



### Rochester Nun Returns To Africa

SISTER HELENMARIE, Holy Ghost Missionary, who returned to her Rochester home after six years as a nurse in Ghana, West Africa, is enroute on the African Glen to her mission after five months leave in the United States. In photo from left: Sister Tarcidilla, S.S.P.S. accompanying Sister Helen-

marie to the Divine Word mission in Ghana, Mrs. Arthur Yockel, Sister Helenmarie's mother; Sister Helenmarie, St. Margaret Mary School and Nazareth Academy graduate, and Father Charles G. Erb, S.V.D., her uncle, who will go to Rome early next year to join his congregation's Generalate staff.

Courier Journal

News

Friday, Dec. 5, 1958 1-A

### Mission Day Nets \$17,000 At Mercy High

The annual Mission Day bazaar held at Our Lady of Mercy High School this year netted the missions \$17,000, the largest amount ever raised in a single mission project at the school.

Barbara McGrath, president of the Mercy High School Catholic Student Mission Crusade, said that 33 different mission projects will share in the money raised.

HEADING THE requests, mailed out this week, are the Maryknoll Sisters in Hawaii, for a total of \$1,500 for the construction of a new hospital in that city.

Another \$1,000 went to Marie Wickes, to buy a Volkswagen for her use as a fund-raiser for the East Africa. The Holy Childhood Association will receive \$1,070 for the adoption of abandoned children.

Neely rural parishes in Rochester will also benefit from Mercy's Mission Day. They will receive a total of \$1,000.

THE LARGEST single gift of \$5,000 went to Mother Mary Magdalen, mother general of the Mercy Order in Rochester, for the St. Anselm Junior College building fund.

Two other noteworthy gifts went to Rev. Louis Dowd, S.J., a former Rochesterian who will get \$750 for a school and youth center in a building in Fawcett, Guyana, India for the maintenance of Our Lady of Mercy church built there by Rochester student gifts in 1955.

Other gifts went to the Maryknoll Sisters in Ossining, N.Y.; the Trinitarian Fathers, a seminary student in India; the Marias Sisters, Medical Missionaries of Our Lady of Lourdes Mission School, South Dakota; Rev. Raymond Schantz, CSSR, the Diocese of Hong Kong and the Society of the Divine Word.

Missionaries in Japan, E. Asia Africa, Alaska and the British West Indies also received gifts.

### Parish Honors Monsignor Flynn

St. Lucy's Parish held an appreciation dinner, sponsored by the Rosary Society, in honor of Very Rev. Monsignor Patrick J. Flynn, on Sunday, Nov. 30th in the parish hall. Monsignor Flynn has been associated with the parish for the past 12 years.

Due to the snow storm and bad roads he was unable to attend. Other guests present were the Reverend Fathers, Genaro J. Ventura, pastor, Elmer A. McNamara, George S. Wood and Very Rev. Monsignor J. Emmett Murphy.

Nick Argentero, trustee, presented a gift for Monsignor Flynn from the parish which was accepted by proxy by Monsignor Murphy.

### Speech Assembly Held At Nazareth

Three hundreds of Nazareth College part of their experience in the field of speech, took part in a special assembly held yesterday at the college.

Battling a Fluorine-Louise Nolting and Mary Lou O'Connell, all speech therapists in the Nazareth College system, spoke and answered questions at the assembly for program graduates in the Nazareth speech department.

Christmas Seal Month December has been proclaimed Christmas Seal Month by Governor Harriman. The Governor urged all residents of New York State to support this additional Christmas Seal campaign.

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## Father Connors - Dean Of Parish Clergy

By FRANK KELLY

Four generations of spiritual care of his parishioners!

This is the record of Rt. Rev. Monsignor Thomas F. Connors, first and only pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church, Rochester.

Msg. Connors, who prelates to be called "Father" Connors, is the oldest active pastor in the Rochester Diocese - and, is by no means handicapped by his advanced age in carrying out the ministerial needs of the 3500 people in his parish.

ORDAINED TO the priesthood in June, 1898, Father Connors was commissioned to organize Blessed Sacrament by Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid, first Bishop of Rochester, in 1901.

Actually though, Father Connors did not go into his new assignment without any previous pastoral experience.

From the time he was ordained he was assigned as an assistant at Old St. Mary's Church, Rochester. In this three years at that post, three pastors at St. Mary's died and one time Father Connors was named interim pastor.

FATHER CONNORS showed his Bishop that he was not making a mistake in appointing so young a priest to this big task.

In spite of opposition from many anti-church groups, he succeeded in breaking ground for the first church on Nov. 3, 1901, and the combination church school and hall was dedicated on April 3, 1902 by Bishop McQuaid.

"Not many people know that Blessed Sacrament parish was almost St. Bernard's parish," Father Connors related.

"I asked Bishop McQuaid for the privilege of naming the parish after his patron saint, but the Bishop said that the one request was made by a group who were intending to build a church in another part of the city. So he asked me to pick another name.

"I then picked Blessed Sacrament. For I had a great devotion to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament as did the Bishop," he said.

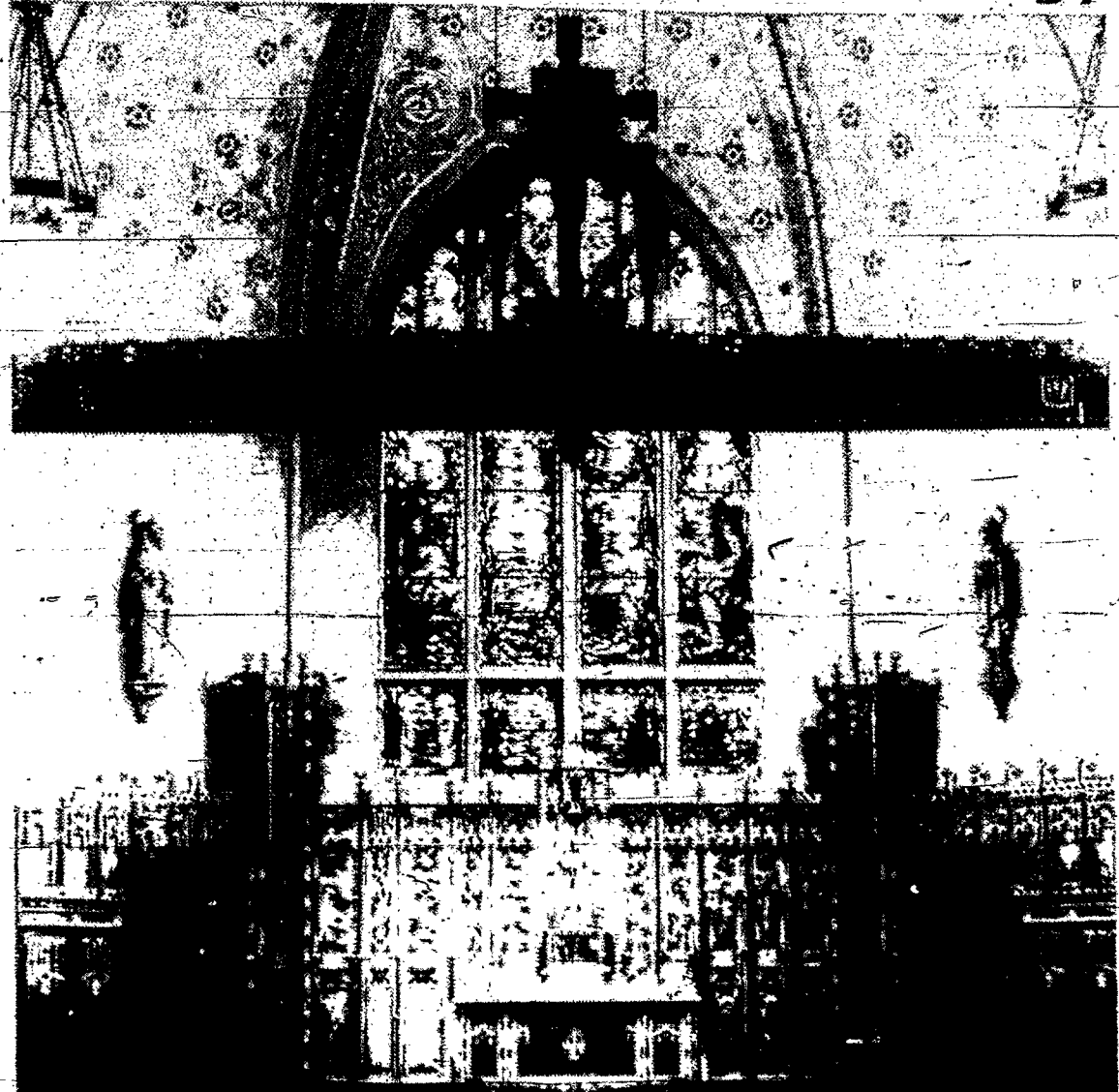
The other proposed parish fell through at that time, so actually, this could have been St. Bernard's Parish instead of Blessed Sacrament.

THE PRESENT church of Blessed Sacrament Parish was constructed in 1912 and is considered one of the most beautiful churches in the diocese.

Since its construction, which is actually not correct in an architect's point of view, thousands of people have visited it to see the exquisite wood carvings which are considered priceless today.

"These carvings done by the Ross Co. of Cambridge, Mass., could not be duplicated today," Father Connors said. "The price on them would be prohibitive."

BUILT LIKE a cathedral, Blessed Sacrament Church, in-



THE INTERIOR OF Blessed Sacrament Church, Rochester, has drawn thousands of Mass. They are considered priceless today, people to see the exquisite wood carvings

ated between Oxford and Rutland roads, moved closer to the middle gets 86 at Monroe Ave. is less than 100 feet deep.

A true tribute to the Father Connors' ability is the attitude of the people - both Catholic and non-Catholic in that section.

From an empty house at the time these people moved into the most modern quarters of this simple humble home of God.

BUT FATHER CONNORS is the first one to take any credit for his work. "It is the people who did it - not for me but for God and they gave me the credit," he states repeatedly.

The old church school which became a corridor school in 1912 when the present church edifice was completed. But in 1928, Father Connors found it necessary to build the present school which has been staffed by the Sisters of St. Joseph, since the beginning of the present school.

The present convent for the Sisters was built shortly after 80 years old next July was situated at Immaculate Conception School and Rochester Free Academy. Before he entered St. Anthony's Seminary in 1887 and completed his studies at St. Bernard's Seminary.

A MAN WITH a remarkable memory, Father Connors can vividly recall the days when the street cars ran so close to the curb on Monroe Avenue they endangered the lives of his school children.

In fact it was in 1902 that I with the robes of his office at

special ceremony.

Up until a few years ago, Father Connors could be seen driving about in his car on various parish missions, but falling sight made him give up driving.

However, he still makes his pastoral calls regularly and makes frequent visits to his parishioners confined to nursing homes in his parish.

WITHOUT AN assistant for 11 years, Father Connors has seen many of his former aides leave Blessed Sacrament to become pastors in churches throughout the Diocese.

The one thing Father Connors is most proud of is the large number of his "boys" and "girls" who have gone on to serve Our Lord as priests and sisters.

"There have been over 40 vocations to the priesthood from Blessed Sacrament and at least that number to the sisterhood," he stated.

The late Pope Pius XII honored Father Connors in 1947 by conferring the rank of domestic prelate on him with the title of "Right Reverend" Monsignor. Bishop Kearney bestowed him with the robes of his office at

asked Mayor Canby to have the Sacred Heart Cathedral in a



MISGR. CONNORS

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