

Looking Back

**Stimulating Vocations
Long Diocesan Tradition**

By THOMAS H. O'CONNOR

The usual time for emphasizing vocations is in March but the announcement of the coming of the Serra International to Rochester stimulates thinking about vocations and here are a few things recalled on the subject.

By chance I ran across an interview on Religious Vocations. Father Richard Torney had on WHAM with Bishop Kearney in March, 1932. The Bishop was asked what does a vocation mean.

"In a general way," the Bishop is quoted, "you best get the meaning of this word 'vocation' simply by translating your Latin. The 'Vocatio' is a calling. We have other callings. We meet one man and we say his vocation was to be a doctor. We have the teaching profession and we say after having listened to them or attended their classes their vocation was to be teachers. We're coming to realize that motherhood is a very definite vocation. However, in the sense that we are using it, we have come to restrict it to the 'call of God'."

THE SERRA CLUB. I'm told, will aim to develop the "call of God" to the priesthood while strengthening the faith and mutual friendship of the members — Catholic laymen.

About 30 years ago Rochester Council, Knights of Columbus had a grand knight who very much desired to spur this sort of movement. He was the late James E. Coff, first a civil engineer, who helped build bridges in Spain and Mexico, later studied law and became a district judge here. He raised a fund for St. Bernard's Seminary.

In 1952 files of this newspaper I found a story reporting the organization of the Columbian Guild by Knights of Columbus councils in the Diocese of Rochester who were members of the Central Chapter. This group reported a sum of \$1,500 to be turned over to Father Torney for help in educating young men in St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's Seminaries here.

Active in the Guild were Diocesan Chairman Raymond L. Nary, at present Master of the Fourth Degree district; the late Clarence M. LaMik, council chairman and the late Francis J. Thomas, council treasurer and a past grand knight.

Participating were councils in Rochester, Canandaigua, Geneva, Auburn, Waterloo, Canastota, Newark, Palmyra, Waverly, Dansville and a group of knights in Elmira.

PRAYER. Of course, is necessary in fostering religious vocations. Outstanding in this were members of Rochester Branch, National Catholic Women's Union, on record for distributing thousands of prayer cards in the movement.

Added to prayer each year the Diocesan School authorities stress a program in March which has brought here missionaries, priests, brothers and sisters including St. Bernard's graduates and members of the various religious orders of the Church.

For many years now the state organization of the Catholic Daughters of America have had a fund-raising program for aiding in the education of candidates for the priesthood.

As reported by Mrs. Loreta Linehan, vice chairman of Education and Scholarship the Catholic Daughters annually turn over to the Bishop of each Diocese in this state a grant of \$2,250 from the Seminary and scholarship fund to aid students for the priesthood. Since its inauguration more than \$300,000 has been presented for this purpose.

Frequently through the years the requests to the seminaries are reported in the newspaper.

THE NEED for vocations is explained in another answer to Bishop Kearney to Father Torney's question as to how critical are the vocations needs of the Rochester Diocese. This was in 1952.

The Bishop's reply: "Well, as you know Father, within the last few years we have increased to a great extent the number of our parish schools. We have opened a number of new parishes also. We find, for example, when there is talk of opening a new parish, the parents are always concerned first with the opening of a new church there should be the opening of a new school."

The Bishop cited that in addition to Sisters needed, opening a new parish meant a drain on the supply of priests and also of the responsibility felt for priests to take care of men in the armed forces.

This is not an attempt to record all vocation promotion in this diocese but points the spot which the Serra Club can have for work and spiritual activity in the cause.

TO FOSTER vocations as noted in the Courier Journal editorial of Nov. 10, 1961, the club will provide speakers for religious and civic groups, informational projects for youngsters and, primarily, by prayer and a loyal Catholic life.

Someday, someone may look back, and record their progress which could make a great contribution to the Church in this Diocese.

**Cana Conference
Scheduled At
Mercy Parish**

"Parent and Child Relationship" is the theme for a Cana conference to be held at Our Lady of Mercy parish, Denise Rd., Greece.

Rev. John C. Knott of Hartford, Conn., national director of the NCWC Family Life Bureau, will conduct the conference.

THE MERCY parish school hall will be the scene of the conference on Friday, Dec. 1, at 7:30 p.m. Following Father Knott's lecture the assemblage will be broken into small groups for a discussion period.

The Rosary and Holy Name Societies of the parish are sponsors of the conference with Mr. and Mrs. David Andrews as chairmen. Reservations are not necessary.

Refreshments will be served during the discussion period.



ANNUAL SETON SALE will be held Nov. 30 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Monica's Hall on Genesee St. Seated is Mrs. Robert Hand, chairman, and standing from left are Mesdames Donald Gaffney, Arthur Fink, Lester Gasser, Howard Fink and Patrick Gaffney.

Seton Sale Thursday

St. Monica's Hall, Genesee they have fabricated as projects during the organization's offer many household items and Christmas gifts for sale. Proceeds will be used for current expenses at St. Mary's Hospital such as urgently needed chapel decorations.

MRS. ROBERT HAND is chairman of this major Seton project. Mrs. Harry Hetzel is co-chairman.

Heading committees also are: Mrs. Adrian Hanna and Mrs. Raymond Soehner, finance; Mrs. Martin Q. Moll, publicity; Mrs. James Trainer, Mrs. Harry Platt, Mrs. Philip Goeltz, Mrs. Eugene Stockmaster, Mrs. Robert Clifford, arrangements; Mrs. Joseph Fox, Mrs. Frank Toolan, Mrs. Thomas Meagher, advisory.

About 65 booths will feature a variety of items ranging from Christmas wrapping kits to hand worked linens.

Adequate parking is available. Gifts and practical household items may be bought at a savings while St. Mary's hospital benefits, the committee said.

Refreshments will be served throughout the day including a basket lunch with the purchaser permitted to keep the basket.

**Nazareth Sets
Investiture**

The freshman class of Nazareth College will don academic attire for the first time Sunday, Dec. 3, during the college's traditional Investiture Ceremony.

Bishop Kearney will formally invest the freshmen while Sister Helen Daniel, president of the college, will preside. Mary Irvine, president of the undergraduate class, will address the freshman class on the importance of academic attire.

The freshmen will present their class song for the first time to an audience composed of the faculty of the college, also dressed in academic attire, and parents.

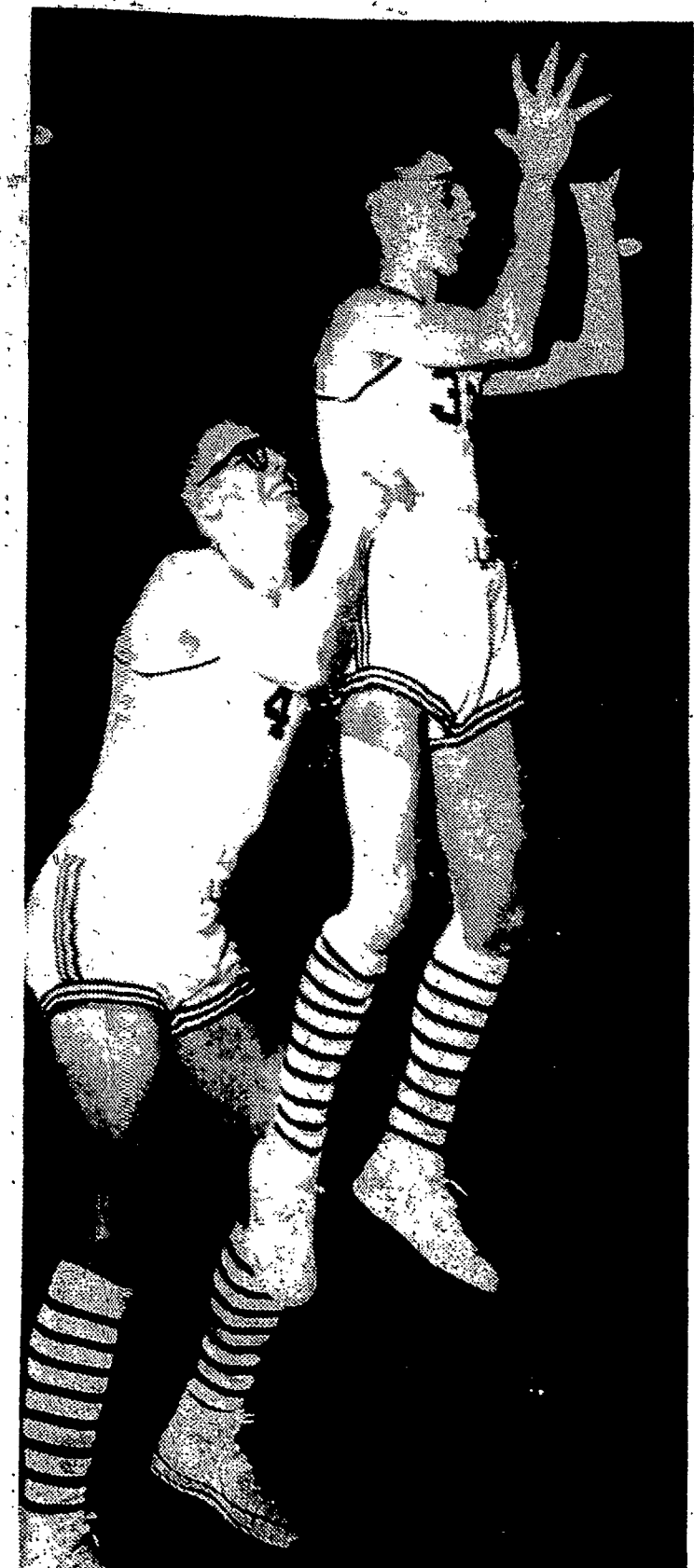


Mercy Sisters Sale Readied

Sisters of Mercy Christmas Sale and Bazaar will be held in the Mercy High School gym from 2 to 5 in the afternoon and from 7 to 11 in the evening. Conducted by the Mercy Guild, the sale is planned in the Christmas Gift Shoppe theme, with novel presents for all members of the family. Mrs. Walter B. Hickey (above right), vice-president of the Mercy Guild is chairman of the affair. Mother Mary Gabriel (center) and Mother Mary Alphonsus (left) will act as coordinators.

The Christmas booth will include Nativity cribs, centerpieces, novel Christmas trees and decorations, gift wrappings, and original Christmas cards. A variety of delicacies, including homemade bread from the convent kitchen, will be obtainable at the baked goods booth. The toy booth will feature a wide variety of uniquely dressed dolls, including nun dolls. There will be a special booth for women's gifts and one for men's. Aprons for every mood and occasion are obtainable at the apron booth.

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May I Help You?

AT AQUINAS Jim Chatterton gives an assist to Gary Page, co-captains of the Little Irish hoopsters. Basketball news on page 15.

**Brochure Explains
School System**

By REV. WILLIAM ROCHE

Diocesan Superintendent of Schools

"The Catholic School System in New York" is the title of an attractive folder that will shortly be placed in the hands of the people in our State.

Published by the New York State Council of Catholic School of parishes in the Diocese, and Superintendents, this brochure many have ordered sufficient copies to distribute the brochure to all of the people of their parishes. The 1,300 Catholic Schools of the Empire State met their responsibilities.

Catholic lay organizations have also shown interest in distributing the brochure to their members. Instruction centers and inquiry classes can make excellent use of the brochure in their program. Preliminary requests have come so rapidly in several dioceses in the state that an additional printing of a quarter million copies has just been undertaken.

Three and one-half tons of paper had to be ordered on a rush basis from the supplier to meet the needs of this program. The brochure has been made available to all of the pastors

(Continued on Page 12)

AFTER THANKSGIVING

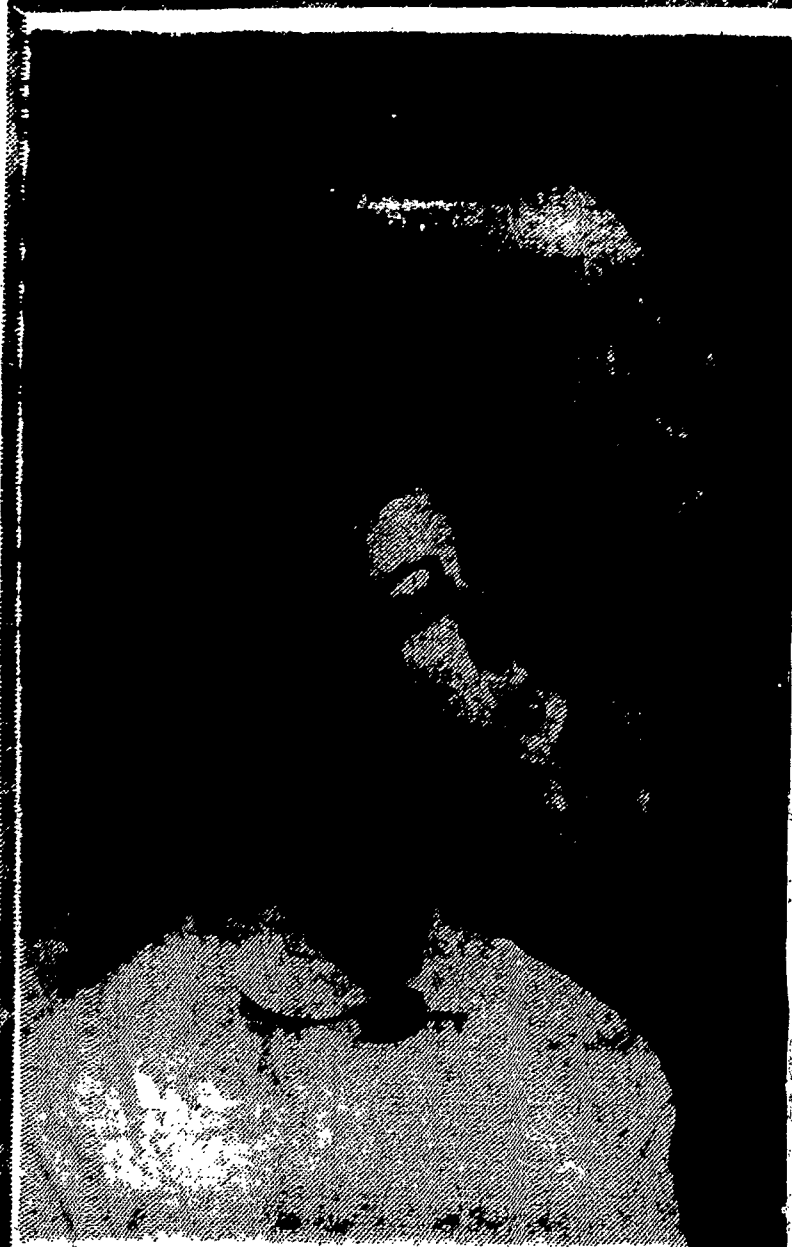
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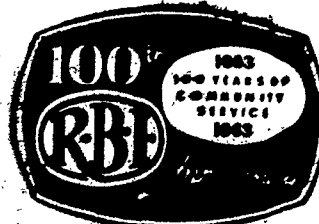


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