

Quiet Man Of Action

Frank Wolfe, well-known active Catholic lay leader and vice president of Timely Clothes, Rochester, is the subject of a feature article written by Henry Pierce in the July issue of Columbia, Knights of Columbus Magazine.

The following are excerpts from the article, which is entitled "Quiet Man of Action."

By HENRY PIERCE

CONTRARY to the published dictum of a noted locker room and pool hall philosopher, nice guys do not always finish last—or even far down the league. Out of the numerous cab drivers in Rochester, N.Y. (pop. 324,831), you are with No. 71 and you ask him if he knows Frank Wolfe. Says he: "I have not met Mr. Wolfe but I have heard a great deal about him."

That's the report all over town on this quiet man of action, an insurance member of Rochester Council No. 178 for 49 years, who, as vice president and treasurer, steers the operation of the \$20 million a year Timely Clothes business and its approximately 1,700 employees. This, formally, is his job. He undertakes, by the handful, other jobs beneficial to his church and his community and elicits none of them.

THERE IS a tradition in Rochester that no civic undertaking ever fails to reach its goal. Earlier this year, facing a simultaneous threat of recession and the sad sack look, the Rochester Community Chest optimistically set a goal of \$4 million. The campaign went over the top and chest president Richard Miller eagerly assigns a solid share of the credit to "quiet man" Wolfe, who has been a member of the important budget committee for eight years and serves on the chest's action committee with hospital and health needs.

"We just don't have time or place in this operation," says Mr. Miller, "for letterhead people. When we call a committee meeting, we always know that Frank Wolfe will be there and ready to work." That's the Wolfe story in a nutshell—a gentleman who's always there and ready to work.

The readiness will be indicated by mention of a few items on

the impossibly long list of his activities. He has been president of the Leavenworth League and the Rochester Diocesan Holy Name Society; he was president of the men's advisory board of St. Mary's Hospital and is now a trustee; he is a director of Rochester Catholic Charities and a trustee of St. Thomas More Church, where he was instrumental in raising funds to start the parish and carry on a successful two-year fight against a zoning restriction that threatened its existence; he is a member of the board of regents of St. John Fisher College, a trustee of the Rochester Chamber of Commerce and a director of the Lincoln Rochester Trust Company.

This is just a gentle introduction to the scope of Frank Wolfe's day-to-day interests; others will appear. Since he has a vast and charming disinclination to talk about himself, there must be recourse to some who have been associated with him in various projects.

AMONG such is Father Joseph Cirincione, pastor of St. Francis Assisi Church, whose rectory doorbell is embellished by a neatly typed card which counsels the restless visitor to "Ring once and be patient." The pastor's personal secret of success, however, is "Get a good idea and see Frank Wolfe."

Father had the good idea early in 1950—the daily evening radio broadcast of the Rosary for peace, to be joined in by families in their homes. He had difficulty getting his idea off the ground until he brought it to Frank Wolfe, who responded with an enthusiasm probably born of religious and meaningful incidence of Our Lady and her Rosary in his life.

The "Rosary for Peace" program went on the air over radio station WSAX, March 4, 1950, ran on free time during that Lenten season and has been on paid time every evening at 7 p.m. since.

Father Cirincione says: "I doubt that we ever would have been able to get started without Frank Wolfe and I know we could not have continued without him."

FROM THE beginning, Wolfe has handled the finances and the

manual labor on the bookkeeping chore. Father Cirincione, after eight years, still is obviously amazed that such a busy man regularly whips out to the rectory on a Saturday afternoon just to keep the records in order. Father suspects, however, that the book balancer in this case may be getting a celestial assist, since the intake from an annual bid for financial support has invariably been just about what is needed—never much less or much more.

In this connection, more than 300 employees of Timely, including some non-Catholics, gather around a small shrine of their own construction, during their lunch hour to recite the Rosary for the conversion of Russia and world peace. Frank Wolfe occasionally joins them in this devotion, which has continued since 1951, but disclaims any part in the inauguration of the practice.

The art of figuring happens to be Frank Wolfe's special talent. He says "I guess I'm just a methodical kind of person" and, despite his key position in Timely's production of men's suits, disclaims any ability to sew a button or to make a self-made man in ready-made clothes, but he won't take any such bow without his qualifying comment: "God gave me such gifts as I have. If I've tried to use them fairly well, that is His gift, too."

OVER THE years, many people in Rochester have become aware of the advantage of having this extra aid named Wolfe. This is a big job to be done. One who makes no bones whatever about this is Monsignor John S. Randall, editor of the Diocesan newspaper, The Catholic Courier-Journal, and a bit of a dynamo in his own right.

Early in 1955, as Diocesan Director of the Propagation of the Faith Society, the Monsignor found himself faced with the formidable assignment of directing arrangements for a "Mission Scenerama," which involved bringing together in Rochester missionary priests, nuns and lay brothers from all parts of the world, with exhibits of their missionary work, and arrangement for the participation of high Church dignitaries in the week-long program.

There was one other catch: Mission Scenerama was to be housed in the Rochester Community War Memorial, expansive and beautiful but not quite completed at the time and presenting some doubt that it would be ready to receive the mission program. So Monsignor Randall reached for Frank Wolfe, who was made chairman of the lay committee.

The building was ready, aside from some minor inconveniences, when, on October 16, 1955, the first public event was held there: the celebration of a Solemn Pontifical Mass by Bishop James E. Keane. In the seven days that followed, 152,000 people viewed "Mission Scenerama," including thousands brought to Rochester on special trains arranged for by Frank Wolfe and 1200 in the first passenger train to roll over Erie Division tracks in 20 years.

A FAIR question at this point is: What about Mrs. Wolfe? Who is she? And what does she do while her busy husband is off on his endless committee meetings? The answer is: she takes care of an eight-room house and, with classic and absolute determination, keeps out of her husband's affairs. Her public appearances with him have been limited to their presence at 7 a.m. Mass.



FRANK WOLFE
Featured in Knights of Columbus 'Columbia' magazine.

daily, for about the past 15 years.

As Loretta G. Weitz, she met Frank at a church supper when she was 17 and still in high school. They were married about five years later, on September 29, 1922, a date which, to his peril, he does not instantly recall. But neither can he tell his home telephone number without reference to Mildred Griep, who, with competence and amiability, screens Timothy's calls and presides over the switchboard. She and Mr. Wolfe are the only survivors of the original group and she recalls a few months seniority in her favor.

The Wolfes have one daughter, Mary Frances, who, as Sister Mary Catherine, O.P., is a contemplative nun at the Dominican Monastery of the Perpetual Rosary in Elmira, N.Y., where she has been since 1948. A graduate of Manhattanville, she was inclined to enter the religious life but was uncertain where to turn. At the time, Frank Wolfe's mother was dying of cancer and his prayer was that God would take her on some feast of Our Lady.

His prayer was answered. Mother Wolfe, a member of the Holy Rosary parish in Rochester, died on the feast of the Holy Rosary. Among spiritual cards that came to the family were some from the Monastery of the Perpetual Rosary and these strongly influenced the direction of Mary Frances' vocation.

When Frank Wolfe became a member of the Knights of Columbus in 1918, it was not in response to an engraved invitation. He says: "It was my own idea. I became a member because I believed it was the proper thing for a Catholic gentleman to do."

I wanted to be associated with other Catholic men in a useful way. I think the Catholic Advancing program is about the best project our Order has undertaken and I am proud, through my membership, to be a part of it."

MRS. WOLFE has been trying quietly, and without much hope of success, to persuade her husband that he is working too hard and ought to think about picking some of his in-laws out of the fire. He is inclined to agree that he should start giving more time to his only hobby—puttering around his house and garden. He feels that too few are asked to do too much in the way of church and community service. "There's plenty of good young timber around," he says, "but it needs to be sawed out. The way for young men to get along is to get out and meet people and get into things."

This is the advice of a man who might be called a gregarious introvert. He loves to be with people but you'd need a company of Marines to shove him into the spotlight. Frank Wolfe, the quiet man, is quite a man—the kind you'd be comforted to have in the pilot's seat when the gas gets low and the radio has conked out. He has a long record of getting the ship home.

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Doctors Answer Moral Questions

By JIM KELLY

San Francisco — (NC) — Catholic Action found its way into the convention of the American Medical Association here.

"What was it you wanted to know, Doctor? The morality of the rhythm method? How do Catholics feel about euthanasia? Should cancer patients be told?"

These and other questions, dealing with the ethics of medicine, received an answer, or a recommendation as to where one could be found, at a booth sponsored and staffed by members of the Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds.

IN FIVE DAYS visitors to the booth filled out some 1,000 cards requesting documented information about the Catholic teaching on problems of medical and surgical practice. Thousands of queries were answered on the spot.

"The most frequent question might surprise you," Dr. Gerald Griffin, of New York, said. "There is great professional interest in the moral side of dealing with cancer patients—whether terminal patients should be told of their medical condition."

The advice: Yes, unless a doctor has good reason to believe his patient is susceptible to immediate, perhaps fatal, physical shock.

Other popular queries: How do

Catholics feel about sex education? Will you explain the rhythm method so that I can advise my Catholic patients?

Some 20 Catholic physicians volunteered to man the booth during the week. It meant a sacrifice. Several missed professional sessions they would like to have attended.

FROM THE questions asked by non-Catholic M.D.'s, one impression lingered.

"All made it clear they wanted to be conscientious about not giving their Catholic patients advice that might violate the teachings of the Church," Dr. Griffin declared.

"We try to get across the idea that good medicine is good ethics. I believe we're succeeding, because thinking in the AMA, and articles in the AMA Journal, are beginning to reflect the fact that physicians recognize there are God-given moral principles which guide medical practice."



REV. CHARLES CURRAN

Ordination Set For Charles Curran

Charles E. Curran, son of Mr. and Mrs. John F. Curran of 433 Rocket St., members of St. Ambrose Parish, will be ordained for the Diocese of Rochester in Rome on July 13.

A graduate of Nazareth Hall, the future Father Curran studied at St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's Seminaries and at North American College in Rome.

Attending the ordination rites will be his parents, a brother and a sister, Kathryn, as well as other American visitors and clergy.

Following the ordination, he will say his first three Masses in the company of the Sisters studying in the North American College, at the Church of St. John at the Latin Gate and the third in St. Peter's at the "Altar of the Chair."

This summer, Father Curran and his family will tour Italy, Switzerland, France, Spain and Great Britain. After completing his studies next year, Father Curran will return to Rochester for diocesan assignment.

Wanted--Motorcycles For Yugoslav Priests

Rottenburg, Germany — (NC) — Yugoslav officials have agreed to permit the entry of used motorcycles to aid priests to serve the faithful, according to Msgr. August Hagen, Vicar General of the Rottenburg diocese.

The German Church official reported that recent communications received here from priests in communist Yugoslavia stress the heavy burden imposed on them by the acute shortage of priests there. The Red government has closed most of the seminaries and reduced the enrollment of students in theology. There have been a few ordinations in recent years, it was noted.

Msgr. Hagen has issued an appeal for used motorcycles to be sent to Yugoslav priests.

David Goldstein Noted Convert, Dies

Boston — (NC) — David Goldstein, 87, Catholic newspaper columnist and lecturer popularly known as "the lay apostle to the man in the street," died (June 30) in his apartment here.

He was baptized in the Catholic faith in May, 1905, at the Jesuit Church of the Immaculate Conception in Boston.

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Maryknoll Nuns Featured In World Fair Show

Brussels — (RNS) — A color sound film depicting some of the work performed by the Maryknoll Sisters in Pusan, Korea, is being shown at the Vatican City Pavilion in the World's Fair here.

The pavilion, known as Civitas Dei (City of God) includes a motion picture theater and an auditorium for the showing of movies about the Catholic Church and its far-flung missions.

THE MARYKNOLL film also has been shown at the fair's American Pavilion. It has been seen in the United States by TV program "The March of Medicine" on the NBC-TV national hour. The picture has been described as "warm and sympathetic."

Founded in 1912, the Maryknoll Sisters conduct missions in Asia, Latin America, Africa, the Pacific Islands and the United States. The sisters are social workers, teachers, catechists, nurses, doctors, and office and domestic workers.

Franciscan Pioneer Buried In Rome

Rome — (NC) — The remains of Fra Juniper, favorite companion of St. Francis of Assisi, were deposited in a new resting place here in the Church of Santa Maria in Araceli, with the pagantry and fanfare of two cities.

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