

Father Ralph Meyer

Pastor In A College Town

By FRANK KELLY

The Fall season in Western New York is one of rich color and splendor and it is the season when many families take advantage of beautiful weather to drive about to capture the beauty of the season.

One such place a family could drive to and derive much pleasure is the town of Aurora in Cayuga County.

There they would not only be engrossed with the majesty of the scenery, but with historical interest that lies in this small college town.

ONE OF THE oldest villages in central New York, it is located on the eastern side of Cayuga Lake and was one of the first sites that French Jesuit Missionaries came to Catholicize the Indians.

The four missionaries, Fathers Joseph Chaurmont, Rene Menard, Stephen de Carheil and Peter Raffoix, came here in August 1656, to teach the Cayuga Indians.

Now, 300 years later, Father Ralph Meyer, present pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Aurora, and St. Michael's Church, Union Springs, exhibits the same courageous spirit seen in those first missionaries as he goes about these small towns in spreading the faith.

APPOINTED HERE in 1953, Father Meyer has the type of temperament that seems suited for a small town—although he is a native of a big city—Rochester.

Quiet, unassuming, but with a charm that would make a person that can only boast of one enemy—the devil.

A much-loved priest wherever he has been assigned since his ordination in 1924, Father Meyer in his own quiet way has won the admiration of his fellow priests in their saying that he is a "priest's priest."

The 15th pastor in this parish that was founded in 1841, in history published in 1870 said that it was organized in 1833, but the first Mass was not said until Jan. 25, 1841. Father Meyer will celebrate his 33th anniversary as a priest next June.



EXTERIOR VIEW of St. Patrick's Church, Aurora, shows that the edifice follows the classical lines of churches built prior to 1950.

FATHER WILLIAM QUIGLEY was the first pastor in this town that was settled by Irish immigrants. He came about 1851. Priests from Auburn said Mass previous to his appointment in Aurora.

During Father Nicholas Byrne's pastorate the succeeded Father Quigley, Mass was celebrated in the home of Frank S. Brightman. The home is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. George Bucknam who are parishioners at St. Patrick's.

The first church property was purchased during Father Byrne's pastorate on what is called Dublin Hill. Father Byrne also completed St. Michael's Church in Union Springs.

One of the pastors of St. Patrick's, Rev. Thomas Hendrick, was later named first Bishop of the Diocese of Cebu in the Philippine Islands. During his term as pastor here, Bishop Hendrick purchased the cemetery property on Franklin Hill, Aurora.

Father Stephen Byrne, 11th pastor at St. Patrick's, cleared off the church debt and the parish celebrated the golden jubilee of the dedication of the present church in Aurora.

THESE ARE TWO former pastors of St. Patrick's still serving the diocese. They are Father Henry Doorbecker, who is at St. Michael's Church, Newark, and Father John Neary, present pastor of St. Michael's Church, Lyons.

Father Meyer succeeded the late Father William Ayres, who resigned his pastorate in 1953 because of ill health. He died on Jan. 23, 1957.

DURING THE regular school year, Father Meyer gives release time instruction to the grade and high school children. Father Meyer also reorganized the Holy Name Society and the League of the Sacred Heart and the Altar and Rosary Society also has received a considerable boost since his arrival.

That his efforts as Aurora and Union Springs have paid off in dividends is evident.

Of the nine young people eligible to go to high school, seven attend Mt. Carmel High in Auburn and the other two attend their release-time instruction faithfully.

"One of the students has to get up at 5:30 every morning in order to go to school, but her parents are so intent about their children getting a Catholic education, that they convinced her it was worth it."

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1958

**All Saints Day
Masses Set In Elmira**

Schedule of Masses in the Elmira area for the Feast of All Saints, Saturday, November 1, a holy day of obligation, is:

- St. Mary's — 5:30, 7, 8, 9, 12:15 noon and 5:30 p.m.
- St. Patrick's — 5:30, 6:16, 7, 8, 9, 12:15 noon and 5:30 p.m.
- Our Lady of Lourdes — 6, 7, 12:15 noon and 5:30 p.m.
- St. Anthony's — 7, 8, 12:15 noon and 7:30 p.m.
- St. Cecilia's — 5:30, 7:15, 8:15, 12:15 noon and 5:15 p.m.
- St. Casimir's — 5:30, 7 and 8 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.
- St. Peter and Paul's — 7:30, 12:15 noon and 5:30 p.m.
- St. John the Baptist — 7, 8 and 12:10 noon and 5:15 p.m.
- St. Charles Borromeo — 6, 7, 8, 12:15 noon and 7:30 p.m.
- St. Mary's — Horseheads — 6, 7, 8, 12:15 noon and 7:30 p.m.

**New Chaplain For
Corning Knights**

Corning—During the regular meeting of Corning Council, Knights of Columbus, in the KC Home last week, Father Simeon Heine, S. A., of St. John's Atonement Seminary in Montour Falls, announced acceptance of the post of council chaplain.

In addressing the Council he discussed his 25 years of association with the Knights of Columbus and expressed pleasure over the opportunity to serve the Corning Council.

FATHER HEINE, who joined the Boyd Council of New York City in the 1930s, attributed his calling to the priesthood to the fine example set by the members of that council.

Grand knight James Botho expressed appreciation on behalf of the council to Father Heine for accepting the post of spiritual leader for the council.

He also announced that council scholarship applications have been distributed to the pastors of St. Mary's, St. Vincent de Paul, Immaculate Heart of Mary and St. Patrick's churches. He urged high school seniors to contact their pastors for further information.

ANTHONY RUOCO reported the recent council "Columbus Day" dinner as a success, and thanked Rev. Thomas Watts for speaking at the event.

Mrs. Raymond Older and Mrs. Charles Houston directed the following young women of the St. Mary's Sodality in serving the dinner.

Canon Seraula, Jean Frantarengelo Sandra Allison, Angelina Ruocco, Geraldine Ruocco, Phyllis Cuda and Mary Diane Older.

The council's 60th anniversary celebration will take place Nov. 22 at which all past grand knights and long time members will be honored.

**Speaker Set By
School Group**

A meeting of the Parents Association of Notre Dame High School will be held at the Elmira school on Monday, Nov. 3 at 7:45 p.m. Rev. Claude Zabinski, O.F.M., rector of St. Anthony of Padua at Watkins Glen will be guest speaker.

Arrangements for the evening are under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. William Maloney. They are being assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Dooley, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Fravley, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Keating, Mr. and Mrs. Gustave Loll, Mr. and Mrs. Charles McCarthy, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Murray, Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Precht, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Rospiok Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Peter Ball, Mr. and Mrs. James Cavezza and Mrs. Mary Bird.



Families Join Welcome To Pastor

TWO THOUSAND parishioners and friends formally welcomed Father John S. Hayes, newly appointed pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Elmira. Here in the newly completed combination auditorium-gymnasium, Dr. and Mrs. Walter C. Ervin Jr. and three of their four children in receiving line. Baby is Mary Virginia 1 1/2, facing camera is Sue, 6, back to camera Beth, 8, Maureen 4 is not shown. To right is Mrs. Mary Thomas, mother of Father William Thomas. Reception was sponsored by Holy Name Society and Sodality of Our Lady.

**First Friday
Group Lists
Father Schwab**

Catholic men of the Elmira area will meet at the Mark Twain Hotel Friday, Nov. 7 for the initial First Friday Luncheon of 1958-59.

An address by the Very Rev. Leo G. Schwab, V.F., will highlight the event which is scheduled to start at 12:15 p.m.

The luncheon is sponsored by Elmira Council, Knights of Columbus. The men attending the luncheon are asked to attend Mass and receive Holy Communion on First Friday.

Council grand knight Matthias F. Fennell announced that Willis I. Larrabee, council Catholic society chairman, will serve as luncheon program chairman.

Members of the First Friday Luncheon committee include Joseph B. Rempe, Joseph T. Limoncelli, Thomas F. Caggins, John T. Rohde, William A. Danner Jr., Thomas A. Savino, Donald L. Russell, Donald J. Seaman, Thomas J. Sullivan, Thomas J. Maxey Jr., Glendon L. Mallette, Samuel K. Castellino and Thomas G. Loll.

**Youth Holy
Hour Slated**

Ithaca — High school boys and girls of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Ithaca are observing Catholic Youth Week. They started their week last Sunday by receiving Holy Communion as a group at the 10 a.m. Mass and held a Communion breakfast in parish hall which was attended by 50 boys and girls.

Sunday, Nov. 2, a Youth Holy Hour will be conducted in church at 7 p.m. and observance of Catholic Youth Week will close with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. All high school youth in Ithaca are invited to participate in this Holy Hour.

**Frosh Class Less
Than Capacity**

Registrars at both Nazareth and St. John's Fisher College said today that they could have admitted additional freshmen this fall.

Nazareth College admitted 197 freshmen this year, an increase of 15 over 1957, but Sister Josephine Louise said that although dormitory capacity was taxed to the limit, many additional day-hop students could have enrolled in the incoming class.

GERARD H. TUCKER, registrar at St. John's Fisher College, reported that 214 men were accepted into the freshman class in September, but said that an additional 50 students could have been handled.

Both registrars said that when present construction is completed in February, 1959, both schools will be able to accept more students.

Nazareth College is presently constructing a new dormitory, which will handle about 75 more students. The Basilian college now has a new chemistry building under construction, which will enable the school to accommodate an additional 200 students.

NO BREAKDOWN figures were available, however, as to how many new freshman students will be admitted.

The survey at Nazareth and St. John's Fisher corresponds to state figures which indicated that the 51 privately-endowed colleges could have accepted at least 2,500 additional freshmen this fall.

**All Souls Day
Observance Set**

All Souls Day observance will be held in all Elmira area Catholic churches on Monday, Nov. 3.

Noon day and evening Masses have been scheduled in several churches for the convenience of the people.

The schedule is: ST. MARY'S 7 and 7:45 a.m.; ST. PATRICK'S — will be announced on Sunday; OUR LADY OF LOURDES — 7:30, 8, 9, 11 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.; ST. ANTHONY'S — 6:30, 7, 7:30, 8 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; ST. CECILIA'S — 7:30 a.m. and 5:15 p.m.; ST. CASIMIR'S — 6:30, 7, 7:30 and 8 a.m.; ST. PETER & PAUL'S — 6:30, 7, 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.; ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST — 7:45 a.m., 12:15 noon and 5:15 p.m.; ST. CHARLES BORROMEO — 7 a.m., 12:15 noon and 7:30 p.m.; ST. MARY'S, HORSEHEADS — 7:30 a.m., 12:15 noon and 7:30 p.m.



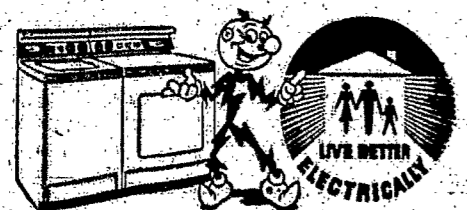
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