

Priests of Notre Dame

The "four horsemen" who are presently carrying the retreat ball for Notre Dame are Redemptorist priests with wide experience in many fields.

Father Gerald J. Whelan, the new rector, was appointed to his post on April 26 this year to succeed the late Father Michael Downing. No stranger to the Rochester area, Father Whelan once served as rector for five years at downtown St. Joseph's Church.

A Boston native, Father Whelan did graduate studies at Catholic University and served five years as a chaplain during World War II. He was one of the few rescued in a disastrous troopship sinking in the North Atlantic.

His priestly service includes being a teacher, late rector of the Redemptorists' minor seminary, a member of his community's mission band and vocation promoter.

For the past six years, he has directed the retreat and mission band based at Holy Redeemer College, Washington, D.C.

Father Richard Moran, also a Bostonian, is retreat director at



Notre Dame. After his ordination he was assigned to parish mission work with a home base in Suffield, Conn.

An effective retreat master with all age groups, Father Moran has pioneered in conducting high school and college age seminars for young people.

In this ecumenical age, he has been instrumental in encouraging ministers and laypeople of all faiths to share in seminars and days of recollection at Notre Dame.

Father Donald Fearon is an old Brooklyn boy who has had a varied apostolic career. He has been a teacher, a home missionary in the deep South, a missionary in the Vir-



gin Islands, an assistant novice master and a hospital chaplain.

He has also fitted in a wide experience in parish missions and retreats during his forty years in the priesthood.

Father Carl Hammond, a new arrival at Notre Dame, has spent most of his priestly life in the Puerto Rican mission field. During his forty years on that island, he started several new missions and parishes.

When Bishop James McManus, another Redemptorist, conceived the idea for Catholic University in Ponce, Puerto Rico, Father Hammond was called upon to help design the new campus buildings.

In this work, he was by turn, architect, builder, engineer and contractor. He also taught for

a time at the new university.

An avid "ham" radio operator, Father Hammond founded a radio station, WEUC, under the university's auspices. It was a full time operation, beaming programs 17 hours a day, seven days a week.

He also produced weekly TV programs in Spanish, in order to spread the good news of Christ to the Puerto Rican people.

Father John Flick, who served as a retreat master for Notre Dame in Rochester and at the new Canandaigua Lake

house, has just been transferred to the Redemptorist minor seminary at North East, Pa.

His career includes seven years of high school and college teaching, and many years of preaching missions in the eastern and midwestern states.

Father Flick has also served in parochial work and was rector of a large parish in the archdiocese of Baltimore.

The many retreatants who have benefitted from his retreat conferences and gift of understanding, wish him well in his new assignment.

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New Retreat House on Lovely Canandaigua

The Redemptorist Fathers, who have been conducting retreats for diocesan laymen for the last 26 years, have a new structure overlooking Canandaigua Lake in the middle of the beautiful Finger Lake Region.

Completed this past Spring, the new Notre Dame Retreat House is built on a hill 300 feet above the lake off West Lake Road and Foster Road, five miles south of the city of Canandaigua.

The structure has rooms for 110 individual retreatants. These include 25 double rooms and 60 single rooms.

The building, designed by

Ribson and Roberts Architects of Rochester, include a chapel, large lounge, and dining room on the first floor, and a library on the second level overlooking the lounge. Interior and exterior walls are brick. Precast concrete sun shades shield their large window area. Sleeping rooms are on two floors with the priests' quarters on the second floor, off one of the seven wings.

The structure is brick and block bearing wall. Open web steel joists support concrete slab floor and roof. Three wings were designed to receive a future third floor.

The function of the building

is to evoke meditation and thought. The activity during the retreat takes place in the chapel, lounge, library, and refectory, as the primary generative areas, leaving the bedrooms as secondary elements.

The chapel, dining room, and the majority of the bedrooms overlook the lake. The remaining areas overlook the woods and apple groves.

Father Gerald J. Whelan, rector, stated that "expansion of the three-day retreat movement will include retreats for married couples, and eventually for families." Father Moran, the retreat master, hopes to have

a vacation type retreat for couples, having their days free for the enjoyment of the Finger Lakes region and spending their evenings in seminars and discussion groups.

Father Whelan and the Re-

demptorists at Notre Dame hope also to nourish the roots of ecumenism at the Retreat House.

All Christians are invited to use the facility for seminars and individual retreats.

Lived To See Notre Dame Completed Before His Death

Father Michael G. Downing, from the time of taking over as rector of the Notre Dame Retreat House in 1961 at 246 Alexander St., Rochester until his death on Feb. 23, 1967 forged for himself a memorable niche in the laymen's retreat history of this diocese.

Under his guidance, successful retreats were conducted at the former Baptist Seminary in Rochester and construction of the new house on the West shore of Canandaigua Lake was begun.

He took part in planning, choosing a site, supervising plans, conducting a fund campaign and checking on the completion of the new structure.

He was born August 16, 1907 in Brooklyn and took his initial vows in the Redemptorist community August 2, 1927. He was ordained at the Major Seminary at Esopus, N.Y., June 10, 1933.

He served in the Redemptorist parish in Richmond, Va. until 1943. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1943 and served as a chaplain until 1946.

Father Downing was superior and pastor at Kannapolis, N.C.



FATHER DOWNING

from 1947 to 1953. He then became spiritual prefect at the major seminary at Esopus where he had been ordained.

Transferred to Rochester in 1961, he threw himself unflinchingly into the work of supervising and conducting closed retreats and greatly endeared himself to retreatants throughout the Diocese.

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