

Former Retreat Houses



First Retreat House was Our Lady of the Lake, Geneva.



Next location was Notre Dame in downtown Rochester.

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The spiritual exercise of a retreat is best served in an atmosphere free of outside worries. That's why food service was awarded ARA. The need for wholesome and nourishing meals served attractively in unhurried atmosphere is one of the kinds of challenge ARA meets every day.

Our facilities at Notre Dame Retreat House are indicative of the thoroughness and thoughtfulness with which we treat our responsibilities. Spotlessly clean featuring the latest in equipment and techniques they are designed for the best possible efficiency and are typical of ARA facilities wherever you go.

We Extend Our Best Wishes To The
Redemptorist Fathers On The Dedication
Of Notre Dame Retreat House, Canandaigua



of ROCHESTER

645 MAPLE ST.

Rochester, N.Y. 14611

Phone (716) 235-6000

Our Best Wishes

To The Redemptorist Fathers and
The Laymen's Retreat League On
The Dedication Of The New

Notre Dame Retreat House

We are pleased to have played
a part in the construction of the
new retreat house and happy
that our special skills helped
to make the dream of so many
a reality.

SULLIVAN

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Story of Retreats in Rochester Diocese

(Continued from Page 1A)

Murphy the rector, found that the house contained some works of art which he restored, and he also brought others to make an art collection the men found worth seeing.

Bishop Kearney celebrated an out-door Mass at what was to be known as Our Lady of the Lake Mission and Retreat House on Memorial Day, 1942. While retreatants were attracted from all over the diocese, it was found that one thing was lacking at Geneva, individual rooms for the men.

Back to Rochester

The next chapter in the retreat movement was written when the Redemptorist Fathers purchased the four-story former Baptist seminary building at 246 Alexander St. It required an extensive remodeling job supervised by Father Augustine J. Aylward, C.S.S.R. who had succeeded Father Murphy as rector at Geneva. Clippings of the progress of remodeling in 1949 show Frank E. Wolfe and Elmer Bloomer looking over plans and inspecting work done.

The period of retreats at 246 Alexander St. make up an imposing record. We had individual rooms, the chapel, ample for the many at the beginning and crowded as the years went on, was on the first floor. A side chapel, religious goods store and library were on the floor. The basement had been transformed into a spacious lobby leading off the street and a large dining area.

Rectors at the Alexander St. House included Father Francis X. Kenny, Father Thomas J. Fallon, Father Michael Down-

ing assisted by Redemptorist Fathers long remembered, especially Father William Jamison, a human dynamo of Retreat progress.

Records were broken in attendance, it was reported in January at evening Masses for the retreats in St. Joseph's Church and other key points in the diocese.

Retreats in the News

The retreats were the subject of many feature articles in the Catholic Courier and the secular press. Frank Kelly in his article for the Courier cited a doctor as saying: "Given the opportunity to sit alone before

the Blessed Sacrament, I could gaze into my own soul and see it just as God sees it. It gives me the opportunity to straighten out my life and for that reason I'll never miss a doctor's retreat again."

"Men — and women too — discover that the weekend closed retreat enables them to re-evaluate themselves in relation to God," Jack Tucker wrote in his feature for the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, March 31, 1963. "Here they are remote from the hubbub of today's rush."

Before it was known that Bishop Sheen, the noted and gifted television personality was

to become Bishop of Rochester, the Laymen's Retreat League with Daniel Morgan in the vanguard backed the Bishop's Television series over WOKR, Channel 13, beginning in March 1963.

Retreats in Spanish, retreats for doctors and dentists, the Mat Tibot League retreat, and others were conducted on Alexander St. However the age of the structure on Alexander St. and the fact that, as we remember, the heating system went off one cold night, brought about the decision to build a new and permanent house.

An outstanding event of the Rochester house took place in 1966 when more than 500 men

gathered for the annual Notre Dame Retreat League Mass in St. Joseph's Church witnessed bestowal of Mission Crosses on the 17 officers newly-elected. Bishop Kearney celebrated the Mass and conferred the Crosses.

And Now, Canandaigua

The new Notre Dame Retreat House looking east over Canandaigua Lake from a prominent eminence has even more promise than that expressed for the Alexander St. structure in 1950 by Monsignor Charles F. Shay, Holy Rosary pastor. Monsignor Shay, a promoter of the lay retreats from way back read a clipping covering the earlier retreat held at St. Bernard's. "Today, all that has been stated in the clipping has been accomplished."

And today at the Canandaigua foundation all that has been foretold has been accomplished and more is still to come. Exciting retreat programs have been conducted and accomplished under Father Downing's direction and Father Moran's energetic conducting.

Father Downing was called to his eternal reward on Feb. 23, 1967 and Father Gerald Whelan, C.S.S.R. known for his wide administrative ability has taken over.

Ecumenical retreats for clergy and laity, married couples' retreats, and other innovations are planned at the "Tower of Grace." The noted painting of Our Lady of Perpetual Help has always had an honored place at the Redemptorist retreat houses.

It is certain that her intercession and help will be present in the new Notre Dame Retreat Center.



Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, magnet for many retreatants.

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