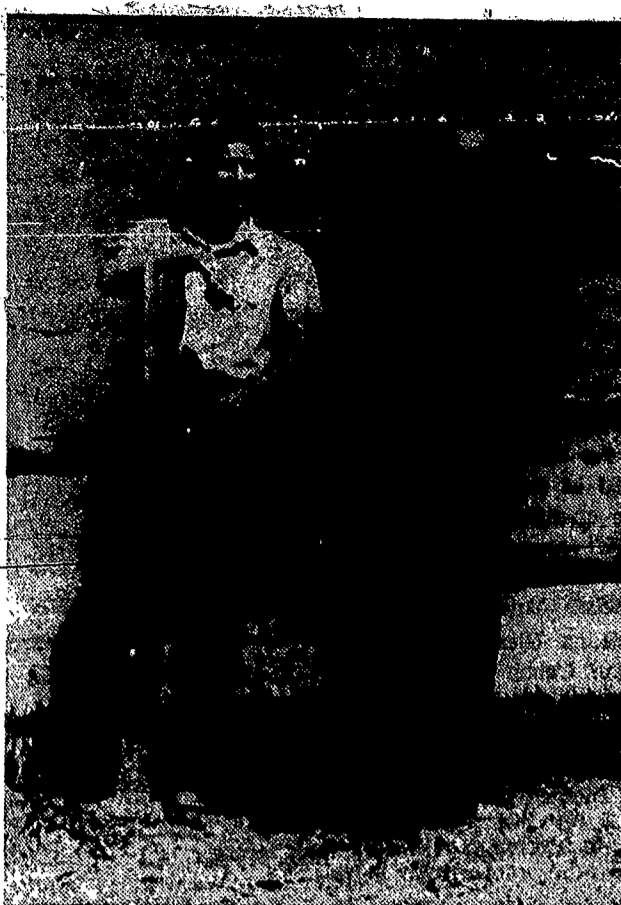




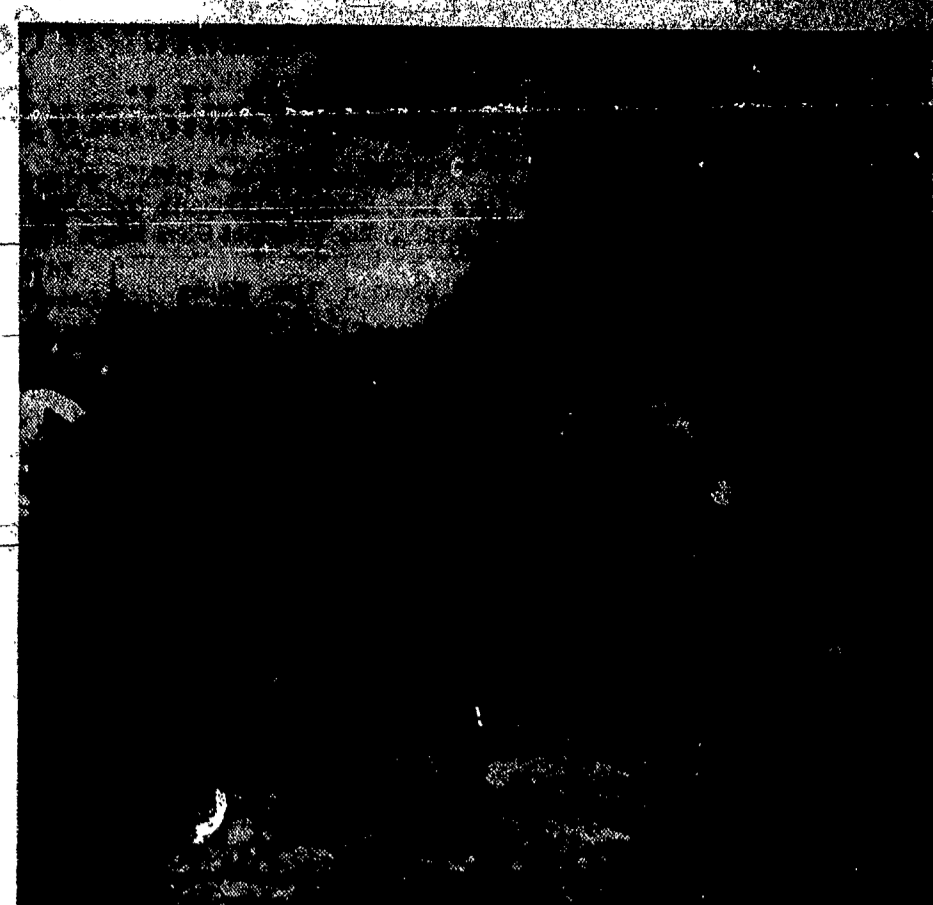
With no nuns to help, country pastors are also sacristans. Father Heisel fixes Tabernacle in Nunda's Holy Angels Church.



Lay women give valuable service in the rural parish. Here, Groveland Central School pupils receive religious instruction from Mrs. Joseph Pisano of Holy Name Parish.



Young Groveland farmer John Hammond tells his pastor the problems of running a 200-acre farm.



City-bred Father Heisel finds a new traffic problem in his rural parish when stubborn young calf blocks his car as priest makes his daily round of parish calls.

Paul Costabile — Courier Journal Photo

**Nunda And Groveland**

# 'City Bred' Priest Finds New Role In Rural Parish

By ROBERT SMETT

Courier-Journal Staff Writer

"Getting up with the chickens" is not just a casual phrase for the country pastor. Like his parishioners, who are mostly farmers, the rural parish priest bases much of his daily schedule on the routine life of the farm.

For "city bred" Father Raymond Heisel, pastor of Holy Angels Church, Nunda and Holy Name Church, Groveland, both in Livingston County, this change of routine has been another step in his much varied career.

FATHER HEISEL, ordained in 1935, has served as assistant pastor in Elmira and Rochester churches and as an Army chaplain overseas during World War II.

His little church in Groveland, perched on the side of a hill, is twenty-six stone steps up from the road. "You count them in the winter when they have to be shoveled," according to Father Heisel. The cornerstone of the church is dated 1894.

Most of the 400 families who attend Sunday Mass at Holy Name Church had grandparents present when the late Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid dedicated the mission over 62 years ago.

AS IN NUNDA, where there are about 60 Catholic families the size of the parish changes little through the years. Father Heisel's parish, covering over 150 square miles in Livingston County, has one of the longest "pulls" between churches in the Rochester diocese.

For Sunday Mass, Father must make the 14 mile drive between the parish house in Nunda to Groveland, where confessions are heard before

Mass, then back again to Holy Angels in Nunda for the noon-time Mass.

Father Heisel received permission this year to celebrate three Masses on Sundays. Priests of the Rochester Diocese are ordinarily allowed to celebrate only two Sunday Masses.

Often the "flats" or valley area between the two villages is flooded, which necessitates a detour of several miles, and ice and snow are a continual hazard in the winter.

Riding through the country between his churches, Father Heisel frequently stops to talk to a young farmer about the cost of seed or the prospective sale price of wheat, to check on an older parishioner's health or the expected arrival of a new parishioner.

MANY MILES are covered each day on pastoral errands calling for advice or consolation. Sometimes the way is blocked by a stubborn calf who refuses to move from the middle of the road or a flock of chickens strayed from their coop.

People in the country are "the most hospitable in the world," says Father Heisel. "Invitations to meals in the parishioners' homes are many and the simple faith and generosity of farming people is best felt in their own homes," he claims.

The Catholic Courier Journal is "one of the few associations with Catholic information and culture" available to the country people, according to the country pastor.

Since Father Heisel's appointment as pastor last October, he has founded a Men's

Club at Nunda where the membership, now numbering 30, meets monthly in the house of a parishioner since there is no church hall.

Both the Nunda church and Holy Name in Groveland have Rosary Societies. In Groveland, Mrs. Joseph Pisano "a pillar of the church," according to her pastor, is a lifetime member of the mission parish, and president of the Rosary Society. Once a week she teaches catechism to the Catholic children attending the Groveland Central School.

AT PRESENT, she has eleven youngsters of kindergarten, first and second grade age for instruction and is preparing several for reception of First Holy Communion. Father Heisel gives weekly religion classes for pupils in the higher grades.

Recent improvements in the Groveland Church include a remodeled vestry and altar and new sanctuary decorations. Father Heisel received permission this year for the mission church to keep the Blessed Sacrament through the week. Previously the church was used only on Sundays and parishioners had to go to Nunda for visits to Our Lord in the Tabernacle.

At the 104-year-old Nunda church, where interior refurbishing was completed four years ago, plans are underway for remodeling the church doors and repairing the rectory floors.

For his parishioners, Father Heisel has high praise. "They work hard — they are good people."

Southern Tier Edition

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## Lourdes Society Lists Breakfast

Members of the Rosary Altar Society of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Elmira will receive Holy Communion at the 8:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday (May 5) and attend their annual Communion breakfast following the Mass.

The breakfast will be served in the church hall and is being catered by Mark Twain Hotel.

Mrs. Charles A. Tucker of Rochester will be the guest speaker. Outgoing officers will be in charge of arrangements. They are: Mrs. Stuart Wheeler, president; Mrs. Joseph Costello, 1st vice president; Mrs. G. William Cheney, 2nd vice president; Mrs. Alfred Pucel, treasurer; Mrs. Leo B. Keenan, secretary.

Officers for the coming year will be announced at the breakfast.

## 'Our Lady Of Bell' Breakfast Slated

Annual Communion breakfast of "Our Lady of the Bell", comprising employees of the New York Telephone Co., will be held at the Mark Twain Hotel on Sunday morning, May 26, at 9:30 a.m.

The group will receive Holy Communion at the 8:30 Mass in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Elmira.

Mrs. John Clark and Mrs. Dorothy Lankow are co-chairmen. Reservations may be made by calling Elmira 39927.

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## Family Radio Rosary Set In May By Ithaca Groups

Ithaca—The Family Rosary will be broadcast over Station WTKO during May at 7:05 p.m. each evening for all the people of Ithaca area which the station serves. A family or group will say the rosary in person at the station each evening so that all the families of the parish may join in at home for the Rosary. The father of the family will lead the rosary and the other members will join to give the response.

THESE ROSARIES may be offered as a spiritual gift to the pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, Monsignor William Byrne, who is to celebrate the Golden Anniversary of his priesthood in June.

The following will take part in the program:

- Wednesday, May 1—Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Moore Jr. Family
- Thursday, May 2—Religious Education Class (Boynton Junior High Boys)
- Friday, May 3—Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Baldini Family
- Saturday, May 4—Mr. and Mrs. Walter O'Brien Family
- Sunday, May 5—Family Group
- Monday, May 6—Mr. and Mrs. Russell Fenton Family
- Tuesday, May 7—Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bailey Family
- Wednesday, May 8—Mr. and Mrs.

- Mark Garvey Family
- Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hoffmann Family
- Thursday, May 8—Religious Education Class (Boynton Junior High Girls)
- Friday, May 10—Mr. and Mrs. Leo Matzke Family
- Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Homlak Family
- Mr. and Mrs. Frank Faussey Family
- Saturday, May 11—Mr. and Mrs. Leo Gangl Family
- Mr. and Mrs. James McCarthy Family

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