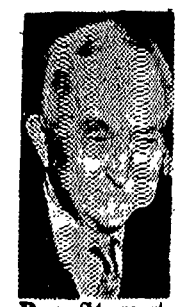


**Looking Back**

**Dr. Stewart Mourned, Jesuit History Expert**

By THOMAS H. O'CONNOR

In this year of efforts being made to bring persons of varied religious beliefs closer together and the continued seeking for One Fold and One Shepherd, the death of Rev. Alexander M. Stewart, 84, a retired Baptist minister on Saturday, Feb. 24, 1962 recalls what this man did to advance the movement, through his life.



Rev. Stewart

Mr. Stewart was primarily a dedicated historian. He was "one of the best sources of information on 17th Century Jesuit activities in America," Dr. Alfred K. Guthrie, former Rochester Museum anthropologist once said.

He was an authority on the early Catholic missionaries to these parts and so wrote in special articles for the Catholic Courier Journal in the 1930's.

In the early '30's, this newspaper was issuing an Official Diocesan Review and Calendar for badly needed extra advertising and to give the readers at the same time added worthwhile information.

FIRST ARTICLE submitted by Mr. Stewart was on Early Catholic History in the Rochester diocese (area). Dated paragraphs told in his inimitable style of happenings hereabouts from 1300 A.D. up to 1812.

Glancing through the article names and events which he perpetuated in these parts appear. He wrote of Father Jacques Fremin, first recorded white resident of Monroe County. The mission unit of Nazareth College bears this famed Jesuit missionary's name today.

He told also of Father Julian Garnier who came to work among the Seneca Indians. Doctor Stewart said that no white man before the founding of Rochester in 1812 is known to have had a longer residence in this vicinity than Father Garnier.

The first Christian community in this diocesan area was established in 1650 in the village of the Hurons on Ganargua Creek near Holcomb and East Bloomfield. Francis Teonhongo and James Atondo, laymen teachers of Dogiques, residents of this village were the first Christian teachers in the Rochester diocese.

Well remembered names of priests who came across the seas to live among the Indians and work for their salvation appear in the articles. Father Simon LeMoine is now memorialized at a Jesuit Father's college in Syracuse. Father Rene Menard and his deeds down Auburn way has had a bridge named for him.

Areas cited in the early history are Ganargua Creek near Holcomb where in 1689, Father Fremin dedicated a chapel at St. Michael's. In 1674 or 1675 St. Joseph's Chapel was erected on Boughton Hill.

FATHER HENNEPIN, the Recollet missionary and his party were recorded arriving

after five days hard walk from Niagara on Dec. 31, 1678 to work among the Senecas.

This article was concluded with the fact that in 1812 the first bridge was built across the Genesee River in Rochester-Otsego but was considered too far west ever to be of any use.

"Early Voyager Priests" was the title of Mr. Stewart's article in the 1935-1936 Review. The article stated that the author was a pioneer in the study of the work of the Jesuit Missions in Western and Central New York.

Father Claude Dablon, S.J. and Father Joseph Chaumonot, S.J. and their work in adding converts daily to the faith were among these priests. Tribute to their work was paid July 4, 1935 when Monsignor Charles F. Shay of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Rochester celebrated Mass and Father George Dond of East Bloomfield read a historical address at the missionary site at Boughton Hill.

Other articles by Mr. Stewart told of the missionary activity along the Genesee River and of pre-colonial history of Lake Ontario. His writings were authenticated by sources particularly the Jesuit Relations.

A kindly man, Mr. Stewart was always the gentleman and never in any way indicated that his work was done other than to extol the Catholic priest's missionary zeal.

During his activities he often conferred with the late Monsignor Edward J. Byrne of St. Bernard's Seminary and the late Herman G. Hetzler who was also dedicated to preserving accounts of the area's missionary deeds among the Indians.

With Monsignor Byrne and Mr. Hetzler, he worked industriously in carrying out Mr. Hetzler's projects in marking historical spots. The Father Rene Menard bridge was among these on routes 5 and 20 across the Seneca River near Montezuma.

ANOTHER was the marker erected by Musa Caravan, Order of the Alhambra in 1933 at Mr. Hetzler's suggestion to commemorate the Totlakton site on the Rush-Lima Road. Father Hennepin is remembered by the marker on the grounds of Our Lady of Mercy High School.

At the unveiling of a monument erected by Mr. Hetzler to honor an Iroquois Christian, rather than a missionary, named Athasata and called Kryn, Mr. Stewart with Mr. George Selden, also an authority on local area history, was a speaker.

Subsequent marking of Catholic missionary endeavor also had Mr. Stewart's interest. The marker on the shore of Lake Ontario near Cape Vincent in Jefferson County and the ceremony at the site of San Michel, a Jesuit chapel, built in 1656. At this Bishop Kearney was presented the key to the chapel by Mr. Hetzler.

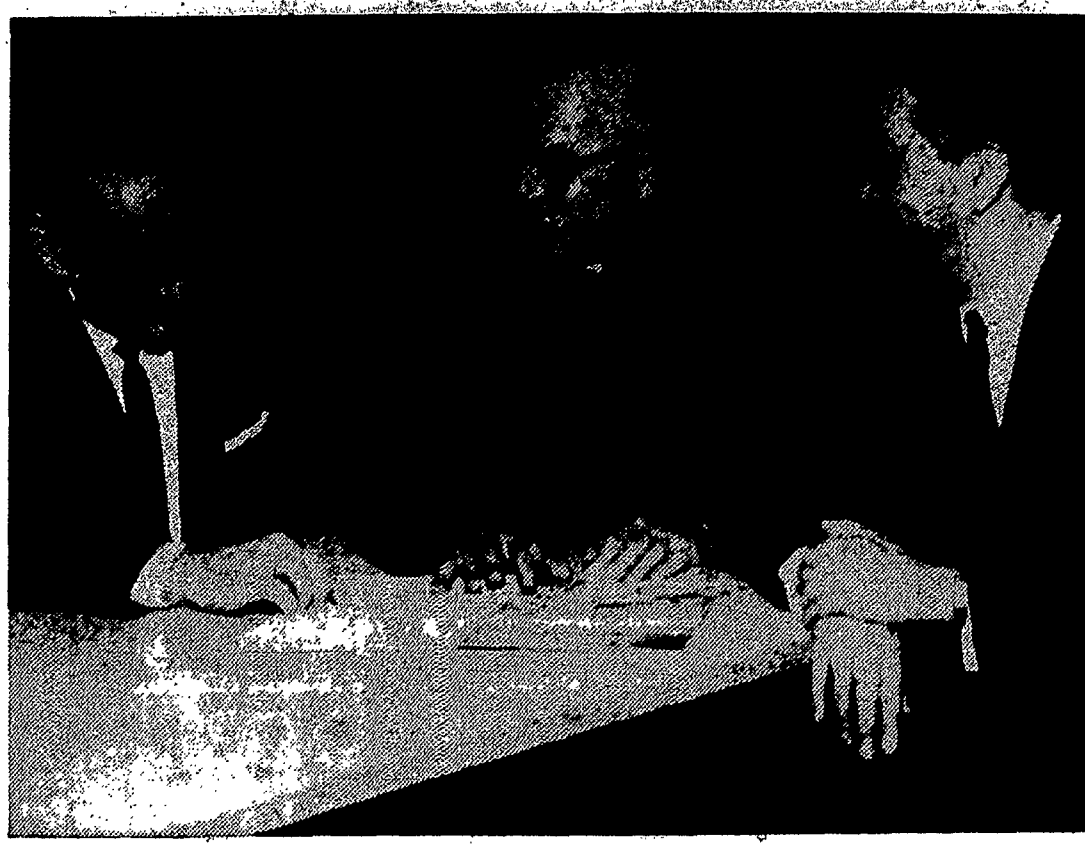
The research and writing of Mr. Stewart played a great role in all the activity to commemorate Catholic missionaries. He was truly "a gentleman and a scholar."

**Morning TV Meditation**

WHEC-TV, Channel 10 in Rochester, will begin a series of five minute programs titled "Pastoral Call" Monday, March 5, at 7:55 a.m.

The program, to be presented each weekday Monday through Friday, will alternate week by week between Catholic and Protestant clergymen.

Tickets at \$5.00 are available



**Guests at John Fisher College**

DR. LEROY GOOD, left, president of the new Monroe County Community College, and Dr. Samuel Stabins, right, chairman of the board of trustees, confer with the Very Rev. Charles J. Lavery, C.S.B., president of St. John Fisher College, during their visit to the Basilian College last Friday.

**New Postmaster To Be Honored**

A dinner will honor John G. Bittner upon his appointment as Rochester Postmaster. Scene of the dinner will be the Powers Hotel ballroom on Saturday, March 3 at 6:30 p.m.

SPONSORED BY the Rochester District Commandery and Ladies District Auxiliary No. 1 of New York, Knights of St. John, the affair will draw numerous upstate dignitaries. Arrangements are being made for some 600 guests and friends of Bittner.

Bishop Kearney will be principal guest and speaker at the dinner, with Brig. General Emil G. Eckert, Knights of St. John, as toastmaster.

The Susan Tompkins Quinny Trio will furnish dinner music. The Knights and Ladies of St. John have arranged the event in recognition of Bittner's long and faithful community and fraternal service.

A reception will be held in the Knights and Ladies of St. John clubrooms at 365 Andrews St. after the dinner.

Prior to accepting the postmastership Bittner was Vice Mayor of Rochester. He was elected to this post by his colleagues on the Rochester City Council on Jan. 2, 1962.

While attending a dinner in Rochester, Postmaster General J. Edward Day announced the appointment of the Vice Mayor to the position of Postmaster. Bittner then resigned as Vice Mayor and as City Councilman, a post he held for 10 years.

On January 29 he was sworn in as Postmaster by Seon T. Keating, Director of the New York region.

Bittner was elected Colonel of the Rochester Regiment of the Knights of St. John in December of the past year. This top fraternal post culminates 40 years of fraternal activity. He served Our Lady of Perpetual Help Commandery No. 40 Ontario near Cape Vincent in Jefferson County and the ceremony at the site of San Michel, a Jesuit chapel, built in 1656. At this Bishop Kearney was presented the key to the chapel by Mr. Hetzler.

TWO NATIONAL Conventions, in 1946 and 1948, awarded Commandery 40 drill prizes while Bittner was serving as Captain of the drill team. Honors were likewise accorded the Commandery in drill competition under his guidance in 1947 and 1949 at the New York State Conventions.

For 13 years the now Colonel served as secretary to the District Commandery and for the past eight years as Lieutenant Colonel. Notable terms as president of the Rochester Chapter of Chevaliers (Fourth Degree) and as Grand Master of the Notable and Exalted Order of the Holy Cross are credited to his fraternal record. He is also currently serving on the Supreme President's staff.

R. Albert Scranton and Camilla Haszlauer are chairmen with assistance from Edward Lang and Mary Elizabeth Webster as co-chairmen.

**Canandaigua Knights Set Testimonial Dinner**

Canandaigua — Canandaigua Council #1445 Knights of Columbus is holding a testimonial dinner for its Honorary Members and Past Grand Knights at 7 p.m., March 3, at the Canandaigua Inn, 897, Newark.

Between 35 and 40 honorary members and Past Grand Knights have been invited. In addition, the Council Chaplain, Rev. Alphonsus P. Crimmins of St. Mary's Church, Canandaigua and priests of parishes in the Council area have been invited. Also invited is the District Deputy of the Eighty-second District, Bernard F. DePaup of Newark Council No.

MAIN SPEAKER at the dinner will be Monsignor James Cuffney of St. Mary's Church, Auburn, and former assistant pastor of St. Mary's Church, Canandaigua. Monsignor Cuffney is currently chaplain of the Central New York Chapter Knights of Columbus.

Representatives of the Central New York Chapter will be in attendance to present Canandaigua Council with a special plaque in memory of a former past chairman of the Chapter, Francis J. Welch.

The following committee has arranged for the dinner: Nazarene Damico, Everett Claudius, Robert Craven, Ralph M. Everett and James Doran.

Parents Meet

St. Andrew's Seminary Parents Association will meet at the seminary Monday, March 5, at 8 p.m. Very Rev. Msgr. Richard Quinn, rector, will speak on developments in seminary education. Plans will be discussed for a spring card party. Refreshments will be served.

Mrs. L. Harvey Clark, chairman of the Library and Literature Committee, spoke on the need for developing good reading habits, and distributed brochures listing suggested reading. During a discussion period the women participated in the discussion of different types of reading material and of some specific books. The women were invited to use the facilities of the St. Alphonsus Library, which is open every Monday evening during the hours 7 to 9 p.m.

The Rosary Society of St. Patrick's Church, Cato is in the process of setting up a library, and books are being loaned them by St. Alphonsus Library for the purpose of getting this project underway.

The meeting was closed with a prayer offered by the spiritual moderator, Rev. Charles McCarthy.

Hostesses for the social hour were members of the Rosary and Scapular Society of St. Mary's Church.

Heads Publicity

Miss Barbara Genova, a student at Villa Maria College, Erie, has been named publicity chairman for the annual freshman class dance, "Ebb Tide," to be held in Erie Saturday night, March 3.

Miss Genova is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Genova, 129 1/2 North Fulton St., Auburn, N.Y. A graduate of Mount Carmel High School, Auburn.

THE PRESIDENT, in reporting on matters discussed at the recent Diocesan Council Board meeting in Canandaigua, sug-

gested that the women familiarize themselves with material pertaining to the bill on Federal Aid to Education and the possibility of having someone familiar with this subject speak at meetings of the various organizations. It was also suggested that as a topic for discussion for study groups during Lent the women consider using Pope John's new encyclical "Mater et Magistra."

Subsequent sessions will be March 18, "Morals in Marriage," Rev. Gerald T. Connors; March 25, "Physiology of Marriage," Francis J. O'Brien, M.D. and Robert J. Schaffer, M.D.; April 1, "Unity of Husband and Wife," Dr. and Mrs. Fred Langenstein; April 8, "Spirituality in the Home," Rev. Daniel V. Hogan.

Though the course is designed especially for the engaged man and woman, married couples interested in attending will be welcome.

Report of the work being done by the recently formed International Relations committee was reported by Mrs. Joseph Barry, in the absence of Mrs. Frederick J. Welch, committee chairman. The work of the committee is progressing well, and names of exchange students studying in this area have been sent to all affiliated organizations in the deanery.

Mrs. Barry stated that some of the students had already received invitations to attend organization activities, as well as being invited into individual homes, and all were urged to extend hospitality to these students during their stay in our country.

Mrs. E. Joseph Hassett, president, also called for reports from the Foreign Relief, Spiritual Development, Mothers' Circles and Public Relations committees.

McCurdy's MIDTOWN PLAZA

**Cayuga Deanery Unit Sets Pre-Marriage Series**

Mrs. Thomas F. Walsh, chairman of the Family and Parent Education committee of the Cayuga Deanery Council of Catholic Women, has announced that plans for the 15th annual Marriage Preparation course, sponsored by the Council, are completed.

THE SESSIONS will be held at the Knights of Columbus Home, 168 Genesee St., Auburn, at 8 p.m. on five consecutive Sunday evenings, beginning March 11 with Rev. Albert J. Shamon as speaker, his topic being "True Values for Marriage."

Subsequent sessions will be March 18, "Morals in Marriage," Rev. Gerald T. Connors; March 25, "Physiology of Marriage," Francis J. O'Brien, M.D. and Robert J. Schaffer, M.D.; April 1, "Unity of Husband and Wife," Dr. and Mrs. Fred Langenstein; April 8, "Spirituality in the Home," Rev. Daniel V. Hogan.

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**Parish Dinner In Mt. Morris**

Mt. Morris — The Rev. Dominic J. Grasso, pastor of St. Patrick's Church, has announced that the annual St. Patrick's parish dinner will be held Sunday, March 18 at 6 p.m. at the Veterans' Building on Elm St.

THE FOLLOWING committee has been named to take charge of the ticket sales: Miss Lena Geraci, Mrs. James Carney, Mrs. George Northrup and Mrs. James Hughes.

The location of the annual dinner was changed this year from the St. Patrick's School recreation room to the Veterans building. A large crowd is expected due to the combining of the two parishes, the Assumption and St. Patrick's, last summer.

An entertainment program is planned by the committee following the dinner.

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**Program For Newlyweds Opens At St. Monica's**

Inauguration of "The Newlyweds' Conference" by the Family Life Bureau, Diocese of Rochester will take place Sunday, March 11 at St. Monica's Rectory Hall, 34 Monica St., Rochester according to the Rev. Gerald E. Dunn, director.

To his knowledge, Father Dunn said today, this is the first to be held in this section of the country.

THE PROGRAM is planned to be held annually as a follow-up to the Pre-Cana Conferences. "The first year of marriage brings with it the most important period of adjustment for the young couple," Father Dunn said. "Since marriage preparation can deal only with theory, we feel a necessity for a more detailed discussion of the practical."

Only one conference will be held, not a series. The Newlyweds' Conference will begin at 2 and continue until 4:30 p.m. Panel of speakers will include Father Dunn, Dr. Maurice Gorman and Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Barrett. The major areas of adjustment, spiritual, economic, physical, mental will be treated by the panel.

A group discussion is planned to enable the couples to present their questions.

Any couple married recently is invited to participate. Since this is a pilot program, it is not limited to just those married less than a year. In subsequent programs, this will be the rule.

Father Dunn said it is not necessary that the couple be graduates of the Pre-Cana in order to attend.

COURIER-JOURNAL Friday, March 2, 1962

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