

Monsignor Connors

'Could Never be Inactive'

"I couldn't stand to be inactive I hope after I retire I can spend more time visiting the sick and trying to get Catholics who have fallen away from the practice of their faith back to Church."

That is the program Rochester's 92-year-old pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church has set for himself after he "retires."

Monsignor Thomas F. Connors, 62 years pastor of the Oxford Street church, told parishioners at Sunday Masses he will give up administration of the parish he founded.

Successing him will be Monsignor Edward J. McAniff who has been secretary to Bishop Kearney since 1955.

Monsignor Connors will continue to live at the Blessed Sacrament rectory.

He has seen his parish grow from a few score families to become one of the largest in the twelve-county Rochester diocese. He has supervised extensive construction programs and the parish now has a magnificent Gothic church, a school with nearly 800 pupils, a new convent and a new rectory. The church is currently filled with scaffolding for a just-begun redecorating project.

The change-over of pastoral duties will take place June 25.

MONSIGNOR CONNORS was in a mood to reminisce Sunday evening.

He said he long wanted to be a priest but as one of ten children he decided he better help support the family.

After a course at the Rochester Free Academy, then Rochester's only public high school and now the Fitzhugh Street headquarters of the city's vast public school system, he became book-keeper for a local clothing firm.

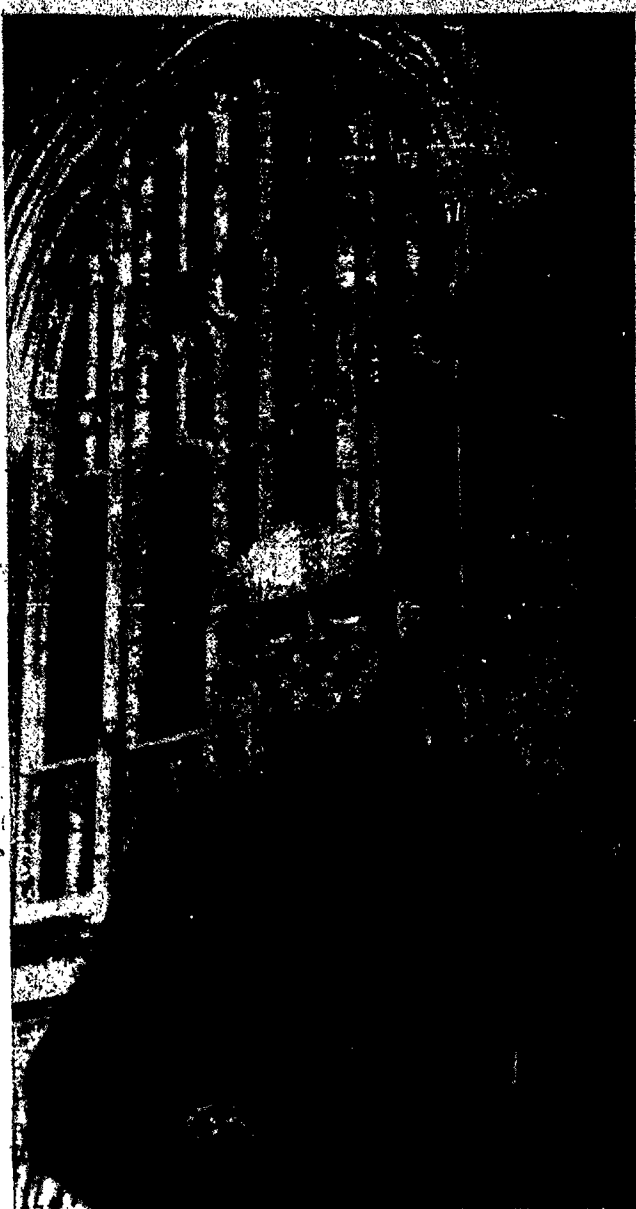
When he tallied his books at the end of his first week he was \$30 short, a sizeable sum in those days.

"I was sure I'd be fired and probably arrested but my mother told me God would protect me."

Sunday morning, as the Connors family was getting ready for Mass, the doorbell rang. "I figured this was the policeman to take me to jail... but it wasn't." The next day the man in charge of the office said he spent the weekend checking accounts and found he himself had made the error — "so I've given a small raise and here, apologies for any embarrassment they caused me."

When family finances were in better condition, he enrolled at St. Andrew's Seminary, continued his studies at St. Bernard's and was ordained June 11, 1928, by Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid in old St. Patrick's Cathedral, Rochester.

He was a curate for three years at St. Mary's Church and



Monsignor Connors at Blessed Sacrament Church.



MONSIGNOR McANIFF, new pastor

learned him to thousands. "I give me so much satisfaction to cheer up a sick person that I don't consider this task a duty but a privilege."

Despite his years, he still makes calls at hospitals and is usually one of the first to arrive to console a family when a loved one dies.

He hasn't taken a vacation in years.

He recalls he took a trip to San Francisco but had just arrived there when word came to him about the death of Bishop McQuaid. "I just turned around and came right back" — and that was in 1959.

"God has been very good to me. He has let me say Mass every day of my 55 years in the priesthood, except for two occasions when I was hospitalized some years back."

Monsignor Connors also organized Good Shepherd parish in Henrietta, helped establish St. Elizabeth Guild House formerly on Field St. now on East Ave., as a home for young working women, and has long been associated with Park Avenue Hospital where two plaques testify to the hospital's official esteem for him.

His concern for the sick — "sick people are worried and often very lonely" — has en-

Pastors Advise Patience

St. Paul — (RNS) — A Roman Catholic pastor who is a consultant to two commissions of the second Vatican Council has warned his parishioners against a hasty return to the Council's "new mass" from the Council.

Mr. J. G. Grand, pastor of St. Agnes Catholic Church and former pastor of St. Paul Church, said anticipation of the new mass is "causing parishioners to forget the fact that the new mass is a process, not a product."

He asked his congregation to "continue to be obedient children of Holy Mother Church and to obey the laws as they stand."

Mr. Grand specifically said all parishioners not to use the new mass until the new mass is officially approved by the Holy See.

Another pastor, Father Joseph P. W. of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Belle Harbor, N.Y., said speculation about the new mass is "causing parishioners to forget the fact that the new mass is a process, not a product."

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'Breakthrough' To Retarded

Washington — (RNS) — Nuns teaching retarded children at the St. Joseph P. Kennedy Institute have found that children with low I.Q.'s can learn things readily if they are taught by means of colored slides projected on the wall.

The sisters refer to it as the "Naval Academy" method of teaching because they are using the same kind of projector and equipment found used at Annapolis in teaching young naval cadets the strategies of defense.

While retarded children in their teens will sit still and concentrate for only four or five minutes at a time on children's books, they will listen and watch attentively as long as 20 or 30 minutes at a slide lecture.

Sister Joseph Mary, director of the institute — endowed by President Kennedy's family and named for his older brother who died during World War II — said the method may revolutionize the teaching of mentally handicapped children.

Many retarded youngsters have been given only basic manual training in the past, she said. Without some academic

training, they fall to establish normal contacts with their fellow workers when they do get a job out in the world.

"They simply have nothing to talk with them about," she explained. "So although they may have learned their trade well they are usually the last to be hired and the first to be fired."

The nuns have succeeded in teaching a class of 30 handicapped children a course in social science and geography. All now know where Cape Canaveral is and what is going on there.

With this background, they can watch the news and keep up with news events of the day, something in which they formerly showed no interest.

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Mercy Nun Takes Degree

Sister Mary Elizabeth Anne (Science), R.N.M., of the Holy Cross Order of Mercy, will receive her Master of Science Degree in Nursing Education with a major in Medical-Surgical Nursing Arts from Catholic University, Washington, at graduation exercises there, Sunday, June 8.

SISTER ELIZABETH ANNE has been studying at Catholic University under a federal traineeship grant for the past two years. Her thesis provided research evidence of the need for the inclusion of the study of physics in the nursing education program.

Sister has been an instructor in science at St. James Mercy Hospital Nursing School for the past twenty years.

The Very Rev. Robert J. Cannon, S.J., will give the Commencement Address.

Write or Phone 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14 for details. Make application to Sister Mary Elizabeth Anne, Holy Cross Order of Mercy, 222 Church Ave., St. Roch, N.Y.

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'Significant' Liturgy Asked

Glenstal, Ireland — (NC) — Leading students of the Church's public worship from three countries agreed here that the current liturgical renewal must be primarily pastoral. The consensus was reached at Ireland's 10th Liturgical Congress, which drew about 150 priests to the Benedictine abbey here.

There was "the Liturgy in Pastoral Life." Among the main speakers were Father Gerald S. Slayna, acting head of the Department of Religious Education at the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., and president of the North American Liturgical Conference, and Father James D. Crichton, rector of the Church of the Holy Redeemer, St. Wulstan and St. Edburga in Pershore, England, and editor of the English review, Liturgy.

Father Crichton said that Pope John brought out in his opening address to the ecumenical council that the Church's main task is pastoral. Thus the Church must reach out to the world as it is now and to every department of it, he said.

Father Crichton asserted that the "symbolism of the liturgy is meant to be significant," conveying not only grace, but also the message of God. Thus, he said, the symbols used in the Church's worship should be symbols which are "easily understood" by the people.

Father Slayna told the meeting that the liturgy of the Church must be so clear in its symbolism and its words that the people are fully aware of the fact that not only are they addressing God, but He is addressing them. "Only a people of God, conscious of being addressed — conscious of the One who addresses them — can make adequate responses," he said.

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Pope Tells Children Of Death

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope John told several hundred Roman children late in April that he might die soon but that he hoped to visit Rome's parishes again next Lent.

The Pope told the children that he is "Pastor of Rome" and its Bishop, but that he does not have the courage to imitate Christ and call himself the Good Shepherd.

"The Lord watches us and judges us," he said. "I think of my failings."

The Pope said that, like the Good Shepherd, he often thinks "of the lambs who escape here and there."

Pope John recalled stories about Pope Pius X and Pope Leo XIII. He said that Leo XIII died at the age of 93.

"What happened to him must happen to us all," he said, "and will happen, perhaps soon, to the Pope who speaks to you. This is the natural ending of life."

Notice

The increasing numbers of grammar school graduates and members of First Communion classes again necessitate the practice of omitting their names from reports received. This newspaper again must stress the Post Office rule against announcements of door prizes or raffles.

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