

Sodalists Will Attend School

Sodalities of the Diocese of Rochester will be represented at one of the nine different sessions of the 28th annual Summer school of Catholic Action sponsored by the National Sodality Service Center at The Queen's Work, St. Louis, Mo.

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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 1847, 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 Czarkent 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 Bayer, C.S.S.R.

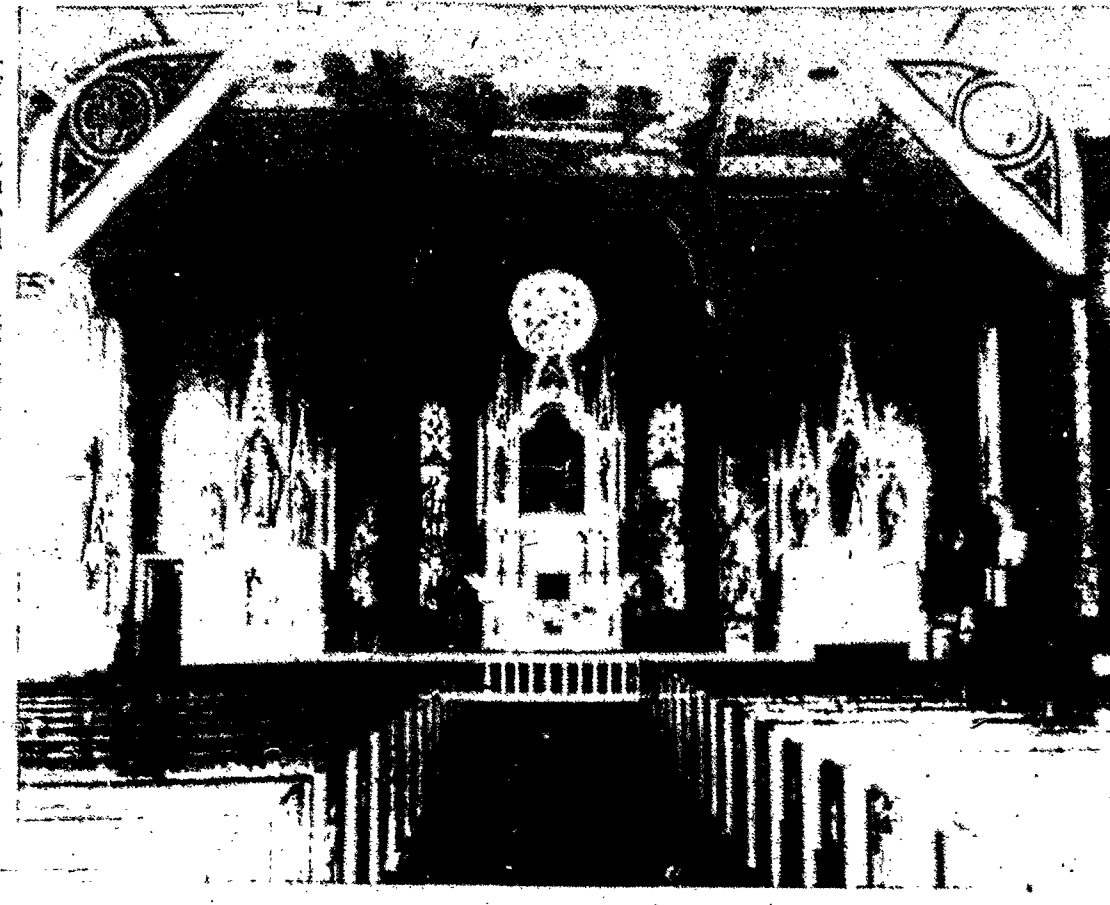
HOWEVER, IT wasn't until July 4, 1851 that Sacred Heart had its first resident pastor. He was Father Steger, appointed by Bishop Timon on that date.

In 1859, 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. 20, 1859. 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.

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, 1896, when Pope Leo XIII issued a brief making Steuben



INTERIOR BEAUTY of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Perkinsville.

County, Toga and Schuyler Counties part of the Rochester Diocese. This act went into effect on Jan. 21, 1897.

At the time of the transfer, Father A. L. Huter was pastor. Present pastor, appointed there in 1954, is the Rev. Paul E. Tuttle.

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

Celebrating his silver jubilee year, Father Tuttle 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 Tuttle also had a heart condition. A diabetic, Father Tuttle just recently came down with a case of bursitis, 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 moderating the various parish societies.

Sacred Heart has five societies. These are the Sacred Heart and Rosary Society, the Apostleship



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

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APPROACHING Perkinsville Church

of Prayer, the Sodality and the Holy Childhood Sodality.

FATHER TUTTLE 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 85 percent are Catholic.

"Many of my older parishioners still say their prayers in German," Father Tuttle said. "In fact, up until a few years ago if you visited this community and witnessed a ball game, the umpire would say 'trous 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 Memorial School after one of its founders.

Started sometime in the late 1890s, the school is run by the Sisters of St. Joseph, under the supervision of Sister M. Mechtilde, S.S.J.

Father Tuttle also boasts that his parish is the only one in the Rochester Diocese to have a 101 percent Catholic Courier Journal subscription figure.

"Every family in the parish subscribes and in addition I took out a subscription for a priest-friend of mine who is in Georgia," he said.

THE TOWN of Perkinsville is named after Benjamin Perkins, one of the original settlers of the area. Perkinsville was once an important stop of the Lake Ontario Railroad, but has always essentially been a farming community.

"Most of my parishioners are still farmers," Father Tuttle 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 Tuttle related.

Father Tuttle is ably assisted in running the parish by Frank J. Morsch, his caretaker, who at 85 is the oldest parishioner, and Mrs. Elizabeth Wieland, his housekeeper, who is "21 plus" but admits to being "one of the oldest parishioners."

ACTUALLY, THE parish may even be older than 122 years, since Father Tuttle's church records go back as far as 1824, but there is no mention of a priest coming before 1836.

The people of his parish "are delightful," Father Tuttle said. "I don't think that any other people can beat them for their religious fervor."

Father Tuttle has 99 families in his parish and has almost 40 communicants at weekday Mass. There is no debt on the parish and the people contribute generously for whatever improvements need to be done.

Corning Weddings

Coming — The marriage of Clara Mary Diana, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Diana, of 49 Ellsall Avenue, and Charles Edward Cornell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cornell Sr. of 181 North Franklin Street, took place May 24 at 10 a.m. in St. Vincent de Paul's Church.

The Rev. James Slattery, assistant pastor, performed the single ring wedding service. Traditional wedding music was played at the organ by Mrs. Thomas Ward.

Attending the couple were Miss Laura Henry and Charles Huyler.

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