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Cohocton Parish Nears Centennial Observance

(Continued from Page 7)

and Irish descent in the parish now, but they still are in the minority," Father Sturmer said.

Father Sturmer, a native of Rochester where he attended Holy Redeemer School prior to his studies at St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's Seminaries, has been pastor here since 1951.

Ordained to the priesthood on June 6, 1925, he served as an assistant at SS. Peter and Paul, St. Andrews, Rochester, St. Michael's, Rochester, St. John the Baptist, Elmira and St. Francis Xavier, Rochester, before being made pastor of St. Januarius Church in Naples.

PASTOR in Naples for 15 years, Father Sturmer succeeded the Rev. William F. Frank, Cohocton pastor, who died in 1951.

Farming is the major industry in this village—just as it is in most of the other communities in

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the gateway to the Southern Tier. And, like in all small farm towns, juvenile delinquency is pretty much unheard of here.

St. Pius Parish, which has about 80 families in it, once had a parochial grade school back in the 18th century, but because of the smallness of the community, found that it could not be supported and so it was closed.

"This does not mean that the people didn't want it," Father Sturmer said, "but the expense of the upkeep of the church along with that of the school was too much of a financial burden to maintain, so the school had to be closed."

But the lack of a school has not meant that the people have lost their religious fervor.

"I conduct release time classes both here and in Avoca and I find the children have a firm conviction in their faith which they obviously got from being brought up in good Christian homes," Father Sturmer added.

"The people of St. Pius Parish are also very generous in their contributions," he related. "Whenever there is a need for some improvement, they dig deeper into their pockets to provide the money that's needed. Of course, their ordinary contributions are also a reflection of their deep-rooted faith."

IN ADDITION to teaching the release time classes, Father Sturmer moderates the Ladies Sodality and the Apostleship of Prayer organization.

But a large part of his time is devoted to the maintenance of the parish.

"When you are a country priest, you have to be a plumber, painter and general all-around handyman," he said. "That he succeeds in being all these things is attested by this reporter."

When the Courier photographer, Paul Contestable, and I were down to see him, Father Sturmer was busy painting the inside of his rectory—and doing the kind of a job that a professional painter would envy.

GENERALLY SPEAKING, the number of Catholics remain the same.—About one-third of the village is Catholic, Father Sturmer said.

"In the summer we get a few extra people at Sunday Mass," he related. "This is due mainly to the four motels that are located in the village area."

Those people who do not farm work in the milk processing plant in Cohocton and a few work in Dansville and Wayland.

When not busy with his parish, Father Sturmer usually spends his off-time fishing, of which he is an avid fan. "The only trouble I find is no companion to go with," he added.

But like St. Peter, he finds himself at home whether a fisher of fish or as a fisher of men.

Scholarship Offered By Corning Alumni

Corning—A one year scholarship covering tuition to Notre Dame High School in Elmira for the coming school year is offered by the Catholic College Alumni Association from funds raised through the recent sponsorship of a movie.

Students in the Corning area may qualify for consideration in winning this award by submitting a letter citing reasons for wanting to attend Notre Dame High School and need for assistance.

Letters will be directed to William Lowry, chairman of the Scholarship Committee, 111 Bridge Street, and must be received before Sunday, Aug. 24, for review by the committee.

A winner will be selected on the basis of worthiness of the candidate and will be announced Monday, Aug. 25.

Open House Slated At ND Retreat House

An Open House at Notre Dame Retreat House, 246 Alexander St., Rochester will be conducted Sunday, August 31 from 1:30 to 5 p.m. according to Charles Govey, president of the Laymen's Retreat League.

High points of interest will be the chapel and the new prayer garden blessed by His Excellency Bishop Kearney and dedicated to the late Father Thomas Sanderson, Redemptorist Father who did much to spread the lay retreat movement here.

Friends and relatives who have asked to inspect the retreat house in Rochester will be guests of the Laymen's Retreat League. The Honorary Laymen are in charge of the house.

Villagers Rally To Refurbish Guardian Angel School Unit



CLEANING, repairing and repainting of St. Mary division of Guardian Angel School in Dansville was undertaken by parishioners during the past month. Here three of the many volunteers add their contribution to the refurbishing of the school. From left are Edward Schledorn, Mrs. Flora Welch and Joseph Malone.

Jacob G. Welch, Noted Attorney, Of Corning, Dies

Corning—The funeral of Atty. Jacob G. Welch, 53, of 145 Decatur St., former city clerk, assistant state attorney general and holder of several other city, state, judicial, civic and church affiliations, was held Saturday morning, Aug. 16.

Atty. Welch, who is a former chairman of the Democratic City Committee, among several honors bestowed on him, died the previous Tuesday, Aug. 12, in Kailspell Hospital in Montana.

Following prayers at the residence, a Solemn High Mass was celebrated at 11 o'clock at St. Vincent de Paul's Church.

THE REV. WILLIAM REED, former assistant pastor, celebrated the Mass. The Rev. John Brill, assistant pastor, was deacon and the Rev. Thomas Brennan, pastor of St. Mary's Church was sub-deacon. The Rev. Joseph Guilfoill, pastor; the Rev. Harold F. Rogers, pastor of the Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary; and the Rev. William C. Cannon, pastor at St. Patrick's Church, were all in the sanctuary.

Active bearers were all attorneys here: Joseph Nasser, Douglas Caldwell, Leland Bryan, Frank Swain, Louis Nessel and Malcolm Sherman.

Twelve additional members of the Steuben County Bar Association acted as an honorary escort at the church.

Mr. Welch resided at 145 Decatur Street. He was a partner with his brother, Attorney Vincent J. Welch, in the practice of law.

Mr. Welch was born in Corning at 19 East Market St., April 16, 1905.

He was graduated from St. Vincent de Paul's School and Northside High School. He later attended Niagara University and the University of Michigan and the University of Buffalo. He received his law degree from St. John's Law School at Brooklyn in 1934.

Well known as a lawyer, Mr. Welch was also an enthusiastic participant in a variety of civic affairs. He was a member of the Corning Lodge of Elks, Corning Council Knights of Columbus, St. Vincent de Paul's Holy Name Society. At one time he was active in the Theatre Guild here.

He was active in the affairs of St. Vincent's Church and was its legal adviser. He was chairman of the drive to raise funds for the new church in 1954 and at one time served as president of the Holy Name Society.

He was a member of the Steuben County Bar Association, the Federation of Western New York State Bar Associations, and Corning City Bar Association. He was named a police commissioner in 1935 by Mayor Joseph L. Andrews and served in this capacity until last year.

MRS. VERONICA MARKS Corning—The funeral of Mrs. Veronica Marks of Albany, formerly of Corning, was held Tuesday morning, Aug. 12, with prayers at the A. W. Bell and son funeral home here and Requiem Mass celebrated by the Rev. Ambrose Ruppert of Oswego in Corning's St. Mary's Church.

Father Ruppert was assisted by the Rev. James Malley, assistant pastor of St. Mary's Church, at the committal in St. Mary's Cemetery. Bearers were: Christopher Cassidy, William Cassidy, Michael Logue, Ralph Fingar and William Moore of Corning and Thomas Supple of Elmira.

Mrs. Marks was graduated from St. Mary's School, Corning Free Academy and Rochester General Hospital School of Nursing. She received her bachelor of science degree in Public Health at Syracuse University and her Master's degree at Harvard University.

Since 1951 she had been a consulting nurse in the New York State Health Department at Albany. She was a major in the Nurses Corps in World War Two and served for three years in England and Germany.

Dansville—A major renovation of the parish school has been undertaken by parishioners of St. Mary Church in Dansville. Painting, cleaning and general refurbishing of the little red school house has occupied the spare hours of many of the parishioners since mid-July.

Known as St. Mary's division of Guardian Angel School, the school conducts a kindergarten and grades 2, 4, 6 and 8. Grades 1, 3, 5 and 7 are taught at the other Catholic school in Dansville, located in St. Patrick Parish.

The patter of little feet had taken its toll of the old school building at St. Mary's down through the years. Walls, ceilings and floors were all in need of repair and repainting.

RESPONDING to the invitation of their pastor, the Rev. John M. Merklinger, 46 men attended the initial meeting on July 21. After a tour of the building, these fathers and grandfathers banded together to volunteer their time to refurbish the school.

Under the supervision of Donald Burke, a seminarian from St. Joseph Seminary in Tonawanda who is aiding the pastor during the summer months, work was begun.

Soon the badly cracked plaster walls and ceilings were repaired and ready for painting. The floors were sanded and ready for refinishing.

AS BURKE rallied a small crew around him in the daytime to plaster, wash and scrub, other men volunteered their time in the evening and on weekends. Working in cooperation with an interior decorator of a large paint company, the young seminarian met each volunteer with a paint brush or roller as he entered the school.

During the past week the men of the parish have turned the final phase of readying the school into the hands of the Christian Mothers Society. The women have come in twos and threes and in large groups to clean the windows and put the finishing touch on the building.

Father Merklinger expressed his appreciation to the many men and women who volunteered their time to the many who contributed for paint and supplies, to a local merchant who donated educational toys for the kindergarten, and to the public school for the use of the scaffolds.

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