

# Auburn Priest Keeps Dachau Promise

By MARY NYDER

Auburn — Three tributes in stone to Our Lady built in this area by a Carmelite Priest attached to the Carmelite Monastery have a special significance.

They are three "sermons in stone" erected by Father Francis Marianus Nowakowski, O. Carm., in thanksgiving for deliverance from the Nazi concentration camps at Auschwitz and Dachau.

A NATIVE of Poland, Father Marianus well remembers his first solemn Mass, for on that day, 19 years ago, hostilities broke out between Poland and Germany, thus starting the Second World War.

Father Marianus left his village immediately to return to the Carmelite Monastery in Krakow—not knowing that it would be 19 years before he would be able to re-visit his village and be reunited with members of his family.

During this space of time, Father Marianus would face death many times in the infamous concentration camps created by the fanatic dictator, Adolph Hitler. He was also to be blessed with dreams in which Our Lady appeared, which seemed to guarantee his personal safety.

AFTER RETURNING to the Krakow Monastery, he and the other Carmelite priests helped with the evacuation of refugees that fled their way in attempting to get away from the scourge of Hitler.

Shortly afterward however, the Carmelite priests became the victims of Nazi terrorism and were thrown into concentration camps.

It was while he was in a box car on the way to Auschwitz, that Our Lady first appeared to him in a dream. He saw himself lying in a ditch, when Our Lady came to his aid and helped him up.

"I opened my eyes expecting to find myself on the beautiful green grass at Our Lady's feet, but there I was in the crowded, dirty box car," he said.

On that trip to the concentration camp were 44 priests from the Krakow Monastery. Of these, only three, including Father Marianus, survived.

HIS SECOND dream of the Blessed Virgin occurred after the terrible death of one of Father's brother Carmelites. His head was literally smashed in with bricks. This left Father Marianus the only priest with three young Carmelite scholastics.

Sleeping on damp floors that brought sickness and discomfort to both young and old, Father Marianus again saw the Virgin in a dream standing on a pedestal which was on a mound carpeted with the tender green grass of Springtime.

After five years in the camp, Father Marianus' health finally broke and he was sent to Dachau—where there was only one exit for internees; the horrible gas ovens.

It was at this infamous camp that about 2,000 Polish Catholic Priests were executed, according to figures published in Osservatore Romano.



'SERMONS IN STONE' Fathers Francis Marianus Nowakowski, O. Carm., stands next to one of three shrines he constructed in honor of Our Lady for his deliverance from the Nazi concentration camp at Dachau. This one is in Auburn at the Whitefriars Monastery there. (A. G. Tarby Photo)

The night before his scheduled execution, Father Marianus again saw the Mother of God in a dream. She again seemed to indicate to him that he was going to be rescued by Her.

AND THEN there occurred what Father calls "the miracle of our rescue" for on April 29, 1945 just about one hour before his scheduled entrance into the gas chamber, 13 Americans appeared before the gates of Dachau, thus heralding the advance of the Army.

In this unit were 11 soldiers, a Catholic chaplain and an Army nurse. The arrival of the Army at Dachau and their flashing to the world of the brutality there, of "man's inhumanity to man" is well known from films, books and various articles.

The day of the full emancipation was the first day of the month of Mary and Father Marianus recounts that the freed prisoners gratefully assembled for Mass and May devotions.

The difficulty which the priests and lay people encountered in the practice of their religion has been recounted many times, but the constant surveillance by the German guards, the bone crushing labor demanded of the internees, the innumerable risks did not deter the faithful.

IT WAS WHILE he was undergoing the torture and confinement in the concentration camps that Father Marianus resolved

to build a shrine to Our Lady in the pose that he had seen her.

Thus he built the three shrines in the Auburn area. One can be seen on the grounds of Whitefriars Monastery on South St., Auburn; a second at St. Mary's Church, Skaneateles, and the third at New York Mills, a community northeast of Utica.

Built of fieldstone, painstakingly gathered from the surrounding countryside and constructed by hand during time allotted for recreation, these shrines are indeed a labor of love and gratitude to Our Blessed Lady.

THIS HE HAS done during his stay at Whitefriars in Auburn. These lovely shrines to Our Lady are Father's methods of thanking and honoring Our Blessed Mother.

At the same time he intensely hopes that the lessons of love which they silently preach to us will cause us to turn to Mary, to love and honor her, to love all mankind for her sake and that of Her Son and to ask her to be as loving a mother to us as she has been to Father Marianus.

In his own words Father Marianus' message is: "Whenever you pass one of my shrines to Our Lady, pause for a short visit for I am sure that Mary will give peace to your heart. She will help you to forget and forgive injustices, even those of such enemies as mine who brought suffering and death to so many. If you remain before the shrine, Mary so silently whispers to your heart of her love and the love of Her Divine Son for all that you can forgive and forget even your worst enemies."

## Nursing School Lists 46 Frosh

Forty-six freshmen will enter St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing on Sept. 2, to begin their three-year basic nursing program on the following day. These students, who will reside in the Edward J. Dunn Memorial Residence, represent 19 public high schools and seven Catholic high schools.

They were selected from a total of 110 applicants to this school, which offers a professional nursing program leading to a diploma in nursing. The preliminary period of 26 weeks include basic science courses and studies in religion, psychology, sociology and fundamentals of nursing practice and terminates in capping ceremony in the chapel located in the nurses' residence.

During the clinical period of two and one-half months the nursing student receives theory and practice in medical and surgical nursing, obstetric and pediatric nursing and in tuberculosis and psychiatric nursing. The last semester of the nursing program offers the senior students the opportunity to develop technical skills and the ability to assume broader professional responsibility.

THE INCOMING freshman class will bring the enrollment of the School of Nursing to 116 students. Twenty-four nursing students from Nazareth College will increase the student body to 140 students.

Mrs. Mary Cain of Lowman, New York, will join the faculty of the School of Nursing as an assistant instructor in the physical and biological sciences. A graduate of Arnot Ogden Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, Mrs. Cain holds a bachelor's degree in science from Elmira College and was formerly a member of the faculty of St. Mary's School of Nursing, Evansville, Ill.

## Corning Parochial School Remodeling Scheduled

Corning — Work on remodeling and renovating of the north building of St. Mary's elementary school is expected to start in the near future, subject to approval of bids opened last week and signing of contracts, according to the Rev. Thomas F. Brennan, pastor.

The low bid for the general contract was entered by W. E. Granger & Sons of Elmira. Other low bids came from John C. Dineen of Corning, plumbing; Harry E. Rising of Corning, electrical work; and C. R. Evans Corporation of Elmira, heating.

The bids were opened at the office of the architects, Conidine & Haskell, at Elmira. Amounts of the low bids and the names of those entering higher bids were not made public.

The bids must be reviewed and approved by the Building Commission of the Diocese of Rochester, before contracts can be awarded. This, Father Brennan said, is not expected to require a great deal of time.

FIRST PHASE of the construction program, which is covered by the bids opened Thursday, consists of remodeling the north building and installing complete new electrical, heating, and plumbing systems. New windows through the building are also planned.

No date has been set for the completion of this phase of the project. When it is completed, pupils from the oldest building will take temporary quarters in the north building, and the older structure will be razed. Under another contract, a new building with an eight-room L-shaped wing will be erected on the site.

AS ANNOUNCED previously, the first phase is to consist of remodeling and renovation of the north building of St. Mary's School, the main floor of which is occupied by a gymnasium with an entrance on West First Street. Complete new electrical, heating, and plumbing systems are planned, as well as new windows throughout the building and an entire modernization on this wing.

When the first phase is completed, the second phase of the program will be started under another contract to be awarded later. This phase will consist of razing the original school building, which faces State Street, and the construction of a new building on its site. The latter will be an eight-room L-shaped wing. It is planned to provide temporary class rooms in a large hall in the north building and in the basement, and pupils who have been using the oldest building will move into these when the remodeling phase is completed.

## Ladies' Society Monthly Communion

Members of the Sacred Heart Ladies Society of St. Anthony's parish, Elmira will observe Holy Communion at the 1:00 Mass on Sunday.

The regular monthly meeting of the group will be held in the annex on Washington Ave. on Tuesday, Sept. 2 at 7:30 p.m.

## St. Thomas Institute Sets Lecture Series

The Saint Thomas Institute announces the opening of its Fall series of doctrinal lectures for Catholic laymen. All adult Catholics are invited to enroll in one or other of the courses.

TWO COURSES are being offered this year: I—Sacraments; Lectures by Rev. William M. Hart, Ph.D. II—Apologetics; Lectures by Rev. Joseph L. Hogan, S.T.D. Father Hart and Father Hogan are members of the faculty of Saint Bernard's Seminary.

Both courses will be conducted on Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. beginning Sept. 18 and continuing through Nov. 20.

All lectures are to be given at Cutler Union, 550 University Ave., Rochester. The registration fee is \$10, or \$12 for husband and wife who enroll together.

All registrations and inquiries should be addressed to: The Saint Thomas Institute, Saint Bernard's Seminary, 2260 Lake Ave., Rochester 12.

## Top Enrollment Scheduled For Elmira Schools

Parochial schools will open in Elmira on Wednesday, Sept. 4 with the largest enrollment in history.

This new total represents an increase of 7% over last year's figures and includes a registration of 2,678 students in the seven parochial schools and 514 in Notre Dame high school.

Our Lady of Lourdes grammar school will start its second year of operation with a kindergarten and grades 1 through 5. Notre Dame high school begins its fourth year showing a steady increase in enrollment with 143 freshmen, 156 sophomores, 145 juniors and 100 seniors.

The schools will be staffed by 73 Sisters and 13 lay teachers. Break down of the registration by schools, with 1957 figures given first are as follows:

Notre Dame High School, 513; St. Patrick, 360, 432; St. Mary, 700, 740; St. Anthony, 400, 400; St. Peter and Paul, 325, 335; St. Casimir, 355, 330; St. Cecilia's, 140, 167, and Lady of Lourdes, 196, 256.

Rev. Francis J. Reilly, pastor of St. Mary's church, Horseheads stated that the new parish school, in the final stages of planning, is expected to open in September of next year.

## CCD Vacation Schools Show More Pupils

A total of 454 children, an increase of 159 over last year, attended the Religious Vacation Schools conducted under the auspices of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, according to Rev. Albert H. Schnackey, diocesan director.

Fifty areas in the Diocese of Rochester were provided with these vacation schools, Father Schnackey reported. Corpus Christi, Rochester; St. Alphonsus, Auburn; St. Anne, Hornell, and St. Joseph, Campbell, were new this year.

The number of parishes and children attending religious vacation schools in 1958 follows:

Rochester, Corpus Christi, 55; St. Ambrose, 83; St. Patrick, 124; Addison, 76; Auburn (St. Alphonsus), 80; Aurora, 84; Union Springs, 37; Campbell, 41; Cats, 50; Red Creek, 50; Clifton Springs, 93.

Savannah, 50; Dryden, 134; Elmira Heights, 132; Genesee, 91; Henrietta, 341; Rush, 82; Honeyoye Falls, 123; Mendon, 85; Hornell (St. Ann), 198.

King Ferry, 80; Ludlowville, 64; Leicester, 135; Fiffard, 20; Redox, 35; Livonia, 110; Livonia Center, 47; Homery, 60; Lyons, 150; Marion, 45; Port Byron, 65.

Moravia, 84; Owasco, 45; Newark, 76; Nevada, 53; Groveland, 20; Ontario, 173; Ovid, 98; Palmyra, 184.

Dundee, 50; Phelps, 107; Scipio, 160; Scottsville, 94; Shortsville, 180; Stanley, 70; Trumansburg, 85; Interlaken, 40; Watkins Glen, 175; Weedsport, 99; Wolcott, 62.

Father Muckle also served as general councillor in the Congregation of St. Basil from 1932-36. He holds the honorary degrees of LL.D. from Assumption University and D. Litt. from the University of Western Ontario. He has been a member of the Royal Society of Canada for many years.

He has spent most of his religious life in Canada, with the exception of a few years spent at the order's high school in Houston, Texas.



REV. JOSEPH MUCKLE

## Father Muckle Marks Golden Jubilee

Rev. Joseph T. Muckle, C.S.B., the oldest American Basilian Father, celebrated his 50th anniversary in the Congregation of St. Basil on Aug. 15 in Toronto. He is the first American Basilian to mark his golden jubilee.

The day of his golden jubilee, Father Muckle spent quietly for he was on his annual retreat with the Toronto Basilians.

Father Muckle has three brothers, who are priests: Rev. John F. Muckle, pastor emeritus of St. Thomas Church, Irondequoit; Rev. Charles E. Muckle, pastor of St. Agnes Church, Avon, and Rev. William Muckle, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Toronto. Their sister is Sister Mary Charles Muckle of the Sisters of Mercy. Their home is in Stanley, N.Y.

THE JUBILAEAN was born in 1887 in Stanley, professed in 1903 and ordained in 1915.

Professor of Medieval Latin Literature at the Institute of Medieval Studies at the University of Toronto, Father Muckle assisted in the establishment of the "periodical," "Medieval Studies," to which he was an early contributor as he is now.

Father Muckle also aided in bringing the Basilian Order into the Diocese of Rochester, during the time that Edward Cardinal Mooney, present Cardinal-Archbishop of Detroit, was the fourth Bishop of Rochester.

THE BASILIAN Fathers now direct Aquinas Institute and St. John Fisher College in this Diocese.

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