

Sacred Heart, Perkinsville

# Parish With Historical Background

By FRANK KELLY

The year 1836 was an important one for residents of the State of New York.

It was in that year that the first New Yorker, Martin Van Buren, was elected to the presidency of the United States.

IT WAS ALSO the year that the present Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish was founded in Perkinsville in Steuben County for a group of German immigrants who settled in this area in 1834.

In its 122 year history, this parish had three different names and has been in three different dioceses.

When it was founded Sacred Heart Church, then known as the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Most Holy Rosary, was in the Diocese of New York, whose bishop then was the Rt. Rev. John DuBois, third bishop of New York.

UPON the formation of the Diocese of Buffalo in 1871, the church in the little hamlet of Perkinsville came under the direction of the Ordinary of Buffalo, the Rt. Rev. John Timon.

The first church edifice was located on the top of Sandy Hill, just above the present town of Perkinsville, and served the towns of Dansville and Wayland as well as Perkinsville.

Father Peter Cakert was the first priest to serve the area, coming to Perkinsville in 1836. The Redemptorist Fathers, who staffed the parish for many years, first arrived in 1842 with the appointment of Father Benedict Eayer, C.S.S.R.

HOWEVER, it wasn't until July 4, 1851, that Sacred Heart had its first resident pastor. He was Father Steger, appointed by Bishop Timon on that date.

In 1850, the church was moved to its present location in the town and renamed the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Assumption.

The first Mass in the new church was celebrated by the Rev. A. Schwaiger on Nov. 30, 1850. This edifice served its predominantly German speaking parishioners until 1883 when the present church was built. The old building is still in use, however, serving as the town's general store and post office, being moved by the town's people so that the new church could be built.



INTERIOR BEAUTY of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Perkinsville.

The present church was renamed the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in 1884.

SACRED HEART was part of the Buffalo Diocese until Dec. 10, 1895, when Pope Leo XIII issued a brief making Steuben, Chemung, Tioga and Schuyler Counties part of the Rochester Diocese. This edict went into effect on Jan. 21, 1897.

At the time of the transfer, Father A. L. Huber was pastor. Present pastor, appointed there in 1934, is the Rev. Paul E. Tuite.

A NATIVE of Rochester, Father Tuite was educated at Holy Rosary School, St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's Seminaries and ordained in 1933.

Celebrating his silver jubilee year, Father Tuite displays an enormous amount of energy that belies the physical infirmities that have plagued him over the past several years.

At one time confined to Iola Sanatorium, Rochester, with a touch of tuberculosis, Father Tuite also had a heart condition. A diabetic, Father Tuite just recently came down with a case of bunions, for which he is currently undergoing treatment.

DESPITE ALL this, he has built a reputation for a hard worker among the people of the town and there isn't anything that they won't do for him.

He is kept busy supervising the running of the church's cemetery and the upkeep of the

parish in general, in addition to Memorial School after one of its moderating the various parish societies.

Sacred Heart has five societies. These are the Sacred Heart and Rosary Society, the Apostleship of Prayer, the Sodality and the Holy Childhood Sodality.

FATHER TUIE does not have too many conversions each year. This is due to the almost overwhelming predominance of Catholics in the town. Still predominantly German, about 95 percent are Catholic.

"Many of my older parishioners still say their prayers in German," Father Tuite said. "In fact, up until a few years ago if you visited this community and witnessed a ball game, the umpire would say 'raus mit' (get out), in throwing a player out of the game. He would also call balls and strikes in German."

The parish also boasts a Catholic School, named the Henkel



FATHER PAUL TUIE, pastor picks up the mail in Perkinsville Post Office, formerly the Church.



### APPROACHING Perkinsville Church

still farmers." Father Tuite said, "but a few work at the Garlocke Chair Factory at Wayland and at the Foster Wheeler machine foundry in Dansville. They are the two big industries in this area."

The parish has two big events each year. A festival every July 4 on the parish grounds and a turkey festival in the fall.

LIKE MOST rural towns, juvenile delinquency is unheard of in Perkinsville. "We have a few wild youngsters, but none of them get into any serious trouble," Father Tuite related.

Father Tuite is ably assisted in running the parish by Frank J. Morsch, his caretaker, who at 65 is the oldest parishioner, and Mrs. Elizabeth Wieland, his house-



PARISHIONERS (from left) John Engle, Joe Didas, Daniel Mark chat with pastor Father Paul Tuite.

### Geneva School

## St. Joseph Sisters To Run DeSales

The Sisters of St. Joseph will take over administration of DeSales high school, Geneva, Reverend Mother M. Helene, superior of the diocesan community, announced today.

Sister Marie Margaret, Latin instructor at the school, will be the new principal.

The Rev. John A. Morgan, principal since June, 1957, will take up new duties as assistant pastor of Assumption Church, Fairport.

ADMINISTRATION of the school has been a mutual project of the two Geneva parishes—St. Francis DeSales and St. Stephen's—since 1937.

Increasing enrollments and expanded courses of studies prompted the administrative change. It was said, to free the two parishes from the task of supervising the high school.

DESALLES HAS a current enrollment of 350 pupils, most of whom are graduates of the two Geneva parochial schools. Sisters of St. Joseph have taught at DeSales since its beginning.

The Geneva high school program originated simply as an extension of the St. Francis DeSales parochial school in 1912 and was awarded a New York State Regents charter the following year.

It was the first parish high school of the Diocese outside the city of Rochester.

Principals at DeSales have been as follows: Rev. John F. W. Mason 1918-1928; Rt. Rev. Msgr. Edward K. Ball, 1928-1939; Msgr. Edward K. Ball, 1939-1953; Rev. Raymond P. Nolan, 1953-1955; Rev. Joseph L. Hogan, 1955-1957; Rev. C. Richard Nangle, 1957-1957, and Father Morgan.

In 1930 the present middle section of DeSales high school was erected behind a wood frame house once used as a rectory for St. Stephen parish and then remodeled for library and laboratory use. The high school was maintained jointly by the two Geneva parishes from that date.

A DANGEROUS fire swept the wood structure in March of 1943 and students had to be crowded into the 1930 section for the duration of World War II.

The present front wing was completed in 1948 to add four new classrooms, library, science laboratory, and office to the existing facilities.

A \$142,000 combination gymnasium and auditorium received Bishop Kearney's blessing in 1951 to complete the building program.

Rev. Richard A. Hart, named this week by Bishop Kearney as chaplain of DeSales high school, will also serve as instructor in Religion and director of guidance for boys. Rev. John F. Duffy and Rev. Daniel Torney will continue as instructors in Religion at the Geneva high school.

### Graymoor Film On Loan In October

The motion picture, "The Story of Graymoor" will be available for parish and other groups during the month of October.

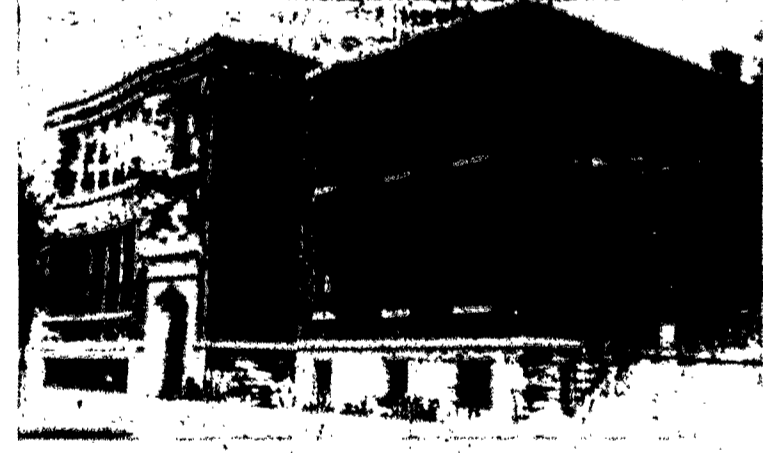
Anyone desiring to show this film produced by the Films of the Atonement at Graymoor, Garrison, N.Y., is asked to call James Kane, 148 Carlisle St., Rochester, GLenwood 3-1685-JL. The film will be loaned to the caller.

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