

25 Years Ago

(From Catholic Courier files, Oct. 24, 1949)

Sisters of St. Joseph were looking forward to the building of a new Nazareth College for women as a fitting climax to their work of 86 years in this diocese and as a fulfillment of Bishop McQuaid's farewell message to them "the schools are my greatest glory."

Dedication of the new \$50,000 edifice of St. Paul of the Cross Church, Honeye Falls by Bishop Kearney was announced for Oct. 30 by Rev. William J. Kilackey, pastor.

Fiftieth anniversary of the Catholic Young Men's Association of St. Joseph Church, Franklin Square was to be marked with a two-day program including Mass and a banquet.

Forty Hours

Devotions of Forty Hours in Diocese of Rochester.

Our Lady of Mercy, St. Joseph, Oct. 24—Annunciation, eph, Rochester; St. Mary, Genesee, St. Michael, Penn Yan, St. James, Waverly; Holy Trinity, Webster.

Newman Apostolate on UR Campus

Today's college Newman programs are light on social activities, strong on religious and intellectual content, says the priest who has been Catholic chaplain at the University of Rochester for 13 years.

Father L. John Hedges feels that with the stress on scholarship now prevailing, the Newman program can't "waste its time with social activities."

"The students are much more serious about their studies today than say 10 years ago," he comments, "and with today's academic pressure, they have very little time for extracurricular activities."

That's why the Newman program at U. of R. stresses opportunities for a full spiritual life—daily Mass is offered on the campus, weekly confession is available—and as much Christian intellectual formation as the students are willing to try for.

Father Hedges can make some sage observations about Catholics on the secular campus, as he's been at his present job since the fall of 1952. He stepped in "temporarily" to help the Newman Club chaplain, the late Father Paul Tufts, and when Father Tufts fell seriously ill, his toga descended on Father Hedges, then assistant pastor at St. Mary's Church.

For eleven years, Father Hedges divided his time between the college ministry and his parish duties. In September of 1953, the burden of work on the campus was sizeable enough for Bishop Kearney to assign Father Hedges full-time to the Newman Apostolate.

(Other full-time Newman chaplains in the Diocese include Father Richard Torney at Cornell University, Father Thomas Stasi at Teachers College of the State University in Genesee, and Father Michael Daly at the sister Teachers College in Brockport. Other colleges have part-time chaplains.)

"When I first started, we had about 225 Catholics, divided on two campuses, the men on River Boulevard, the women on Prince Street. (The two locations have since been consolidated on the River Campus. Today, there are about 450 Catholic undergraduates in a student body of 2,900) and probably 200 in graduate work," Father Hedges notes.

As to what percentage of students "participate" in the Newman program, Father Hedges makes a valid distinction when he says:



DISCUSSION GROUPS meet regularly at the Newman Oratory to get a firmer grasp of Catholic doctrine, learn how to apply Christian principles to 20th century problems. This is a typical group of undergraduates in a session with Father Hedges. The topic this year is the Vatican Council.

"Sunday Mass is our most important activity, and if you are talking about this, some 65-75 per cent of our students do assist at Sunday Mass. On campus we have around 200-225 at our two Masses, and I know of others who are attending regularly at the parish churches."

As far as other organized Newman activities, Father Hedges figures that about one-third of the Catholic undergraduates take part in regular meetings, study clubs or special seminars during the school year. The Newman program does have a regular meeting, every two weeks, usually with an invited speaker.

"Our group has been strong for retreats," he adds with quiet pride. About 75 students make a weekend retreat each year.

The University provides Father Hedges with an on-campus office at Todd Union, and makes available a good sized hall in West Todd where Sunday Mass can be offered.

FATHER HEDGES invites all entering Catholic freshmen

to stop in to get acquainted with him (and most do), and is on hand every afternoon for counseling in his office. He says Mass in Upper Todd every day at 4:45 p.m.

As far as formal courses, the U. of R. Newman program tries to be flexible, offering courses to meet needs and which get a good response. Over the years, Father Hedges has scheduled courses in Catholic theology, Apologetics, Church History, and Philosophy. Last fall, Father William Shannon, professor of Theology at Nazareth College offered an 8-session seminar on "the new approach to the Bible," which was well received.

Newman Oratory

In 1953, the Newman Oratory came into existence, when Father Hedges purchased a stately old home at 561 Mt. Hope Ave., about 9/10 of a mile from the main campus. This gave the Newman Club its own headquarters, which includes a good library, meeting rooms, a small chapel and a place of residence for Father Hedges.

Purchasing the house and re-

furbishing it into workable shape as a Newman Oratory meant incurring a \$36,000 debt. With the help of many individuals interested in the Newman apostolate, the debt has been cut down to \$27,000, but is still a worry to the Newman chaplain.

"Our collection on Sunday can help keep our program moving," he says, "but for any expansion, like the Oratory, we need outside help."

Once a year, Father Hedges mails an appeal to Catholic alumni and parents of Catholic students for financial support. In addition, the Newman Guild, composed of Rochesterians interested in the campus apostolate, helps out with fund-raising affairs.

A Fall Tea, chaired by Miss Sara Malone, was the first Guild event this year. Program Chairman Mrs. F. William Gregory has lined up several other events. Mrs. Eaton Hammond does their publicity.

Some Fall Away

Asked to comment on the number of Catholics who fall

away from the Church during their college years, Father Hedges said:

"Exact figures aren't possible, any more than they are in a parish. The number who stop going to Mass during these years of decision is substantial, but I want to make clear—the majority continue to practice their faith. And even among those who do fall away, a number return in later years."

Father Hedges still remembers one "black day," when two students stopped in at his office to tell him that they were switching to other churches. On the same day he had a phone call from a parish priest asking him to look up still another boy who had stopped attending Mass!

"That was my darkest day," he says now with a grim smile, "but there have been many good days to balance the picture!"

One of these occurred only last June, when Father Hedges acted as deacon at the first solemn Mass of a newly ordained priest, Father Richard M. Murphy, who was a U. of R. (and Newman Club) alumnus, class of 1959.

"Dick Murphy was a great help to us in the Newman program while he was in college, and it was a great joy to see him ordained after his seminary course," stated Father Hedges.

"That was one of the really good days!"

—Father Robert J. Kasza

Father Kane to Address Seneca Falls Group

Seneca Falls — The Rev. Thomas Kane, pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Perkinsville and former assistant pastor of St. Patrick's Church here will be guest speaker at St. Patrick's Guild and Altar Society annual banquet, Monday, Oct. 25.

The dinner in the Gould Hotel will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Father Kane will speak on Hawaii and Catholicity as he found it there. He will show films of Hawaii taken while he was in the island state for a year.

OTHER GUESTS will be the Rev. John P. O'Brien, pastor; the Rev. Raymond Ringwood, assistant pastor of St. Patrick's; the Rev. John B. Kleintjes, pastor of Guardian Angels Church, Henrietta; and Francis J. Souhan, business executive in Seneca Falls.

Mrs. Frank (Faye) Seely of Geneva will be guest soloist accompanied by Mrs. Jewel Hare, of Geneva, at the piano.

Mrs. Anthony Barbieri will be toastmistress. Group singing will be led by Mrs. Carmen Martello.

All members will be called, any not contacted will call Mrs. Barbieri, 568-5976; Mrs. Travis, 568-8435 or Mrs. Martello, 568-

5338. Reservations to be made by Friday, Oct. 22.

Members may bring guests.

COURIER-JOURNAL Friday, Oct. 22, 1955

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Directives On Unity Liturgy

(Continued from P. 6)

Meeting of Catholic Protestants to gain a understanding of one faith and practice.

Priests are urged with Protestant clergy to mutual understanding.

"Open House" are recommended by Protestant to guided Catholic churches at visiting invitations to visit churches.

Pupils in Catholic and Confraternity of Doctrine classes are to "accurate and current" information concerning practices of other religions.

Catholic priests people "should cooperate" with people of other religions groups in social welfare projects, programs for racial strengthening family poverty action, etc.

The most far-reaching is the Commission's plan for Catholics to attempt to worship together in ecumenical arrangements by both Protestant clergy.

Also approved is other Christians to in the prayers and Mass and Catholics — motive of friendship to or to deeper understanding of the practices of other bodies — may join the and hymns at Protestant services provided the text "contrary to Catholic

Intercommunion is permitted under a "stanzas," however, at the Commission's rule.

Catholics are authorized to attend baptismal and other faiths but are not to act as sponsors.

Catholics and other churches are to witness at wedding other churches (if provided—that the marriage is "presumptively valid").

Non-Catholics should be buried in family plots or other cemeteries and the Church or those good faith purchase other than Catholic may be given Christian in those cemeteries.

The Commission also authorizes other churches to Catholic churches as — blessings, ash palms, etc., — if to receive them."

WHAT WILL you come of all this activity?

The Commission statement with the "Each participant recognize that all that with the dialogue it up to God. What a result of the dialogue left strictly in His

— Monsignor Wilfredo rector of St. Berninary, is chairman of member diocesan Commission and McJohn E. McCafferty judge of the diocese and recently named Holy Rosary Church man of the five memorial Commission

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STRONG SUPPORTERS of the Newman program are the Newman Guild, composed of alumni and interested friends. Shown with Father Hedges are from left, Mrs. Richard Mack, current Guild chairman, Mrs. John Carberry and Mrs. J. William Quinlan.



COUNSELING is an important part of a Newman chaplain's role, as he exercises his pastoral ministry on the secular campus.

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SPECIAL TIME REPORT

THE POPE'S VISIT

"The substance of things hoped for... the evidence of things not seen..." Hebrews 11:1

The presence of Paul the Pope seemed to embody the words of Paul the Saint. There was something special in the air that bright, wind-swept day in New York, a feeling that coursed through the waiting throngs. It was expressed by a short, elderly man too far back in the crowds to see the Pope. "You don't have to see him. You can feel that he is here."

That special mood has been captured by the Editors of Time-Life Books in an extraordinary book. Here is a permanent and fascinating record of the man, his pilgrimage, and the meaning of his mission for peace.

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