

Catholic Nurses Schedule Meet

Catholic Nurses from points in New York and New Jersey are planning to meet in Rochester, Sept. 21 to 24 at a Regional Conference sponsored by the Rochester Diocesan Council of Catholic Nurses with Bishop Kearney as Episcopal Host.

"The Catholic Nurse in the Decisive Decade" is the theme for sessions to be held at Manger Hotel after Mass at Old St. Mary's Church to be celebrated by Bishop Kearney. The Rev. Philip E. McGhan, chaplain at St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira. Achievement of Conference will be the Mass intention.

CLIMAXING THE four day sessions will be an address by the Rev. Francis J. Connell, C.S.S.R., Dean for Religious Communities, Catholic University of America and a nationwide authority and speaker. Father Connell the distinguished Redemptorist educator will be heard at a breakfast in Manger Hotel ballroom, Sunday, Sept. 24 at 9 a.m.

Father Connell is an eminent theologian. In 1946 he was president of the Catholic Theological Society of America. He has served as professor of moral theology, Catholic U. and Dean of the School of Sacred Theology.

His writings have appeared in book, newspaper and pamphlet form. Topics include Morals in Politics and Professions, Father Connell Answers Moral Questions, Outlines of Moral Theology and many pamphlets and articles on Theological Subjects.

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. A. C. Dalton, P.A., national Spiritual Director of the National Council of Nurses and Anne V. Houck, R.N., executive director will be heard in a panel presentation on "Why a member of the National Council of Catholic Nurses" on the opening day, Sept. 22.

Miss Houck of Washington, D.C. is a member of several professional organizations, was first treasurer of the NCCW, its second president and is now the first executive secretary. Before going to Washington she



FATHER CONNELL

was a director of a school of nursing and member of a State Board of Nurse Examiners.

"THE EXCEPTIONAL CHILD" presentation will take place on Sept. 22 with participants including Rev. E. Charles Bauer, chaplain Newark State School; Dr. Albert W. Sullivan, Clinical Director, DePaul Clinic; Sister M. Seraphine, S.S.J., School of the Holy Childhood and Gerald Sullivan, Rochester school system sociologist.

A Mass for living and deceased members will be offered in Old St. Mary's Church, Sept. 23 at 8 a.m. Rev. Paul G. Wohlrab, a past diocesan spiritual director will give the sermon.

A Panel presentation "Ordinary and Extraordinary Means for the Dying Patient" and "Our Everyday Apostolate - The Catholic Nurse" are scheduled on September 23. Banquet with Monsignor Dalton as speaker will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Manger ballroom. Bishop Kearney will celebrate Mass and give the sermon on Sunday, Sept. 24 at 8 a.m. in Old St. Mary's Church. Nurses will assemble in the Manger ballroom and march to the church with the Knights of St. John serving as an escort.

Directing Conference plans are the Rev. John V. Rosse, spiritual director; Mrs. Zita Linehan, R.N. diocesan president and Donald Metildi, general chairman.

Mass Slated

A Seventh Day Solmn High Mass for the repose of the soul of the late Rt. Rev. Msgr. Charles J. Azi will be offered in Church of the Annunciation, 1754 Norton St. at 9 a.m. Saturday, August 12, according to the Rev. Albert L. Simonetti, pastor.

300 Years Ago

Pioneer Father Menard Labored In Diocese

By EDWIN NOLAN

The name of Father Rene Menard is reverently recorded in the history of the Diocese of Rochester as one of the first priests to offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in this area. In August, 1656, Father Menard and Father Joseph Chaumonot, both Jesuits, were sent by their superiors to labor among the Iroquois.

Father Menard was assigned to the Cayugas and Father Chaumonot to the Senecas. These French missionaries were the first white men to enter the Finger Lakes region, where they established the first Sanctuary of Christian worship in the area.

This current week marks the three hundredth anniversary of the death of Father Menard. In 1660, he had been delegated to a mission among the Ottawas. His age, failing health and Ottawa cruelty prompted his petitioning for release from the assignment, but the zealous missionary declared that he would have an "eternal remorse" if he had not accepted the task.

Before leaving Three Rivers on the first stage of his journey, he wrote to a priest friend: "In three or four months you may not see me in the memento of the dead, considering the manner of living of these people, and my age and weak constitution."

FATHER MENARD, after setting out, chanced to meet Bishop Laval of Quebec en route some place between Three Rivers and Montreal. Father Menard's own pen has recorded the prelate's counsel: "Father, every consideration seems to demand your staying here; but God, who is stronger than all, wants you in those parts."

The Bishop's words were later to be the source of great consolation in confronting the cruelty of the Ottawas which was greater than he had previously met in missions among savages.

In one of his letters, Father Menard, in commenting on Bishop Laval's farewell words wrote: "O how I blessed God since that meeting and how sweetly have those words spoken by so holy a prelate come home to me in the worst of my sufferings, misery and abandonment! God wants me in those parts! How often have I revolved those words in my mind amidst the torrent's roar and in the solitude of our great forests."

His plight and predicament at this time are described by the Catholic historian, John J. Shea: "The aged priest stood alone in the heart of the continent with no fellow priest and scarcely a fellow man of European race within a thousand miles. His labors were chiefly with the aged and infirm; few of the others would hear him. His zeal was such, however, that he tested his prospective converts long and strictly. Such care and concern were ultimately justified, for records state that Father Marquette and his companion priests subsequently found Father Menard's converts faithful to his teachings."

In early summer, 1661, he received a call from some distressed Christian Hurons. He was



strongly advised not to attempt the journey, but his answer was decisive: "God calls me there. I must go, should it cost me my life. This is the finest opportunity of showing to angels and me that I love my Creator more than life I hold from Him, and you wish me to let it slip?"

On the hazardous journey, the missionary was abandoned by his Huron guides. Only his faithful French donne, Jean Guerin, remained. Coming to dangerous rapids, the two separated Father Menard, to lighten the load of the frail canoe, proceeded on foot, while Guerin negotiated the descent. When the donne had safely passed the rapids, he was unable to find the priest. He looked everywhere in vain, even firing his gun to guide the missionary.

Father Menard was never seen again. His fate is a mystery. Periodically, some of his equipment, such as his cassock, breviary, chalice, and altar furnishings were found among the Indians, but no details of his death were ever ascertained.

The Jesuit Relations state

Members Hear NAS Director

Rev. Hector Lemieux, S.S.S. of New York City, national director of the Nocturnal Adoration Society, spoke to members of the Rochester Diocese organization last evening, Thursday, at Our Lady of Victory church.

DIOCESAN AND parish of priests and leaders heard the priest encourage them in development of their one hour, once a month program of prayer and meditation before the Blessed Sacrament.

The Rochester Diocese has sixteen adoration centers where devotions are held on the last Saturday of each month.

that the approximate date of the separation from his French donne, Guerin, was August 10th. His meager food supply was only enough to keep him alive for a very few days. His Jesuit superiors believed that death occurred some time between the 10th and the 15th of August, the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin.

It is a matter of record that Father Menard said Mass daily on his perilous journey, and one of his final Masses was the first Mass ever said in the present state of Wisconsin.

The Relations contain this tribute to Father Menard: "His courage was equal to his zeal. He had seen without fear the Iroquois rushing upon him, knife in hand to cut his throat, while laboring for their conversion in the village of Cayuga. Others in the same place had lifted their hatchets to cleave his skull, but he preserved his calmness. He met with a benign influence the results of little children who heoted at him in the streets as if he were a lunatic. But this generous Father gloried with the apostle in being counted a fool for Jesus' sake that in the very pangs of persecution he might give birth to this Iroquois church founded by him and which, in a short time, grew to the number of four hundred Christians, with the hopeful prospect of converting the entire brood had he not been stopped in the midst of this work."

Dr. Charles G. Hawley, a Protestant historian, once pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Auburn and one of the first American historians to translate the Jesuit Relations, closed his chapter on Father Menard with these words: "Whatever doubt there may hang over the circumstances of his death, none can rest upon the sincerity and fervor of his apostolic zeal on the heroism of an France will be given to those attending."

(Continued on page 12)



Slaves . . . In Rochester

A DISCIPLE of excommunicated priest, Father Leonard Feeney of Boston, is shown above in her nun-like garb on Rochester's East Ave. talking to two passersby. She and her companions, who call themselves the Slaves of Mary Immaculate, stopped at shops and office buildings throughout the city's downtown area selling religious literature which does not carry the Church's "imprimatur" or approval. Father Feeney was excommunicated by Rome in 1953 for teaching that only Roman Catholics can go to heaven.

Redemptorist Posts Given

Redemptorists in the Rochester diocese received their triennial appointments on the feast of their founder St. Alphonsus de Liguori, August 2.

At Notre Dame Retreat the new superior is Rev. Michael Downing, C.S.S.R.; his predecessor, Rev. Thomas A. Fallon, C.S.S.R., being assigned to the Mission band out of Brooklyn, N.Y. Father Edward Connan, C.S.S.R., leaves Alexander St. for the retreat house in the Poconos at Tobyhanna, Penna. Father James Collins, C.S.S.R. is assigned to Alexander Street as retreat-master.

At St. Joseph's on Franklin Street, Father Joseph Bertoni, C.S.S.R., remains as rector for a second term. Father Charles Daly, C.S.S.R., is transferred from St. Joseph's to the Immaculate Conception parish in Melrose, N.Y. Newly assigned to St. Joseph's are Rev. Raymond Knab, C.S.S.R. and Rev. Leo Dunn, C.S.S.R., a native of Rochester and returning from Missions in Brazil.

Retreat Listed By Carmelite

The Cenacle Retreat House for Women, at 693 East Ave., Rochester, has set aside a week-end for recent graduates and business girls to make a two-day retreat. This will take place Sept. 8-10, under the direction of Rev. Bruce Lardie, O. Carm.

The retreat opens with supper on Friday, Sept. 8, and closes at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, after Benediction. Reservations are made by mail or by telephone. BR. Retreat as this, he will be able 1-8755.

Mass Slated For Shutins

Shutins of the Rochester area are invited to a special holy day Mass Tuesday, August 15, at the Lourdes shrine of Holy Ghost Church, Coldwater, at 7 p.m.

AS AT SIMILAR rites over the past two years, several priests will be available to hear Confessions and give Holy Communion to those unable to leave their cars. Rev. Albert Geiger, Sermon will be by Rev. Henry Atwell.

Following the Mass, blessed water from the Lourdes shrine in France will be given to those attending.

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WHEN ... IS IT PAID?
4 compounded and paid **TIMES A YEAR**
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