

Looking Back

High School Court Game's Beginning

By THOMAS H. O'CONNOR

The coming Aquinas-McQuaid high school basketball encounter in the War Memorial Saturday, March 7, brings to mind the manner in which high school basketball came into being in the local Catholic high schools.



THOMAS O'CONNOR

It could be said that from a public playground came an extracurricular sports activity in the early years of this century. Basketball was an outdoor game on the program of Brown's Square where men like the late Dr. Albert Kasser as a young college student was one of the instructors in the then newly-devised court game.

Cathedral High School, then a co-educational school, had many boys who attended the playground especially during the summer vacations. They became interested in the sport and Cathedral High, now St. Patrick's Church, offered an ideal place to take up when vacation was over.

Non-descript uniforms were the order in the early days, and games were booked with independent teams. Ed Doyle, who has the bowling equipment store down the street from here, recalled only this week playing on the old Cathedral High School team.

In the season of 1911-1912 the school put a team in the field to meet high school competition. The faculty in those days was not happy with this outside interest and on several occasions games were called off at the last minute.

However the surge toward the court game continued and teams like Buffalo Catholic Central, Brockport Normal, the old Mechanics Institute and others were met and defeated. West High School eased out a close 18-17 victory and East High second team was defeated. Memory does not recall the complete results.

In the line-up were names of Walt Mallon, Henry Utz, Ralph Henricus, Albert Beckwith, Joseph (Stubby) Flynn, Harold Perry, Gerrie McNeil—the late Ray Burns, the late Leo Murphy and the writer. With a little success at the boxoffice, new uniforms were purchased and the first time work caused such stage fright as to result in a loss.

Other teams followed and later coaches were hired. An outstanding game was a 37 victory, we believe, (check with Neil Collins) over East High School in a crowd-packed Armory on East Ave. Red Quigley, Johnny Gilbert, Dutch Clark, Jim Cullen and others were luminaries in later years.

Then came Coach Billy McCarthy, who died only last year. Bill's teams went on to national fame, losing out in one tournament in Chicago by one basket in the last game and setting up a 39 to 0 world record in another tournament.

As an alumnus player we can recall a game in the new gymnasium at the Dewey Ave. School. Recalled is Mort Leary's taking over for Bill McCarthy and continuing to train teams with winning ways. Mort is now an executive with Hutchins Advertising.

One of the memories we have of old Cathedral Hall is the loyal attendance of Jeremiah G. Hickey, president of Hickey Freeman Co. and uncle of Jack O'Hara, who starred on the school team. Mr. Hickey reminded us of the old days many times after when we met him at Sacred Heart Church.

This is not an attempt to record all the former Cathedral High School basketball players and Aquinas stars. Many have gone on to success in the medical and dental professions, and in business. Ed (Red) Doyle, another one, is executive editor of the Chicago American. He starred on McCarthy's team.

Now we have two brilliant high school cage teams booked to meet.

It is a far cry and almost 50 years since the game began in a Catholic high school. Naturally our interest would be with Aquinas, from which not only the writer was graduated but also six of his sons. An ironic twist is that with the potential of a basketball team in the family, not one was interested enough in the sport to try out for the varsity.

Fr. Ehmman To Speak In Lecture Series

The second lecture in the "Institute of the Lay Apostolate" series, sponsored by the Rochester Diocesan Council of Catholic Women will be heard on Monday evening, March 2, at 8 p.m., in the auditorium of the Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation, 89 East Avenue.

Fr. Ehmman, a former director of music at St. Bernard's Seminary, is nationally known for his work in the Liturgical Movement. His talk will carry

Father Marvin Named Director

Laymen's Legion, Zeal For Souls

"No other lay group in the city can equal the good you accomplish through your direct apostolate to souls in our parishes."

This statement was made at most two years ago by Auxiliary Bishop Lawrence B. Casey at the annual rededication ceremony for members of the Legion of Mary and stands true today.

Simply, the very special work of the carefully trained and wisely directed members of the Legion of Mary is to help the priest. These members are, in the words of Bishop Casey, "the men and women who are really putting Catholic Action into practice."

This week, Father John Merklinger resigned his position as Spiritual Director of the Diocesan Legion, to which he was appointed in 1951. Pastoral life at St. Mary's Church, Danville, Pa., this week, Merklinger stated, makes it impossible for him to carry out adequately the duties of this diocesan post. Father was appointed pastor of the Danville parish last June.

FATHER JAMES J. MARVIN, assistant pastor of Sacred Heart Cathedral, has been appointed to replace Father Merklinger as Legion Director.

The Danville pastor recalled this week his first association with the Legion in 1947 as

himself in their new parishes, instructing public school children in Release Time Classes—all this and much more constitute the work of the Legion.

"The Legion is truly fortunate in the appointment of Father Marvin by Bishop Kearney as its new Spiritual Director," Father Merklinger said this week. "Father has long been deeply interested and active in the Legion working closely with the officers and members of the Rochester area Legion groups."

In taking over his new office this week, Father Marvin stated:

"The story of the Legion of Mary in the Diocese of Rochester has been phenomenal. In a few years it has spread from parish to parish. Its members enjoy a reputation of being truly dedicated apostles of Catholic Action."

"THE SPIRIT" of the Legion has been preserved remarkably due to a religious adherence to the system outlined in the official Handbook.

"Father John Merklinger has been a most willing and zealous promoter of Her Legion. We cannot find praise sufficient for his Legionary devotion. We assure him that we will try to continue the work of the Legion of Mary, according to the mold he already has cast so well."

FATHER MERKLINGER, Spiritual Director of Comforter of the Afflicted Precidium, the oldest Precidium (parish-unit) in the Rochester area.

This Precidium, now entering on its 1100 weekly meetings, assisted Father Merklinger and his predecessors in caring for the spiritual needs of the patients at the Monroe County Infirmary.

"SEEING AT first-hand how the disciplined system of the Legion promoted the sanctification of its members and fostered the extension of Christ in the hearts of those visited, I became more deeply concerned for the promotion of the Legion throughout the Diocese," Father Merklinger said.

During Father Merklinger's tenure of office, he has watched the Diocesan Legion grow from five to fifty-three Precidia representing thirty-three parishes.

To assist in the conducting of Legion activities in the Southern Tier, the Emma Curis was established in January, 1957, with Father Bartholomew O'Brien as Spiritual Director.

Active members in the Diocese have grown from sixty to six hundred with Auxiliary members near the ten thousand mark.

SEEKING PERSONAL sanctification through prayer and the spiritual works of Mercy, these members have engaged themselves in activities ranging from visiting the sick in institutions and homes to ringing doorbells in house to house visitation seeking out new parishioners.

Soliciting memberships in parish societies, Apostleship of Prayer members, enthronement of the Sacred Heart in the home, assisting the Puerto Rican people in establishing



SPEAKERS at a new "Pre-Cana" series of talks to be given on Sunday afternoons in March at Sacred Heart Cathedral are shown above discussing the coming sessions. From left are Mr. and Mrs. Edward Adams and Rev. James Marvin, assistant pastor at the Cathedral.

Marriage Course At Cathedral

Couples contemplating marriage are invited to series of four "Pre-Cana" talks at Sacred Heart Cathedral Sunday afternoons during March.

THE TALKS WILL be given by a priest, married couple and a doctor, according to Rev. Gerald E. Dunn, director of the diocesan Family Life Bureau. He said this will be the sixth of eight marriage preparation courses held in Rochester parishes.

Rev. James Marvin will give the opening talk Sunday, March 1. Other dates in the series are March 8, 15 and 22. All talks will begin at 2 p.m. in the school hall.

Topics to be discussed include the spiritual aspects of marriage, physical and psychological needs of husband and wife, moral implications and parental responsibilities.

LEGION OF MARY members of the Cathedral parish will serve coffee following each talk and speakers will be available to answer questions of those attending.

Father Dunn said the eight identical series in the various parishes replaces the previous year's practice of one course held in downtown Rochester.

Career Banquet For Youth Set At St. Charles

A career banquet for teenagers will be held at St. Charles Borromeo Hall on Sunday, March 8 at 6:30 p.m. This annual event highlights the year of activities of the St. Charles Youth Club.

Speakers are invited from various vocational and professional fields of interest to young people planning careers. Chosen for discussion this year are the fields of nursing, dentistry, and transportation management, as well as an analysis of a vocational test.

SPEAKERS INCLUDE Miss Lorraine Hamblin, R.N. of the Rochester Regional Hospital; Council: Dr. Charles Fineout, D.B.S., in private practice and on the faculty of St. John Fisher College; Francis P. Ryan, Eastman Kodak Company; and Rev. Henry A. Atwell, Editor of the Catholic Courier-Journal.

Rev. George S. Wood, Diocesan Director of the Propagation of the Faith, will introduce the speakers.

Arrangements are being completed by a committee of parents headed by Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Walker and student co-chairmen David Heffernan and Janet Miller. The dinner will be prepared by Val Haebl and Bill Busch assisted by Dan Lovell.

THE CAREER Banquet is open to high-schoolers. Tickets are \$1.00 and may be obtained from Youth Club representatives in the various high schools.

Forty Hours

Devotions of the Forty Hours will be conducted in the following churches of the Diocese of Rochester:

Sunday, March 1—Church of Assumption, Fairport; St. Michael, Lyons; St. John the Evangelist, Spencerport.

St. Mary's Parish Building To Begin On New Rectory

Construction for the new rectory at St. Mary's parish, Elmira, is scheduled to get started on Monday, March 9, according to an announcement made by Rev. Thomas J. Manley, pastor.

Approval of the plans were given by Bishop Kearney and notification was given to Father Manley by Monsignor John E. Collins, M.A.E.S., Chancellor of the Diocese.

LOW BIDS for the project amounted to \$151,302. The successful bidders were: general contractor, Sieder Associates, Inc., \$117,700; heating, C.R. Evans Corp., \$5,016; plumbing, Collins & Wallon, \$11,700; electrical, Terwilliger Electric Inc., \$13,886.

The present eighty-five-year-old rectory at 224 Franklin Street will be razed and the new rectory built on its site. The general contract includes demolition of the present rectory.

NEW RECTORY is expected to be ready for occupancy by Christmas.

Highschoolers Set Canacle Retreat

The Canacle Retreat House for Women will have a Retreat for High School students during Easter week.

The retreat will begin Tuesday afternoon, March thirty-first and close Thursday afternoon, April second.

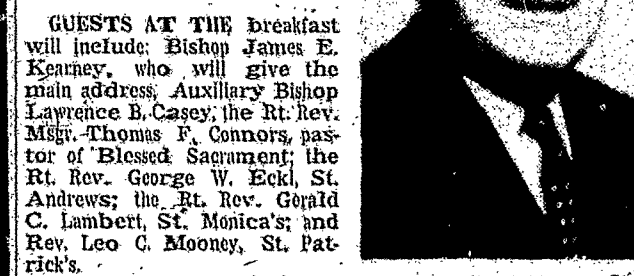
RESERVATIONS MAY be made by calling EB 1-8755.

Nocturnal Group Sets Breakfast

The Rochester Nocturnal Adoration Society has set Sunday, March 15 for its Annual Communion Breakfast at the Bausch & Lomb Cafeteria at 8:15 a.m., according to Leo F. Zeller, general chairman of the event.

Zeller will be assisted by Eugene R. Cusker, co-chairman, and his committee, consisting of Philip G. Kress and Robert H. Kabb Sr. of the Central Committee, also officers of the four Rochester Centers.

Breakfast will follow Masses at the four local Centers which include Blessed Sacrament Church, St. Andrew's, St. Monica's, and Sacred Heart Cathedral.



LEO ZELLER

Zeller is a member of St. Ann's Parish, a member of the Daily Mass League, Layman's Retreat League, Catholic Speakers' Bureau, Holy Name Society, and the Knights of Columbus. He is employed at the Yawman & Erbe Mfg. Co. as Chief Inspector, and resides at 790 Thurston Road.

IN A LETTER to Nocturnal members this week, Zeller stated:

"Bishop Kearney has designated 1959 the Eucharistic Year. We should all make good use of this special time of grace. Your presence at an early Mass and then attending the breakfast may mean a little hardship but the Nocturnal Adoration men are no strangers to personal sacrifice. We may rest assured Christ will not be outdone in generosity. Our beloved Bishop has never missed our Communion breakfast. Let our presence show our love and gratitude to him."

Doctors List Bp. Kearney

His Excellency, Bishop James E. Kearney will celebrate Mass in Old St. Mary's Church on Sunday, March 1 at 8 a.m. for the Catholic Physicians Guild.

The Bishop will address the members and their wives at a Communion Breakfast to follow at 9:15 a.m. in the Ontario Room at the Manger Hotel.

THIS IS THE sixth annual Catholic Physicians Guild Communion Breakfast. Members also participate each year in a three day retreat at the Notre Dame Retreat House.

Dr. John Abbott is president of the Guild which numbers 360 physicians.

St. Patrick Men Received in HN

Coming—Thirty men were received into the Holy Name Society of St. Patrick's Parish Sunday afternoon during a reception held at the church.



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