



PROFESSOR ROMEO Fracalanza directs sits at the organ. He came to Rochester in the choir at Corpus Christi Church as he November from Port Huron, Mich.

Venice To Rochester

Trip Took Twelve Years

By LARRY PATRICK

Parishioners of Corpus Christi Church, Rochester, have music with a Venetian flourish at the 11 a.m. Mass each Sunday.

The music is provided for them under the direction of Romeo Fracalanza, who came to Rochester by way of Venice in a round about way.

How he arrived in the Flowing City from the City of Gondolas is an interesting story.

Born in Padua, Professor Fracalanza studied at the conservatory of music in Venice. His list of teachers reads like a "who's who" in European music.

Among his teachers were Ravello, a famed composer of church music; Fernando Ger-

mani, head organist for the Papal choir, and John Francisco Malinero, also a liturgical composer.

LIVING IN ITALY at a time when Benito Mussolini ruled the land with an iron fist, Fracalanza wanted to come to this country but because of lack of funds and tight immigration quotas, he was unable to do so in the 1890's.

During the Second World War, Fracalanza served with the Italian Army where he was an artillery man. But, even then he did not neglect his music.

He was stationed in Italy all during the war and found the opportunity to organize and direct a band which performed for Italian soldiers home from the front.

AFTER THE WAR, he had an opportunity to go to Brazil and in 1946 he and his wife, Josephine, left for Sao Paulo, where he taught in the music conservatory and served as choirmaster in the cathedral in that city for eight years.

In 1954, he left Brazil for Santa, Canada—this time with his wife and daughter, Mary, now 10, who was born in that "South American country."

After spending two years in Canada, he was befriended by an American priest from Port Huron, Michigan, who invited him to come to the United States to become choirmaster at Sacred Heart Church.

SEIZING THIS OPPORTUNITY, Fracalanza and his family entered this country, not as Italian immigrants, but as Canadian immigrants.

This is how this Padua-born musician was able to fulfill his life-long ambition.

"But, this is not the end of my ambition," he said. "As soon as I can, I will take out my citizenship papers."

Professor Fracalanza came to Rochester around the beginning of November after answering an advertisement in an organist magazine.

RT. REV. MONSIGNOR John E. Maney, administrator of Corpus Christi parish here was in need of a choirmaster and organist for his church.

After several interviews with the professor, Msgr. Maney decided that Fracalanza was the man to fill the post so the Fracalanza family packed once again. "This time for good, we hope," the professor said.

"There are several reasons I love this city already," he related. "I am much impressed with the high standards of music here and the people I have met are most friendly to my wife and children."

The Fracalanza's second child, Pierre Paul, was born seven months ago in Port Huron.

In addition to his work at Corpus Christi, the professor also will give private organ and piano lessons and hopes to give recitals as he did in Brazil and Italy.

AS IS COMMON with most serious musicians, he does not consider rock and roll music. "It is all rhythm without melody and music is composed of both melody and rhythm," he said.

He and his wife live at 413 Alexander St. in Rochester and his daughter, Mary, attends Corpus Christi school.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2, 1959

Infirmiry Drive Captains To Meet

Captains of teams in the Monroe County committee for the Sisters of St. Joseph Infirmiry-Novitiate appeal will meet at 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 8, in the Nazareth College cafeteria. It was announced this week by Gerald E. Barrett, committee chairman.

Teams are being organized among four groups of prospects, Barrett pointed out. They include relatives of the Sisters, alumnae, parent groups and the Nazareth College Guild and friends.

ADVANCED GIFTS solicitation will begin Jan. 29 and general solicitation Feb. 4. There also will be appeal committees organized throughout the remainder of the Diocese where the Sisters of St. Joseph staff parochial schools.

Friends of the Sisters throughout the Diocese will be given an opportunity to pledge funds toward construction of a proposed \$1,500,000 infirmiry building adjacent to the Nazareth Motherhouse, 4085 East Ave., Pittsford. William Mulcahy, advanced gifts committee chairman, announced that his committee will attend a dinner in the college cafeteria at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 19.

two-fold aim of the appeal. The proposed building, she noted, not only will provide modern facilities for the care of ill and aged Sisters, but also will make available additional space in the motherhouse for the housing and training of young women studying to become Sister-teachers.

The Sisters' community is heavily burdened financially, she added, and cannot undertake major capital expenditures without the aid of its friends.

Since 1940, Mother Helene pointed out, the community has expended approximately \$550,000 for the erection and expansion of education facilities. Current indebtedness totals \$110,000, divided as follows: Nazareth College, \$142,100; St. Agnes High School, \$1,162,500; Nazareth Academy, \$500,000.

The income of the Sisters is admittedly small, the mother general concluded, and does not allow for savings—either for old age retirement or for capital expenditure.

IN A MESSAGE to committee-men, Mother Helene stressed the

SPIRITUAL EXERCISES AT THE CENACLE

Spiritual exercises will be conducted at the Cenacle Retreat House, 493 East Avenue, Rochester, during the month of January as follows:

- RETREATS:
- Jan. 1-11—St. Mary's Junior Sodality, Auburn — Rev. Herman Brinkman, O.S.B.
 - Jan. 13-22—Cenacle Religious in Retreat
 - Jan. 13-25—High School Students
 - Jan. 10-Feb. 1—General Retreat—Rev. James Malone, S.J.

- GUARD MEETINGS:
- Wed. Jan. 7—St. Regis Guild—High School—after school—Rev. Richard E. Murphy
 - Monday, Jan. 12—Cenacle Guild—Young Business Girls—7:00 p.m.—Rev. Albert Shamon
 - First Saturday, Jan. 8—I.C.A. Mass—Bishop Kearney
 - Monday, Jan. 8—Retreat League Executive Council—7:45 p.m.

Cenacle Nun Reports

Christmas In New Zealand

Picking oranges on Christmas! Not in Rochester, but in Auckland, New Zealand.

This was one of the things Mother A. Dowd of the Religious of the Cenacle told her fellow religious at the Cenacle Retreat House in Rochester as being a common thing in New Zealand on Christmas.

IN HER CHRISTMAS greeting to the Cenacle Nuns here, Mother Dowd, who was formerly in Rochester, described this festive season as it was celebrated in the "Down Under" country, now in the middle of its Summer season.

"Peach and lemon azaleas are blooming behind the pine grove and there is an abundance of gaily-colored cherries along

the paths of our retreat house grounds," she said in the letter.

"The Auckland Cenacle is located in a vigorously growing suburb," she said. "There are hundreds of new homes and young families in Glen Innes. The new parish school is already too small and the two new classrooms to be opened in February is only a partial solution," she added.

"CHRISTMAS IS NO different here than in any other part of the world," she said. "Of course there is a great mixture in the nationalities, what with Europeans, natives and Orientals all inhabiting this fast-growing land."

"The number of people taking instructions in Catholicism is growing tremendously," she reported. "One man returned to the Church after being invited to participate in a family Rosary program being conducted by a local priest. Soon after, he returned to the Sacraments and his six children are taking instruction at the present time."

"Sometimes, our pupils bring in new recruits to the Faith," she added. A shy, little boy of 11, asked if he could take instructions. Soon after he brought five of his brothers and sisters to the class. When the three youngsters

Sister Georgianna

Nun Marks 60th Anniversary

By FRANK KELLY

Sixty years service to God and the Church!

This is the story of Sister Georgianna who celebrated her 60th anniversary as a member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame in November.

NOW LEAVING IN SEMI-retirement at St. Boniface Convent, Rochester, Sister Georgianna is the former Antoinette Noeth of Rochester.

But her retirement is anything but that.

At St. Boniface's for the past 11 years, Sister Georgianna assists Sister M. Rosanna, her former pupil, in the running of the convent. Sister Rosanna is school principal at St. Boniface's Parish.

IN HER 60TH YEAR, Sister Georgianna has the spirit and vigor of a woman much younger. It was only an arthritic condition that caused her retirement from active-teaching.

In her years as a School Sister of Notre Dame, Sister remembers her years teaching in New York City as among the most memorable in her life.

Assigned as a teacher at Assumption Church on West 49th St. in New York City in 1901, she had an experience that she will never forget.

"THIS WAS A GERMAN parish," she recalled, "and one of the families who were members of the parish had been afflicted with a steady run of tuberculosis."

"One of the boys, Frank Ostermann, had to leave school at 11 because of the death of his father. A short time later, he expressed the desire to become a priest, but doubted that he could get into Cathedral High School, the diocesan preparatory seminary."

"The pastor of Assumption asked me to prep the Ostermann boy for the entrance examination and for one long, hot summer, he used to come to the convent every night to prepare for the exam."

NEEDLESS TO SAY, he passed the examination and went on to become a priest. Now Rt. Rev. Monsignor Francis Ostermann, he will celebrate his 43rd anniversary as a priest next June," she said.

Sister Georgianna also recalls fondly the fact that she, later on, taught at a church school where the then Father Ostermann was an assistant pastor.

Sister was brought up in St. Joseph's parish, Rochester and attended St. Parochial school before going into the convent.

In her career, she has taught in Maryland, where she was a novice, New York City, Buffalo and Rochester. Among her assignments in this Diocese were at St. Peter and Paul's, Holy

Redeemer and St. Boniface, all in Rochester and Holy Ghost in Coldwater.

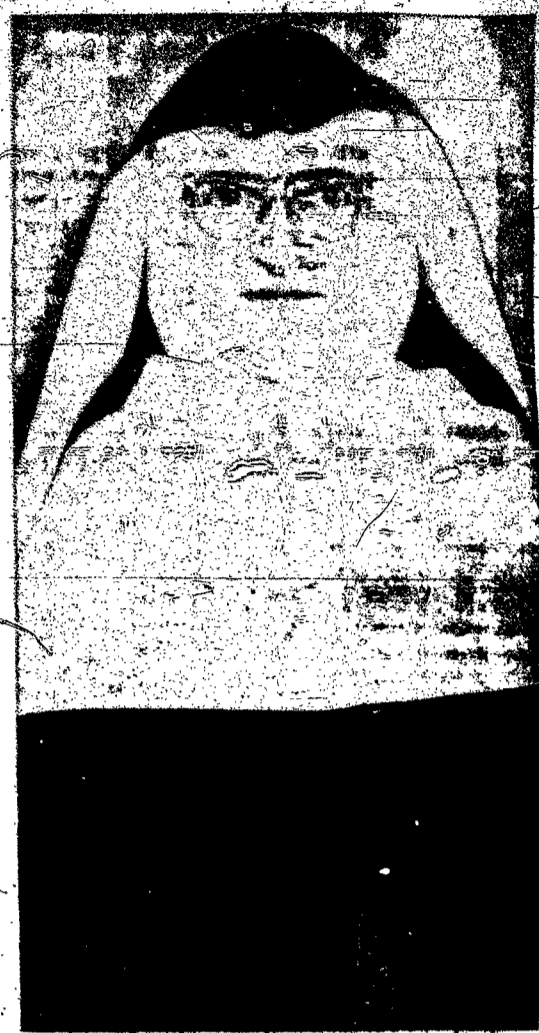
SHE WAS STATIONED in Maryland at the time of her 50th anniversary and among the great many friends who visited her on that occasion were two of her former pupils at Assumption Parish in New York City. They were Monsignor Francis Ostermann and his brother, Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph Ostermann, who became a priest in the New York Archdiocese after being instructed by Sister Georgianna.

Sister said that teachers today have a much harder time than when she first started her teaching career.

"We didn't have to compete with radio, movies and television then and the parents had better control of their youngsters," she said. "We didn't have the disciplinary problem that teachers have today."

"I could leave my class for as long as a half hour and there wouldn't be any noise. Today a teacher couldn't leave a class for five minutes and have the same effect."

Sister Georgianna also stated



SISTER GEORGIANNA

that there is not the same respect shown for those in religious life as there was in her earlier days.

"This is primarily due to the lack of discipline in the home. If the parents trained their children to obey, there wouldn't be the juvenile delinquency that seems to be growing each succeeding year," she said.

TO EMPHASIZE THIS point, Sister again referred to the Ostermann family in New York City.

"The parents of this family both died before the oldest child was 20. The eldest daughter, Cecelia, early in life, became the mother of the family of eight children."

"In spite of her tender years, she was able to instill a sense of responsibility and obedience in her older and younger brothers and sisters that amazed us all. She, more than any one else, was the one responsible for her two younger brothers becoming priests, in spite of the poverty of the family."

"This is something that a person seldom sees in a normal family today," she concluded.

Masses To Open Retreat Year

Opening of the 1959 laymen's retreat year will be marked by Masses in three churches of the diocese, St. Joseph, Rochester; St. Francis de Sales, Geneva and St. Mary's, Geneseo at 7:45 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 27, Feast of the Epiphany.

Auxiliary Bishop Casey will celebrate a Solemn Pontifical Mass in St. Joseph's Church and give the sermons. Solemn Masses in Geneva and Geneseo will be celebrated by Redemptorist Fathers from Notre Dame Retreat House, 245 Alexander St., Rochester.

Bishop Kearney urges every retreatant to assist at the Mass in his area so that all may ask God's blessing in success of the new retreat year.

Catholic Vets To Meet Jan. 5

Sacred Heart, Post No. 1127 Catholic War Veterans will hold monthly meeting Monday, Jan. 5 at 8:15 p.m. at the parish house, Clay and Lake Aves.

Many important items are on the agenda for the coming year. Commander Trevor Durrant is anxious to have all members present. Refreshments will be served.

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