Traditional entertainment feature of Donation Day, which was held at the Home until Bishop Hickey's time when it moved to the more spacious area of Convention Hall, was the music of Dossenbach's Orchestra.

The holiday season of Thanksgiving and Christmas were also occasions when the clergy and laity favored the Home with gifts of money and food. Frequently, too, St. Ann's was included in the charity of generous benefactors, as in 1913 when Mr. and Mrs. Philip H. Yawman marked their golden wedding anniversary by giving \$1,000 to the institution.

Active in behalf of the Home, particularly during the early years, were Catholic groups including the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association, the Ladies Catholic Benevolent Association and the Victorian Circle. This latter group, which still exists, was founded in 1902, when the Home was on East Main Street, by a group of young Catholic women who dedicated themselves to sewing and conducting benefits for St. Ann's.

Eventually this voluntary work in support of Catholic

charity enterprises in Rochester (the orphanages, the Catholic Charities as well as St. Ann's) proved inadequate to the growing needs of these institutions.

Accordingly, in 1917, Bishop Hickey decided to hold an annual Charities campaign for the benefit of all the charitable institutions operated by the Church in the city. This first Catholic Charities drive was planned for November with a goal of \$50,000. Fifteen teams of men and women from the city parishes, with John L. Keenan as chairman, were organized to conduct the appeal.

RESULTS OF THIS effort exceeded everybody's hopes. At the final meeting of the drive, held in the Duffy-Powers Building, it was announced that the drive had raised a total of \$75,333.

Included in this total were three gifts of \$5,000 each. The first was from "the grandfather of Catholic Charities" as he was called, Philip H. Yawman. The second was from Mr. and Mrs. J. Adam Kreag, the former known as the godfather of the Charities. The third, which was greeted most enthusiastically, was from George Eastman.

The first Catholic Charities campaign was a tremendous success, but it was not held the

next year. In 1918, public support of Rochester's dependent institutions became a citywide responsibility with the organization of the Community Chest. St. Ann's Home along with other Catholic institutions immediately joined the Chest and ever since have shared in its annual fund appeal.

Although St. Ann's Home is in charge of the Sisters of St. Joseph, the institution is owned by the Catholic Diocese of Rochester which exercises overall financial direction through a Diocesan Board of Trustees.

Included on the St. Ann's Board at the present time are the following: Bishop James E. Kearney, president; Monsignor William M. Hart, vicar general, vice-president; Monsignor Arthur E. Ratican, director of Rochester Catholic Charities, secretary; and Sister Mary Walter, treasurer; and board members, Monsignor Charles F. Shay, Monsignor Gerald C. Lambert, Father Arthur F. Florack and Sister M. Edith.

OTHERS ALSO prominently associated with the present day work at St. Ann's are Dr. Benedict J. Duffy, visiting physician at the Home; Miss Jane Kreckel, Catholic Family Center staff worker, who assists applicants seeking admission to the Home; and Father Bartholomew L. Quirk, chaplain at St. Ann's since 1945.

Many of the benefactors, officials and events associated with St. Ann's Home during its half century career are enshrined today in memorial gifts found throughout the institution.

Unfortunately, a full catalogue of these memorials, which are an eloquent history in themselves, cannot be given here. There are, for example, the impressive flag pole on the grounds and the electric organ in the Chapel, recalling the late Father John Hogan who served faithfully for many years as St. Ann's chaplain.

There is also the beautiful imported crucifix over the main altar in the Chapel. This is the gift of the Gleason Family, well known Rochesterians.

Six gold vases used in the Chapel are the gift of the Protestant Episcopal Church Home. This gift recalls the time St. Ann's sheltered guests from the Episcopal Home when the later was ravaged by fire.

No article such as this can attempt to tell the complete story of St. Ann's and its 50 years of service to the care of the aged. Here we can only outline the highlights of the Home's progress and growth. Here we can only hint at the true accomplishments of St. Ann's.

The complete story is known only to God alone. Only He can know the immeasurable spiritual good St. Ann's has accomplished during a half century of working for the aged.

The aged guests who today are sheltered in St. Ann's are better able to express the true meaning and worth of the Home than any review of its history. From the lips of the guests themselves come the best tributes to St. Ann's greatness.

On a tour of the Home this week we met a kindly lady enjoying a comfortable rocker in one of the cheerful, sunlit parlors.

"You have a good spot here," we said to her.

"Oh," she smiled in reply, "I love it here. I have loved it here ever since the first day I came."

This lady's tribute, we felt sure, was echoed by God Himself. Surely, when the Christ of Charity looks down today on St. Ann's Home, He, too, is saying, "I love it here. I have loved it here from the first day."