

# It's 100 Years for Auburn's St. Mary's

Auburn — (Special) — Former residents of St. Mary's parish will gather with present parishioners and Auburn friends on Sunday, Sept. 15, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of this downtown parish.

To date nearly 95 Sisters and priests who grew up in the parish or were associated as former assistants at the church or teachers in the parish school, have accepted invitations to the jubilee.

Former parishioners, Sister Marian David Donovan, Maryknoll Sister presently working in Honolulu, and Father James Sharpe now in South Carolina, will come the farthest.

A former assistant pastor, (1941 to 1946), Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, auxiliary Bishop of the diocese, will be principal celebrant of the solemn Mass of Thanksgiving at 4:30 p.m.

The pastor, Monsignor James D. Cuffney and assistants Fathers Conrad J. Sundholm and Ronald J. Gaesser will be concelebrants.

Bishop James E. Kearney, frequent visitor at St. Mary's during the last quarter-century before his retirement, will preach the jubilee sermon centering his tribute on Our Lady of the Assumption, the patroness of the parish.

Committees headed by General Chairmen Miss Elizabeth Falvey and John E. Walsh have planned a parish banquet at Springside Inn Sunday at 7:30 p.m.

Dinner arrangements are being handled by Ms. Gerard Lesch. Toastmaster will be Frederick J. Farrell Jr. Invitations have been dispatched by Miss Maryrose Barron and Miss Dorothy Fitzgerald with publicity arranged by Miss Laura Falvey and Sam Costella.

Established on Aug. 15, 1868, the feast of the Assumption, by Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid, who had himself arrived in the new Diocese of Rochester only one month before, the parish has known only seven pastors in 100 years.

Father Thomas Maher, the first pastor, offered Mass in a rented house at 34 State St. and later at Tallman Hall on Dill Street before his people built a temporary wooden chapel in October 1868 at Clark and Green Streets. Bishop McQuaid administered Confirmation there in what was called "The Shanty Church" on Dec. 20, 1868.



The present limestone Gothic church building was begun by the second pastor, Father Miles J. McLoughlin, in June 1870 but not formally dedicated until April 1877. The Panic of '73 and heavy debts for construction caused the delay in finishing the large edifice which ultimately cost \$79,350.

Parish generosity and loyalty to the goal of raising so impressive and costly a church in hard times is a high point of the parish history.

Father William Mulhern, the next pastor, is credited with building the first school, convent and rectory and furnishing the church to outstanding beauty in his 36 years at St. Mary's.

Father William Payne came to St. Mary's as pastor in July 1913 and Father John McGrath succeeded him, transferring from St. Aloysius Church, Auburn, in July 1925.

Father William E. Cowen, born and reared in St. Mary's and known to the community as "Doctor Cowen" because of his theology degree and his 40 years of teaching at St. Bernard's Seminary in Rochester, became pastor in June 1932.

His 29-year pastorate was marked by changes and new decorations in the church and active leadership in Auburn civic affairs. The parish contributed \$267,000 for the new Mt. Carmel High School during Msgr. Cowen's pastorate.

Msgr. James Cuffney became administrator of the parish in 1958. He led the

parish in a school building drive for \$282,000 and opened a 16-classroom school on the southern edge of the parish in September 1961. He supervised total renovation of the church in the liturgical spirit of the Vatican Council during 1965-66.

Parish records indicate that 11,237 persons have been bapt-

ized in St. Mary's; 3,568 couples were married; 39 young men of the parish have been ordained priests and 94 girls became nuns.

Nearly 70 priests served as assistant pastors in St. Mary's century. Two of them Fathers John F. O'Brien and Dennis W. Hickey later became Bishops of the diocese.

## Parish to Honor Martyr Bishop

Auburn—A distinguished former Holy Family parishioner, Bishop Patrick Byrne, who was Apostolic Delegate to the Republic of Korea when he was killed by Communists in November 1950, will be honored by his parish in commemorative ceremony Wednesday evening, Oct. 16.

A bronze plaque, called the "Bishop Patrick Byrne Memorial" will be blessed and installed in the Holy Family parish school where the late Bishop was a pupil and graduate in 1902.

Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey will preside at the plaque ceremonies in the school and later be principal concele-

brant at 6 p.m. Mass in the church.

After his family left Auburn, Bishop Byrne was ordained in 1915, became a Maryknoll Father in Korea and later served in Japan. When World War II engulfed the Orient the Japanese put Bishop Byrne under house arrest for 5 years.

Transferred later to Korea, he was consecrated a Bishop and named Apostolic Delegate to the new Republic of Korea. When Communists struck from the north in 1950, Bishop Byrne and hundreds of Sisters, missionary priests and American GIs were herded into the infamous "North Korean Death March" through winter snows

near the Yalu River. His death at the hands of the Reds may someday merit him the title of martyr.

## Council Prepares Parish Calendar

Elmira — A calendar of fall and winter events in Elmira area parishes will be distributed at the opening meeting of the Chemung-Schuyler District Council of Catholic Women, at 8 p.m. Monday, Sept. 23 in Sts. Peter and Paul Church.

Calendar information may be submitted to Mrs. Charles A. Smith, 3514 Michigan Ave., Elmira Heights.

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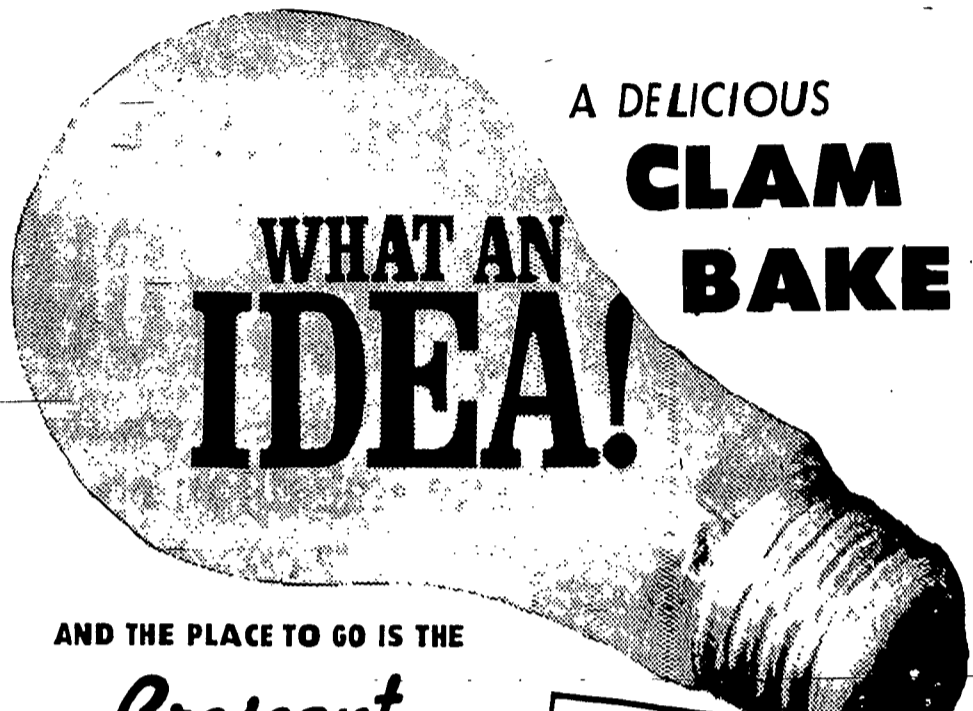
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Register for credit courses at the Men's Gymnasium, September 18-19 from 4:00-8:00 p.m.

Late registration, carrying a \$5.00 service fee, will be accepted at the registrar's office, Administration Building, September 23-24 from 4:00 to 7:30 p.m., or September 24-27 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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