

# Precious Blood Order Marks 150th Birthday

(Continued from Page 5)

Francis De Sales Brunner, while visiting Rome, became acquainted with the Society and its apostolic activities. He decided to seek membership, and some time later, in spring of 1838, became the first non-Italian member of the Society.

Father Brunner was then sent back to Switzerland "to try to gather some priests for German and other foreign missions, and to educate and train some young men for this purpose." He had a house and seminary all ready—the castle Loewenberg, his former school for boys. By the autumn of 1843 Father Brunner had succeeded in having thirteen of his students ordained.

Then, at the invitation of Bishop Purcell, Father Brunner looked to the fertile mission fields of America. The invitation, and a chance meeting with the bishop in northern Europe, finally led Father Brunner and his group of fourteen Precious Blood priests and brothers to report at the episcopal house, as described above.

In a later letter, Father Brunner explained the reason for their arrival: "We came not to acquire earthly treasures from gold mines or other manner—but one purpose only—to serve God, to become holy, and to accumulate treasures for ourselves in heaven."

Bishop Purcell, while serving the group at table with his own hands, acquainted them with the hardships and problems facing them on the northern frontiers of his diocese. Their special apostolate would be to serve the German-speaking immigrants in these outlying sections. He assigned them to a little church in Peru, Ohio, a tiny settlement near Norwalk. From there they were to spread their efforts and missionary works.

Then, with the blessing of



FATHER SEBASTIAN, as he is known to his parishioners, took up the job of school bus driver in 1956 for the pupils of his school. Pictures of him at the wheel appeared in newspapers across the country.

the bishop, they set out on their journey. The most expeditious way to get to Northern Ohio at that time was to go east up the Ohio River to Wellsville, and then travel by land the rest of the way.

When the missionaries arrived at Wellsville, they were tempted to think their trip would come to an abrupt end. The people, seeing them dressed in cassock and mission cross, at first didn't know what to make of them. Soon the rumors began to circulate they were spies from Rome. But nothing really happened and the missionaries were not molested.

Father Brunner then hired a few farm wagons for the overland trip. Over the bumpy roads for more than a week their journey progressed—the missionaries and their baggage bouncing about at nearly every turn of the wheels.

Not all people were unfriendly, as the missionaries learned at their first stop at Hanover. There the people welcomed them. The Fathers stopped long enough to help hear confessions and preach. A woman in the crowd noticed that one of the Fathers was wearing thin linen socks. Feeling sorry for him, she ordered her husband to take off his thick woolen ones and give them to the missionary. Reluctantly the priest put them on, then watched the man go home-sockless.

At other stopovers—at Paris, Canton and Massillon—the priests offered Mass, heard German confessions, and baptized. Records still show the names of the people who received baptism from their hands.

It seems particularly fitting that, almost a hundred years later, in 1931, the Society of the Precious Blood transferred its minor seminary to a spot between Canton and Massillon along the very route on which these pioneer Fathers traveled. This seminary, now proudly called Brunnerdale after the courageous Father Brunner, continues to educate young boys for later work as priests and brothers in the Society.

From Massillon, the little group went on to Wooster and then north to Norwalk. As they arrived at Norwalk, the weather turned bad. A violent storm blew in and rain began to fall in torrents. The wind, rain and lightning scared off the driver of the wagons. He decided to quit right there and demanded that the missionaries pay him double for his services from Wellsville. And so the Fathers had to hire a guide and make the last three miles to Peru on foot. Through the storm and darkness of the night, they plodded along to the small church and parish house. There they were greeted and fed by a family living close by.

From this meager beginning, the Society of the Precious Blood was expanded into many and interesting directions in America.

Many people in Ohio can trace their Catholic education

and sacramental life back to these Precious Blood priests. The first Mass celebrated at the oldest extant church in northeastern Ohio (St. Philip Neri Church at Dunganran) was said on Christmas day - of 1849 by Father Jacob Ringele, C.P.S., who later became the first pastor of St. Joseph Church in Youngstown.

From their headquarters in Peru the Fathers went out to serve many missions in the surrounding territory. Old faded parish records still contain the names of the Precious Blood missionaries in Randolph, Louisville, Doylesboro, Akron, Cleveland, Medina, Liverpool, From St. John's Church in Canton, three of the priests took care of German speaking Catholics at St. Mary's and St. Joseph's in Massillon. At the start of the Cleveland diocese in 1848, one third of the priests were Precious Blood Fathers.

The main activities of the Society gradually shifted toward the midwestern sector of Ohio, and finally centered in Auglaize and Mercer counties. The Society's major house was then established at Carhagena, Ohio, where an abandoned mill and training school for Negroes, the Erlan Institute, was transformed into St. Charles Seminary in June of 1861. Since that day, seven hundred and twenty-two men have been ordained and sent forth from St. Charles Seminary as priests commissioned to serve the Church under the banner of the Precious Blood.

From Ohio the Society spread into Indiana, Michigan, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and later into the midwestern states, such as the Dakotas and Kansas, where much outstanding pioneer mission work was performed. In more recent years the Precious Blood members are also taking care of parishes in Florida and California. In these apostolic endeavors, they have brought devotion to the Precious Blood of Jesus and its flow of grace into various areas of Catholic life.

In the field of education, the Society founded St. Joseph College in Rensselaer, Indiana. Since 1889, this liberal arts college has helped to mold young men for the priesthood, diocesan and religious, and for vital apostolic action in varied fields of life. Many Catholics, priests and laymen, can trace their deep spiritual roots to the moral and religious guidance received from this institution.

In the summer months various courses are offered to Sisters in sacred music and theology. The campus is the center for retreats, religious conferences, and ecumenical dialogues. And in recent decades the Chicago Bears of the National Football League have made St. Joseph their pre-season training ground.

The Society has also contributed its share to high school education. It has two minor seminaries in the United States—Brunnerdale, and a new Del Bufalo Seminary near Kansas City, Missouri. It supplies teachers for Carroll High School in Dayton; it pioneered Catholic Central High School in Lafayette, Indiana; and now

has full charge of Cardinal Newman High School in Santa Rosa, California.

Many of the Precious Blood priests serve in the ranks of chaplains. Some are in Sisters' convents, as in La Crosse, Wisconsin, Wichita, Kansas; Columbia and Ferrysville, Pennsylvania; some are in hospitals, as in Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and Kansas; others are in the armed forces, serving U.S. soldiers in Vietnam, Japan, Korea, Germany, Greece and at home.

In World War II the Society placed a high percentage of its priests in the chaplain's rank. It is interesting to note that two of these chaplains still in the military, Father William Staudt and Father Harold Kuhns, come from Canton, Ohio, which lies along the original route traveled by Father Brunner and his fellow missionaries.

The Society has an outstanding mission band of twenty-five Fathers giving retreats, parish missions, days of recollection, and Forty Hours. Among the most famous missionaries of the past were Father Godfrey Schlichter, who worked in the apostolic field for more than forty years, and Father Joseph Duenser who could preach fluently in three languages.

Printing and publishing is also an active field engaged in by the priests and brothers of the Precious Blood Society. The Messenger Press, now located at Carhagena, Ohio, has been publishing a monthly edition of the Precious Blood Messenger since 1895. It also puts out books, leaflets and pamphlets to promote devotion to the Blood of Christ.

In 1947, at the urgent call of the Church for more priests in South America, the American Province of the Society entered the field of foreign missions. Bishop Joseph M. Marling of Jefferson City, Missouri, the Provincial of the Society at the time, was the pioneer planner. He chose Chile as the country the Precious Blood Fathers would work in. But before Father Marling could complete the work, he was named to be a bishop. It was under his successor, Father Seraphim Oberhauser, that the C.P.S. missionaries went forth to Latin America.

Fathers John Wilson and John Kostik were the first to arrive in September of 1947. More soon followed in a short time. After their story came back about the trials and also the unique success of these missionaries. The people welcomed them since many had never come into contact with a priest since the day of their baptism.

Referring to the gratitude of the Chilean people, Father Lovett wrote: "The way they sit there and listen to a sermon makes you want to do your best. They do have a wealth of ignorance in the knowledge of their faith. But this is not their fault alone; it is mainly due to a long neglect in the teaching thereof. In any case they are simply starving for instruction in the Faith. You should see the attention given to a sermon on Sunday morning... they are literally on the edge of their seats... you don't catch any nodding heads." The largest parish in charge of the Precious Blood Fathers is San Jose parish in Santiago, which numbers some 65,000 souls.

In 1962, the banner of the Precious Blood was carried to Peru. Father John Byrne, Provincial, backing his pledge that ten per cent of the Society's personnel would be in foreign mission fields by 1972, went to Latin America to survey Peru's mission sectors. He was told that the number one trouble spot in Peru was the territory in and around La Oroya, Peru.

There only one priest was attempting to care for more than 70,000 souls. And the Communists were very active. The city of La Oroya is 12,225 feet above sea level. Living conditions are extremely difficult. Upon the insistence of Peru's apostolic nuncio, Father Byrne decided that the Church was calling the Society to this special work. On his way back to America, he wrote: "I had no illusions about the toughness of the new mission territory. It is a sensitive, challenging

and responsible mission, but it will be rewarding and satisfying. True, I didn't get a coastal mission with country-club climate. But I know the C.P.S. has a territory selected by the Church." Since that day, eight Fathers are now making strong strides in the country; the sacramental life is slowly beginning to flourish among these mountain peoples.

The Society has also prospered in Italy and Germany. The German Province has missionaries in the country; the Italian Province has missionaries in Spain and in the Brazilian jungles bordering the great Amazon River.

The Italian Province has sent some of its members to the United States, where they have done excellent apostolic work in Chicago, Niles, Ohio, and Rochester. In very recent months they have gone to Toronto, Canada, to take care of the Italian speaking immigrants flocking to Canada's largest cities.

Where the Society will go from here is in the hands of God. But it is ready and eager to travel new roads to foster devotion to Christ's Blood.

In April of this year, the increasing number of C.P.S. members demanded that the American Province be divided for greater efficiency in its work. Now there are three distinct Provinces in the U.S.—the Cincinnati Province, the Kansas City Province, and the Province of the Pacific.

## Rosalia Frank Mass Offered

Funeral services for Rosalia M. Frank of 58 Flower Street, who died Dec. 28, 1965 were held Thursday, Dec. 30 at St. Michael's Church. Requiem Mass was sung by Father Benedict A. Ehmman. Father Joseph Reinhart was in the sanctuary, and Father Paul Cloonan gave the blessing at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Miss Frank, who was a member of the Mercy Guild of the Little Flower, was the aunt of Sister M. Stephanis of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

Besides Sister Stephanis, Miss Frank is survived by five sisters, Mrs. Julia Hoefen, Mrs. Harold Cronise, Mrs. Charles Walczak, Mrs. Elmer Marx and Mrs. William Heeks; also brother, Noel H. Frank; also other nieces, nephews, aunts and cousins.

Arrangements by L. W. Malar's Sons, Clinton Ave. North.

## Photo Credits

Two young and very competent photographers provided the Courier with pictures last week and we failed to give them their proper credit line. Martin Walsh of Pittsford took the page one picture of the new Sacred Heart Cathedral organ and Chuck Mantell was the photographer for the page five pictures of Mercy nuns in their new religious habits.

## His'n' Her Hits



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## Guild of Slates

The Newman Newman Club of Rochester will be held on Friday, Jan. 7, at Newman Oratory, Avenue Breakfast. Father Henry of the "Catholic Journal" will speak on "The Nativity." Mrs. Harry I. chairman of hosts.

## 3rd Order

Our Lady of Visitation Third Order Society will hold their monthly Conference on Sunday, p.m., in Our Lady Church, Father O'Sullivan, Moderator, the service.

A business meeting will be held in the school to 4 p.m. with Latour, presiding that those who turned the census mailed, do so promptly.

## Prioresse Emm

spent Christmas of the Nativity will describe her Holy Land.

## Mooney Me

The Cardinal Guild will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 11, at 7:30 p.m. in the Aulenbacher Spa. The Federal Bureau of Investigation. The members have an opportunity with Brother David C.S.C., newly appointed of the school, preparation for the set for Feb. 18-19 Refreshments will

## Widowed

The Catholic Women's Club will meet on 7 at 8:30 p.m. in the Rectory meeting room. Concepts of the topic for the evening is a panel on Pediatrician, a Pe a school nurse.

## Guild M

Catholic Mission meet on Monday, 8 p.m. in the Center. A social over by Mrs. Adolf follow.

## More Clu

The St. Thomas will sponsor a on Sunday, Jan 9, at 8:00 p.m. in the American-Cleveland p.m. Tickets are obtainable by call at BU 8-7815 or at HO 7-2888.

## Guild To

Mother Mary General of the Sisters and her Assistant will be the Mercy Guild meal of officer Jan. 11 at 1 p.m. McAuley College.

Hostesses for the business meeting. Mrs. Howard Mrs. John McGrath.

New officers include Mrs. J. President, Mrs. T. 1st Vice, Mrs. Berl, 2nd Vice, Mrs. Fred Ambrose, Mrs. Howard F. urer, Mrs. Genevieve, 1966 Membership.

Retiring President Hickey will Christmas Bazaar.

## Merimacs

Merimacs will con. meeting on V



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Other Bonds and Investments .....	2,278,261.11	Other Liabilities .....	109,506.68
First Mortgages on Real Estate ..	28,044,804.58	Surplus, Undivided Profits and Reserves .....	2,475,044.54
Collateral Loans .....	164,318.28		
Student Loans .....	164,496.34		
Home Improvement Loans .....	281,610.87		
Other Real Estate .....	45,727.38		
Accrued Collectible Interest .....	97,972.12		
Banking House and Furniture and Fixtures .....	131,754.93		
Prepaid Expenses .....	2,644.47		
	<b>33,691,085.20</b>		<b>33,691,085.20</b>

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