

# Trumansburg Parish Marks 100 Years

REV. JULIUS SULLIVAN, O.F.M. CAP.  
St. Fidelis Priory

The hundred years history of St. James Parish, Trumansburg, was celebrated this Sunday by pastor, Father Francis A. Marks, and parishioners with an anniversary Mass offered by His Excellency Bishop Kearney.

Parish records show that the first Mass, said within what is now the limits of St. James was offered in 1814 at the residence of Joseph S. Skinner who lived about four miles west of the village.

There were three Catholics in Trumansburg in 1848 and it was not uncommon for them to walk or ride the lumber wagons to Ithaca, eight miles away, to hear Mass.

Father Michael Gilbride, pastor of Ithaca, made regular visits every six weeks to Trumansburg in 1851 and held services in private homes, among them the residences of Owen Donley and Larry Burney.

**THE WORK OF** Father Gilbride was taken up by Father William Gleason of Waterloo in 1854. By that time thirty families had moved into the vicinity and Father Gilbride purchased a site for a church on McLallen St. Two years later he exchanged the property for the Methodist church building on Main St.

The church, used by the Methodists since 1832, was remodeled and on April 18, 1857 was dedicated by the late Bishop John Timon of Buffalo. It was located on the lot now occupied by the home of Harry O'Connell.

Continuing as a mission of Waterloo, the parish received a new pastor, Father McCool, in 1858 who was succeeded for brief periods by a Father O'Farrell and a Father Toohy.

The Diocese of Rochester was formed in 1868 and among the immediate changes effected by the first bishop, Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid, was the return of Trumansburg to Immaculate Conception Church, Ithaca. Father Gilbert Nuonno served the mission from Ithaca until December 1872, when he became Trumansburg's first resident pastor.

**HE PURCHASED** the present rectory for \$3,500 and one thousand dollars of this amount, together with a lingering church debt of \$500, was paid during the first year. This same year Farmer Village (Interlaken) became a mission of Trumansburg.

Ground for a cemetery was purchased in April 1874 and was consecrated by Bishop McQuaid. The church basement was refinished for society meetings and parish entertainments.

Father Angelo Lugero became

pastor in 1879. He remained for about two and a half years and reduced the parish debt to \$500. He was succeeded in 1881 by the Rev. M. T. Madden.

Pastor for 28 years, Father Madden renovated the church and rectory and improved the cemetery. The church was moved from Main to Whig St., adjoining the rectory, in 1895. At the same time the church was entirely rebuilt and enlarged. Dedication ceremonies of the renovated church took place on Nov. 8, 1896 with Bishop McQuaid presiding.

**FATHER MADDEN** was transferred in 1909 and his successor was Father T. J. Harrington, who further beautified the church by installing stained glass windows, all of which were donated by parishioners.

In 1920 Father E. Joseph Esser was appointed pastor of St. James by the late Bishop Thomas F. Hickey. Father Esser established an Altar Society in 1922.



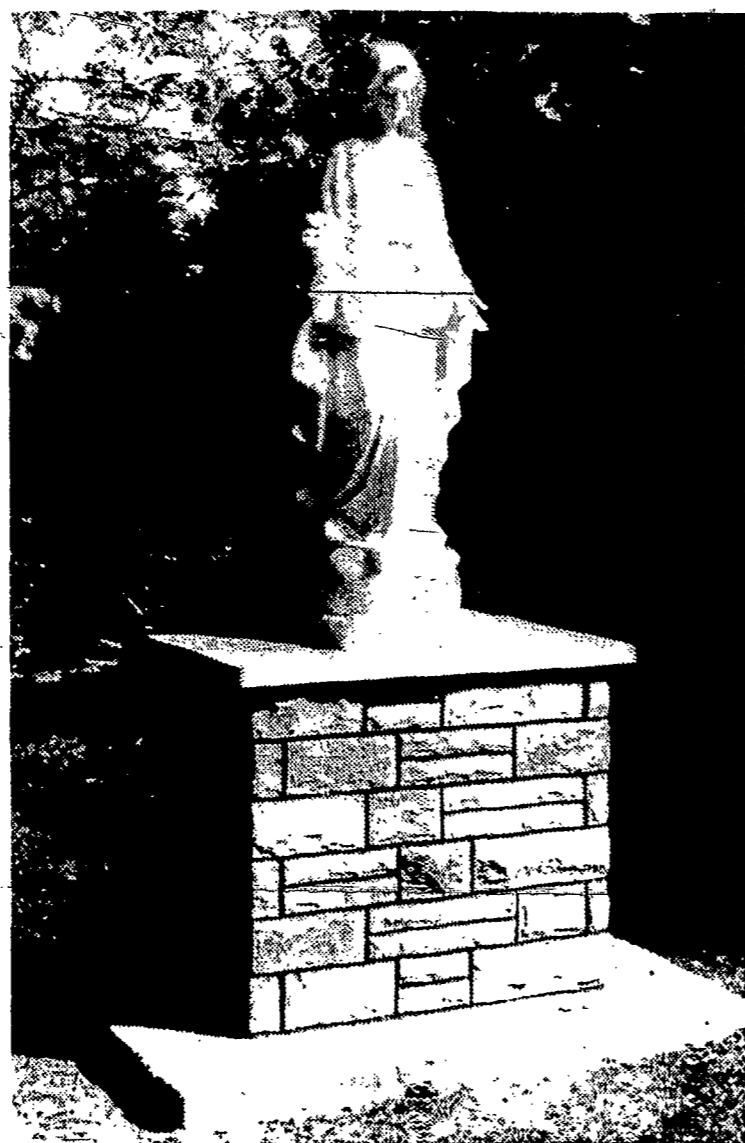
FATHER FRANCIS A. MARKS

During the next two years, the church was repaired and decorated and an electric organ was purchased.

Next pastor of the Trumansburg church was Father G. Stuart Hogan, assigned in 1935. Father Hogan remodeled the church basement and had it equipped with facilities for parish socials. The kitchen was furnished with a gas range and oil heater and running water was installed. The rectory was refurnished and heating systems were installed in the house and church.

Father Leonard A. Kelly took over the duties of pastor in 1945, having just returned from chapel in service with the U. S. Navy. That same year, a room in the rectory was converted into a classroom for released time religion classes. Eventually a classroom was released time religion classes. Eventually a classroom

Property for a parking lot on the corner of Whig and South



Statue of Our Lady of Grace commemorates 100th anniversary of St. James Parish.

room was built between the rectory and the church for this purpose.

**THE PARISH** celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of its church building in 1946 with Mass celebrated by His Excellency Bishop Kearney.

Fire broke out in the church basement in January 1949 and before the flames could be brought under control, the sanctuary, side walls and roof were completely destroyed.

A parish drive for funds was started the following month and closed with \$20,000 pledged by 65 families of the parish. Work started on the new church October 1949 and was completed six months later. The architect was John Latkin of Ithaca and the head carpenter was Ray Stamp of Trumansburg. Dedication ceremonies were held on June 11, 1950 with Bishop Kearney presiding.

Property for a parking lot on the corner of Whig and South



St. James Church and Rectory, Trumansburg

Since Father Marks' administration began, a parish debt of \$13,000 has been erased. Repairs and alterations have been made to the rectory including the installation of a new heating system, and the parking area was blacktopped.

Last summer the church of St. Francis in Interlaken a mission of Trumansburg since 1872 was put under the care of the Capuchin Fathers.

Parishioners have marked the hundredth anniversary of their parish this year by erecting a white marble statue of Our Lady of Grace on the St. James Church lawn.

## Painless Childbirth Expert To Tour U.S.

(Chicago — (NC) — The English doctor who received the commendation of His Holiness Pope Pius XII for perfecting a method of so-called painless childbirth will begin a tour of the U. S. on October 17.

He is Dr. Grantly Dick Read, who was mentioned in a January 1956 address in which the Pope gave moral approval to a new psychological method.

**THE PHYSICIAN**, who is not a Catholic, is generally credited with perfecting theories and techniques worked out by followers of Dr. Ivan Pavlov, Russian psychologist and physiologist.

## Greenland's First Solemn Mass

Thule (Air Force Base, Greenland) — (NC) — The first solemn Mass ever celebrated at Thule Air Base, the northernmost air base in the world, was recently offered here by three Air Force chaplains.

Celebrant of the Mass was Father (1st Lt.) Thomas J. Neumann of the Detroit archdiocese. The deacon was Father (Capt.) Stanley H. Klein of the Buffalo diocese and the subdeacon was Father (Capt.) Robert B. Adams of the Boston archdiocese.

Dr. Dick Read's tentative schedule includes a talk at Millard Fillmore Hospital, Buffalo, Nov. 7.

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- 31, 40—A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
- 35, 39—To wish you all the joys of the Christmas Season
- 25, 28—With every good wish for your happiness this holiday season
- 29, 30—May the Joy and Peace of Christmas always be with you

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