

Boyhood Friends

United After Long Separation

By FRANK KELLY

St. John Fisher College, East Ave., was the meeting place last week of two boyhood friends who grew up in Toronto.

The friends—both priests—are Rev. Russell Pendergast, C.S.B., and Rev. Patrick McNamara, a Scarborough father.

IT TOOK ALMOST 10 years and thousands of miles of travel for these chums to get together. Father McNamara just returned from Japan after spending seven years there working as a parish priest in Kawatana in the Diocese of Nagasaki.

A member of an order that is similar to our own Maryknoll Order, Father McNamara worked under serious handicap in his Diocese.

"Out of 80,000 people in the city of Kawatana, there are only 200 Catholics," he reported.

"With the few priests and religious in Japan, the problem of conversion is tremendous," he said.

"BUT OUR PROGRESS is slow, if slow and the people we have been able to convert turn out to be very exceptional Catholics."

"The Japanese people themselves are very friendly," Father said, "and the women are zealous, unselfish people. We find we have more conversions with the women than the men."

ONE OF THE major projects conducted by Father McNamara in his parish is the day nursery run for the benefit of all the people in the city—Catholic and non-Catholic.

"We have no school, so we conduct this day nursery with financial help from the city. Of the 50 youngsters who are with us each day, the highest percentage are not of our faith."

"We also run a kindergarten for children and this attracts about 100 youngsters each day. Naturally, most of these children are also non-Catholics."

"The greatest job we have in Japan is breaking down the prejudice barrier. During the great persecutions of Catholics in bygone centuries, many people turned against the Church and this prejudice has remained in Japan, especially in the outlying districts, down to today."

"BUT, WE HAVE made great strides in breaking down this barrier and once we do, I believe that the Church will make great strides in Japan," he concluded.

Father McNamara and Father Pendergast grew up in St. John's Parish in Toronto and were constant companions both in and out of school.

Father McNamara will be in Canada for one year, following his order's set up of being in the mission field for seven years and one year at home.

HE IS PRESENTLY serving as spiritual advisor and bursar in the Scarborough Novitiate at St. Mary's in Ontario, Canada.

When he returns to Japan next year, he probably will be given a refresher course in Japanese. When he first went to Japan in 1950, he was given a year's course in the language and is now able to speak Japanese "almost like a native."

Fund Goal

New York—(NC)—A record \$310,527 goal has been fixed for the 40th annual New York Catholic Charities fund appeal, Cardinal Spellman, has announced.

Notre Dame Fund Richer Due To Remark

Waverly—The Notre Dame High School, Elmira, football fund was enriched by \$20 last week as the result of a casual remark made 20 years ago by Gerald Keeney of Athens, a remark he suddenly recalled when James W. Cullen, now the judge of Bradford County, Pa.

At that time, Judge Cullen was running for district attorney and Keeney and William O'Brien, his brother-in-law of Waverly, were discussing his chances over coffee.

KEENEY WAS NOT sure Judge Cullen would win, but O'Brien who had recently married Justine Cullen, an enthusiastic supporter of the fund, was sure. "The Cullen will be a judge some day."

Keeney replied "If he's ever elected judge, I'll give you the best hat money can buy."

Last week, he reminded O'Brien of the incident and said he was ready to make good the offer.

However, since O'Brien already had a good hat, it was agreed that the money would be donated to the Notre Dame Football Fund.

The \$20 was then turned over to Bus Harnett of Elmira, chairman of the drive in the presence of O'Brien—E. TUCCINARDI.

Pre-Marriage Course Slated In Corning

Corning—The committee on family life and parent education of Corning district, Diocesan Council of Catholic Women have completed plans for a series of pre-Cana conferences.

The series will begin on Sunday, Feb. 15 at 2:30 p.m. Conferences will be held each Sunday at the Baron Steuben Hotel until the series is completed on March 15.

Mrs. David Pierce is serving as chairman of the conferences. All engaged couples who plan to be married during 1959 and recently married couples are invited to attend the weekly lectures. Rev. James E. Slattery is moderator of the Corning group.

Speakers will include Father Slattery, Rev. Thomas F. Brennan, Rev. Louis J. Hohman, Dr. James Mulcahy and a married couple.

Legion Group Sets Conference

Rev. Charles Trundle, S.J., a member of the faculty of the University of Scranton, will conduct a marriage conference on Sunday, Feb. 22 at St. Peter and Paul's Church, Elmira, starting at 1:15 p.m.

The conference, sponsored by the parish's Legion of Mary, will be held in the parish hall.

Following registration at 1:15 p.m., the program will consist of three conferences, an informal social break, a special Rosary, a refreshment break and a question-box period.

The conference will close following Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and renewal of the marriage vows at 5:45 p.m.



Receive Eagle Badges

THESE THREE LADS received their eagle scout badges at special court of awards held recently. They are, left to right, Michael Siconolfi, 16, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Siconolfi of 2901 St. Paul Blvd., Irondequoit; Thomas Guerin, 16, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Albert Guerin of 38 Washburn Pl., Rochester, and David W. Mura, 14, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert F. Mura of 52 North Ave., Greece. Siconolfi and Guerin are McQuaid Jesuit High School students and Mura is a student at St. Andrew's Seminary.

Post Office Films Available

Two films of public interest are available for viewing by business and professional associations, veteran, fraternal, church and PTA groups.

"The Story of the U.S. Mails," a 16 mm sound color film, showing internal operations of a post office with particular stress on the modern, automatic, mail handling devices being developed and installed by the Post Office Department. It runs 15 minutes.

"For our Defense" shows vividly the modern weapons in use and being developed by the Department of Defense for protection of the United States. This is a 16 mm sound film. It runs about 25 minutes.

The films are available through the Public Relations Section of the Rochester Post Office. Requests should be made at least two weeks in advance and should include alternate dates. There is no expense to the requesting organization.

Two Cardinals At Bishop's Rite

Maryknoll—(NC)—Father John W. Conier, 52, of Lawrence, Mass., Maryknoll Superior General, will be consecrated Titular Bishop of Foratiana on April 9 by Cardinal Spellman of New York, in the new Maryknoll Chapel here.

Cardinal Cushing of Boston, will preach and Bishop Raymond A. Lane, former Maryknoll Superior General, will be a co-consecrator.

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Pray the Rosary

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AUXILIARIES Of the K of C

The Ladies Auxiliary, Rochester Council, Knights of Columbus will meet, Thursday, Feb. 19, at 8:30 p.m. at Columbus Civic Center.

Featured will be a demonstration on table arrangements and corsage-making by a representative of the Ann Marie Florist Shop, Chairman of hostesses is Mrs. Peter Flanagan, assisted by Mesdames Frances Gould, Edwin Welter, and Edward Buggie.

A coffee hour will follow the demonstration.

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