

Death Breaks Link to Early Days of Diocese

(Continued from Page 1A)

active participation in church life.

He also realized the sacred and the secular were but different sides of the coin of life and he encouraged progress in both faith and economic affairs—not just by pulpits sermons but by practical day-to-day implementation of his ideas.

His priestly career of 65 years was marked by scholarship, dignity and many honors.

Monsignor Gefell, a native of Rochester, was the son of John and Anastasia Gefell of St. Peter and Paul's parish. He studied for the priesthood at St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries and was ordained in old St. Patrick's Cathedral, June 23, 1902.

His parish work centered in two churches of the Diocese—Holy Family, Rochester, and St. Joseph's, Wayland.

He was assistant pastor at Holy Family from 1902 to 1908, pastor at Wayland, until 1924, when he returned to Holy Family to be administrator and later pastor there until 1941.

During his Holy Family pastorate, the school and its auditorium were built, many organizations flourished and he established a parish credit union.

He also served as diocesan director of the Apostleship of Prayer and as chaplain to the Knights of St. John. For 25 years he was also a guide and leader to the Rochester unit of the Catholic Central Verein.

Monsignor Gefell was a noted speaker frequently in demand, particularly for his illustrated talks on Lourdes.

He invited the Trinitarian nuns to Rochester in 1929 to work on community problems—thereby anticipating by a quarter of a century projects recently launched of a similar nature.

Two of his brothers were also priests, the late Rev. Dr. J. Emil Gefell and the late Rev. John F. Gefell.

He held an honorary theology doctorate from Freiburg University, Germany, and Pope Pius XII elevated him to the rank of domestic prelate in 1952.

He is survived by two nieces and five grand-nieces and nephews.

Burial was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

He Still Likes New Catechism

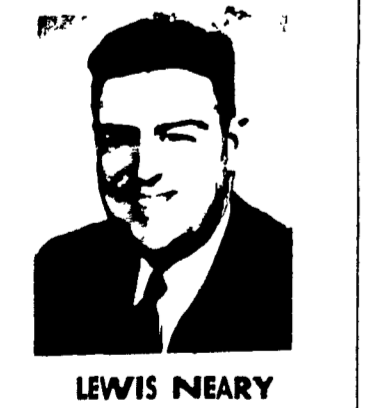
Atlanta—(NC)—Early in October, Atlanta's Archbishop Paul J. Hallinan told the readers of his weekly newspaper column that he thought the newly published—and already controversial—Dutch Catechism was an "excellent guide" for adults concerned with their Christian Faith.

Now the prelate has taken a second look at his words—and has stuck with his original endorsement.

The first comments came amidst a storm of criticism—some from official sources, some not—against the American publishers, Herder & Herder, for publishing the book without an imprimatur at a time when the Vatican was taking a second look at some parts of the book.

"I am convinced that today's educated, responsible Catholics read a book like 'A New Catechism' with care. My concern is that many Catholics are not reading today's books of the Catholic renewal at all.

"It is in this spirit that I recommend the book."



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Let's Communicate... Why Becket Hall?

Becket Hall: We have heard so much about Becket Hall and don't really know what is so different about it. Please explain some of the aspects of life at Becket Hall that make it so unique.

Becket Hall, however, is individual responsibility on the part of the seminarians. The seminarian is not told specifically what to do or how to act; he is guided by Fathers Hogan and Hohman to a gradual growth in responsibility and maturity.

There is such a great need for young people who recognize the rampaging movement of this world towards self-concern, reluctance to help one's fellow man—refusal of the love of Christ. Looking at the increase in wars, crime, prejudice, and lack of morality which literally permeates this world, it is not hard to see that this growth is the result of a subconscious belief that man is the master of all creation, no longer needing the help, the guidance, the salvation which can only be found in the love of Jesus Christ. This world is begging for people, especially young people, who have a certain fire in their eyes, a burning desire to remind this world into a place where men will begin to live for each other and thereby seek, find, and live in the love of Christ.

For some—the seminary and the priesthood is the means by which they are able to live the words of Christ "to serve all men." This is not to de-emphasize the very important role played by the layman in Christ's salvation plan for men. Laymen, today, are really starting to constitute a significant driving force in the fight to bring all men to Christ. Some men are called to be laymen, others to be priests.

Seminarians have this burning desire. They have this inner feeling that the priesthood will give them and help them bring all men to salvation in Christ.

It is our firm belief that Becket Hall is unique. The student has almost complete freedom of academic pursuit. For example, a seminarian here may choose practically any major offered at St. John Fisher College. The only request from the diocese is that he at least minor in philosophy. The co-curricular activities of the college are also open to us here at Becket Hall. Many seminarians participate in sports and the many and varied clubs at Fisher.

So far this type of training at Becket Hall seems to be working very well. The seminarians are not sheltered from society; they remain in it. They also, in all probability, are better educated and more mature to meet today's problems than they would have been under the "old system."

Address questions and comments to: Let's Communicate, Becket Hall, 75 Fairport Rd., E. Rochester, N.Y.

Cenacle Lists Author

Jesuit Father John L. Bonn, of the faculty at Fairfield University, Fairfield, Conn., and well known author, will conduct a special Advent General Retreat, Dec. 1-3, at the Cenacle Retreat House for Women, 693 East Ave.

The retreat program begins with dinner on Friday night and concludes with Mass on Sunday afternoon. For information or reservations, please write or call Sister Helen Stula at 271-8755.

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