

St. John's, Spencerport

A Century of Faith Along the Tow-Path

St. John the Evangelist parish, along the historic tow-path of the old Erie Canal in Spencerport, will mark its centenary this Sunday, October 8.

Father Francis E. Hester, pastor, will celebrate a Jubilee Mass of Thanksgiving at 12:30 noon.

Bishop Kearney will be the speaker at the parish anniversary dinner at the Party House that afternoon at 5 p.m.

The centenary festivities began Friday, Sept. 29, with a Mass and dance for teenagers of the parish. Younger children celebrated the parish's 100th birthday at a party Saturday, Sept. 30, with an afternoon Mass at 5:30 p.m.

A Mass for deceased parishioners was offered Tuesday and last evening. Thursday, a Mass was offered for married couples of the parish, particularly honoring those who are marking an anniversary of their own this year divisible by the number five.

A centennial committee to arrange the jubilee events includes Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Boss, Mrs. James Ryan and Mrs. William Ryan, Alfred Robinson, George Wegman, Donald Lamranda, Richard Davies, Angelo Pavoni and Sheldon Keenan.

ST. JOHN'S had its beginnings in 1851 when Father Michael Welch from Rochester celebrated Mass in a wagon shop in Ogdon Center. For a while, the congregation held its services in the Town House, until in 1857 a small wooden chapel was erected on Coleman Avenue. Shortly thereafter, in 1863, Rev. Richard Story was



St. John the Evangelist Church, Spencerport, built in 1915 is currently being renovated in interior for centenary of parish. Jubilee Mass will be celebrated Sunday, October 8, at 12:30 noon.

caused the building to be destroyed at a loss of \$1000. The congregation persevered and on Nov. 23, 1868, Bishop Bernard McQuaid officiated at the dedication ceremony of the new church.

In 1873, a purchase of 1/4 acre of land was transacted for a parish cemetery which is still in use today. Thomas Reynolds of Ogdon Center, the first parishioner to be buried there, was laid to rest on April 12, 1874.

By 1878, the congregation had increased so that its needs could not be served adequately by traveling priests from Brockport. At the end of Father Story's pastorate that year, the first resident pastor, Rev. James Connelly, was appointed.

The fieldstone and brick church building which stands today was erected in 1915 during the pastorate of Rev. John W. E. Kelley. Farmers all around Spencerport gathered the fieldstone for the building.

The old church was used by Father James Winters for showing motion pictures to the entire community during the 1920's. In 1926, Rev. George Predmore began his pastorate of 15 years at St. John's. The following year, he converted the old church into a parochial school. Sister Thomasina, principal, welcomed 108 pupils to the school in its first year. A house purchased from John Ryan became the convent in 1928. A building which had been used as an Episcopal Church was purchased by the congregation in 1947. This has been used for educational purposes as well as a meeting place for Boy and Girl Scouts.

Father Hester, present pas-

tor, came to St. John's in 1953. Within three years, ground was broken for a modern school building to accommodate an ever growing student body. The new building provided the most modern facilities in school construction including an auditorium to seat 500 people. Besides its practical uses to the children, this auditorium serves as a meeting place for many parish organizations. Sister Joseph Andre DeMers, present principal, and her faculty are dedicated to providing the best possible elementary school education for the children.

In 1962, the outdated convent building was replaced by a two story colonial style structure.

Although the centennial year is a time for reflection on past accomplishments, the congregation is very much involved in the present and future of the parish. This year a fledgling Confraternity of Christian Doctrine Parish Board, headed by Father Hester, is beginning its existence. This board is composed of Father Robert Smith, newly appointed assistant pastor, and a representative from each of the parish organizations. It is designed to coordinate and expedite where possible the work of the member groups.

Father Hester, with the assistance of the parish trustees, Fred Roach and Gene Davies, has planned improvements which are nearing completion. These include a much needed new rectory and complete renovation of all church properties. It is hoped that these will be finished before the end of the centennial year, 1967, so that St. John's will approach the future well equipped to meet the needs of its parishioners.

named pastor and travelled from Brockport to serve the needs of St. John's.

On Oct. 7, 1867, the Very Rev. Father Gleason, Administrator of the Diocese of Buf-

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'A Great Year' at Cornell, Ithaca Colleges

(Special to The Courier)

Ithaca — Catholic students at Cornell University and Ithaca College have never had such exposure to priests and Sisters as they are getting this year in classrooms and chaplains' offices here.

A Jesuit is teaching economics at Cornell, a Sister of St. Joseph is a professor of mathematics at Ithaca College. Father William Graf, Ithaca's chaplain, is teaching a credit course on family relations, some five priests and nine Sisters are taking degree programs at Cornell and the chaplains' offices at both schools have for the first time received Sisters' assistants to help with administrative and counselling duties.

Most significant innovation in this college-town is Cornell's employment of Rev. Daniel Berrigan, controversial Jesuit, to be associate director of the University's oldest and largest student organization, Cornell's United Religious Work.

As university-paid, "director for service" in this inter-faith department of the 13,600-student school, Father Berrigan will be responsible for the coordination of social-action projects involving 700 students of many denominations.

The Catholic ministry on campus and the chaplaincies of 14 other religious denominations are constituent parts of the united religious program but will not be under Father Berrigan's direct jurisdiction.

Another new Cornell employee is Rev. Michael McPhelin, S.J., transferred from the Jesuit University of the Philippines, The Ateneo of Manila, to teach economics to Cornell freshmen and sophomores. An expert in the economics of South-east Asia, Father McPhelin will also conduct seminars for grad students in this field.

On the South Hill campus of Ithaca College, Sister Barbara Ann, of the Rochester Sisters of St. Joseph and former member of the faculty of Nazareth College, is teaching two sections of freshman math. Holding a BA from Nazareth and a PhD from Notre Dame University, she has been welcomed as an "asset to the Ithaca faculty." She is the first Catholic Sister ever to be employed there.

Her primary responsibility to the Catholic students will be as assistant to Father Graf, chaplain for the 800 members of the Ithaca campus parish. She will counsel students and moderate meetings and discussions of the Newman program.

Sister Mary Jonatha, Mercy Sister who has taught history for 10 years at Notre Dame High School, Elmira, has joined the campus apostolate at Cornell, as assistant to Father Richard Tormey and Father David Connor. She will share many of their administrative and counselling duties for the Cornell Catholic community of 2,500 students and faculty and families. She is living in a graduate students' dormitory on campus.

Presently holding an MA in History, Sister Jonatha is taking Cornell grad courses in human relations and organizational

psychology. While directing student committees, she expects to establish helpful contacts with coeds and students' wives who form a large section of the Cornell campus parish.

Local and foreign projects of the Cornell inter-faith groups under Father Berrigan's charge are concerned with social wel-



FATHER BERRIGAN 'concern for humanness' Cornell Daily Sun Photo By Paul R. Weisman

fare in the city of Ithaca, summer projects in Harlem and in under-developed areas in Honduras, Brazil and Nova Scotia.

In addition he will conduct two non-credit seminars on New Testament themes and on pacifism. Probably forecasting his peace-position on campus, Father Berrigan said last week: "I'm deeply involved in the student-left movement, especially the draft resistance."

The Cornell Daily Sun said him in a recent issue: "One expects a rabble rouser. Daniel Berrigan is not. The impression one gets is of a quiet man, small, graying and soft-spoken. His books betray a Christian in the true sense of the term — a man trying to equate love and God with the Christian ethic and the world."

Professor Ralph Bolgiano, chairman of the Board of CURW, said of the appointment: "Father Berrigan's deep concern for the humanness of all mankind, as exemplified in his poetry, his essays and his active leadership toward a better life for underprivileged people can only foretell exciting and inspiring times ahead for the Cornell community."

Forty Hours

Devotions of Forty Hours in Diocese of Rochester:

Sunday, Oct. 8—Annunciation, St. Anne, St. Charles Borromeo, Rochester; St. Alphonsus, Auburn; St. Patrick, Corning; Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Brockport; St. Charles Borromeo, Elmira Heights; St. Anthony, Groton; St. Patrick, Macedon; Sacred Heart of Jesus, Perkinville; St. Thomas More, Rochester.

The 46-year old Jesuit priest has an MA from Georgetown University and a licentiate in theology (STL) from the Gregorian University in Rome. He is well known to many upstate New Yorkers because he was assistant professor of theology at Le Moyne College in Syracuse from 1957 to 1963.

At Ithaca College, Father Graf reported this week that Sunday and daily Mass attendance on campus is well up over last year's and that "close to 75 percent of the Catholic students are faithful to Sunday duties." The Catholic office is in a student dorm and the Chaplain lives in a campus apartment provided by the college.

Two Sunday Masses are offered in Ford Auditorium, a music hall, but by next fall the school expects to provide chaplains' offices and chapel in a new religious center serving Catholics, Protestants and Jews.

The Cornell chaplains, helped by priest-students doing graduate work, schedule six Sunday Masses on campus in an inter-faith center, Anabel Taylor Hall. Sundance is close to 1,500 weekly. One Mass, celebrated in Spanish with a Spanish sermon and music, delights the large colony of Latin American students.

The three Newman chaplains agreed that 1967-68 should be exciting on both campuses. Not only the new Catholic personalities reported here, but overtones of the hippy movement, draft resistance and war on poverty will influence campus life. Further, they agreed, radical changes in schedules, courses and improved facilities at both schools will stimulate student life. "It should be a great year."

Auburn Opens Liturgy Institute

"Worship '67," the diocesan Liturgical Institute, will begin the first of its three-weekend runs tonight (Oct. 6) in Auburn's Mt. Carmel High School at 7:30 p.m. The doors will be open from 6:30 p.m. on for registration.

The Auburn session will run tonight and tomorrow morning, culminating in a Community Mass at 12:30 p.m. followed by a luncheon.

Identical programs, with different speakers for the most part, will be offered in Rochester at St. Thomas More parish on Oct. 13-14 and at Notre Dame High School in Elmira on Oct. 20-21.

Father Joseph Champlin of Syracuse will open the Auburn institute with a talk on "Liturgy: Its meaning in Our Lives." Monsignor William H. Shannon, theology professor at Nazareth College, will address the Saturday morning general session at 9 a.m. He will speak on "Liturgy: The Worship of the Christian Community." Elective sessions on the Liturgy of the Word are scheduled for 10:15 a.m. on Saturday. These will treat the subjects of



Father Richard Tormey and Rabbi Morris Goldfarb, Catholic and Jewish chaplains, Cornell University. Ecumenical relations among chaplains representing ten denominations, all having offices in the same campus building, are a feature of Cornell life.

lay lectors, the homily and the prayer of the faithful.

The theme of the tri-located Liturgy Institute is Liturgy and Service. The sessions have been arranged by the Liturgical Commission of the Diocese of Rochester.



MONSIGNOR SHANNON Auburn Speaker

25 Years Ago

(From Catholic Courier, Oct. 8, 1942)

Bishop Kearney urged attendance at Daily Mass for the duration of the war as "a spiritual contribution worthy of this great assembly" at the Holy Hour in New York Yankee Stadium.

Opening of the USO-NCCS Club in Geneva to serve men to be stationed at Sampson Naval Training Station was announced with appointment of Richard C. Crawley of Canastota, as club director.

Newman groups in the Diocese of Rochester planned to join with fellow members throughout the United States, Island possessions and Canada in marking Sunday, Oct. 11 as "Cardinal Newman Day."

Slate Blessing Of Graves Rite

The annual Blessing of the Graves ceremony will be held at the respective cemeteries of St. Michael's, Livonia Center and St. Mary's, Honeoye, on Sunday, Oct. 28. Father Vincent LeFrois will conduct the ceremony, at 2 p.m. in Livonia and at 3 p.m. at Honeoye.



New St. Philip Neri Church

Architect's model shows what new St. Philip Neri Church, Rochester, will look like. Father Charles B. Connell, pastor, said he hopes construction will be completed within a year. The new \$250,000 structure will seat 600 people. It will be built next to the rectory parallel with Clifford Ave. New church will replace frame building gutted by fire early this year. Architectural firm of Dominguez, Cohen and Macon designed the new church.

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