

# Diocese Has Produced 15 Bishops

This is another installment in the series of historical articles prepared for the COURIER JOURNAL by Father McNamara, author of the recently published centennial history, **THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, 1868-1968.**

By FR. ROBERT F. McNAMARA

I was just counting up the number of bishops the 12 counties of the Diocese of Rochester have contributed to the hierarchy. The tally is surprisingly high — 15.

Eight of these, at the time of their selection as bishops, were priests of the Rochester Diocese. Thomas F. Hickey served as coadjutor bishop of the Diocese under Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid, and then was bishop of Rochester from 1909 to 1928. John Francis O'Hern succeeded Bishop Hickey, and was head of the Diocese from 1929 to 1933.

Three of the eight were named auxiliary bishops of Rochester. Lawrence E. Casey held that position from 1933 until 1946, when he was promoted to the See of Paterson, N.J., where he continues in the able discharge of his duties. In 1968, Pope Paul VI elevated to the post of auxiliary of Rochester Most Rev. Dennis W. Hickey and Most Rev. John E. McCafferty. Their consecration was the first in the series of events which have been marking the Diocese's centennial year.

Three other priests of the Diocese were promoted directly from their Rochester positions to the episcopate of other dioceses. The first Rochester diocesan priest to be named a bishop was Father Augustine Hendrick, a native of Penn Yan and pastor of St. Bridget's Church, Rochester.

Bishop Hendrick was named bishop of Cebu, Philippine Islands, in 1903. At that time the United States had taken over the administration of the Philippines. The bishops, mostly Spaniards, were replaced by American bishops. Father Hendrick was a staunch Republican and a friend of Theodore Roosevelt, and Roosevelt's recommendation played an important part in his selection.

Bishop Hendrick had a hard row to hoe in his missionary see, but he discharged his task with real courage, and did not hesitate to scold the American government for its mistakes in dealing with the religious questions of the Islands. He died in harness on Nov. 30, 1909, on the eve — it was said — of his transfer to an American bishopric.

Edward Joseph Hanna was a brilliant professor of theology at St. Bernard's Seminary from its opening in 1893 until 1912. As I have pointed out in my "THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, 1868-1968," he was, in 1908, under consider-



Bishop Bernard O'Reilly



Bishop Francis Krauthauer



Bishop Francis J. Green

ation as coadjutor archbishop of San Francisco, with right of succession; but a fellow member of the St. Bernard's faculty raised a question about Hanna's orthodoxy. Rome was not persuaded by the accusation, but was nevertheless moved, because of the publicity, to bypass the name of Hanna at that time.

Four years later, his name was again presented, as auxiliary bishop of San Francisco and on this occasion the recommendation was accepted. Dr. Hanna was subsequently named archbishop of San Francisco in 1915, and continued in that position until his retirement in 1935. He also served as Episcopal chairman of the National Catholic Welfare Conference from its inception until 1935.

A third diocesan priest named directly to another diocese was the present Bishop of Syracuse, Walter Andrew Foery. Bishop Foery was a member of St. Bernard's Class of 1916, served successively as pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church and Holy Rosary Church, both in Rochester, and was for many years diocesan director of charities. His consecration on Aug. 18, 1937 in Rochester's former cathedral, St. Patrick's, was the last consecration performed in that venerable building.

There were three priests who served within the diocesan counties before the formation of the Diocese of Rochester, who can also be claimed, more or less as "our own," in an earlier column. We told the story of the blessed John N. Neumann, C.S.S.R., who subsequently became fourth bishop of Philadelphia, and has been beatified. He spent only one week ministering in Rochester; but

it was the first week of his priesthood, and this, plus the fact of who he was, enhances the importance of that one pastoral week.

Bernard O'Reilly (1803-1856) served in Rochester much longer. He was pastor of St. Patrick's church during most of the period 1832-1847; and proved notable as both priest and citizen. In 1847, when the Diocese of Buffalo was established, he was called to Buffalo to serve as vicar general. But when he was named Bishop of Hartford three years later, he chose to be consecrated in his former parish church, St. Patrick's, Rochester.

Unfortunately, Bishop O'Reilly shepherded the Diocese of Hartford only a bare five years. During a return trip home from England in 1856, his ship, the "Pacific," was lost at sea, and all aboard perished.

Father Francis X. Krauthauer was of Bavarian birth. His first priestly assignment in the present Rochester Diocese was the pastorate of St. Peter's (now St. Peter and Paul's), Rochester, from 1851 to 1859. In 1859 he became superior and director of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, with residence in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. From 1875 to 1885 he was Bishop of Green Bay.

These more bishops deserve mention because they were educated in the Diocese of Rochester, even though they never served here as priests. One was James Edward Quigley, educated as a child in Lima and subsequently a priest and bishop of the Diocese of Buffalo (1896-1903); and finally, archbishop of Chicago (1903-1915). A second one was Patrick James Byrne (1888-1950), the heroic Maryknoller who died at the hands of Korean Communists. He received his early education in Auburn. But we shall speak more fully about him in October. The third was the present Bishop of Tucson, Most Rev. Francis Joseph Green.

Bishop Green, when named coadjutor bishop of Tucson in 1953 (he succeeded to the see in 1960) was a priest of the Diocese of Tucson. But he was born in Corning on July 7, 1896, and received his elementary education in Corning's St. Patrick's School.

Fifteen bishops, therefore. Not a bad record!

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# Student Transfers Force School to Close

Cold Spring, Minn.—(RNS) — The Catholic high school here will not open this year because of a sudden large number of transfers to the local public schools.

The closing of St. Boniface High School after 47 years of service was announced by Father David Ritter, superintendent of schools for the St. Cloud diocese.

Father Ritter said that the closing of the school was necessitated by the unanticipated transfer of a large number of students to public schools since Aug. 1.

The Cold Spring area which has a large Catholic population has been the scene of several controversies over the use of tax money to bus parochial school students and the whole question of maintaining separate public and private school systems.

In a statement released announcing the closing of the Catholic high school, the diocesan board of education noted it is now "evident that the area no longer intends to

support the Catholic secondary school in Cold Spring."

Operation of a new public high school began in 1967 after voters approved a \$3.2 million bond issue to build a junior-senior high school. During the past year the school had leased space from St. Boniface High School.

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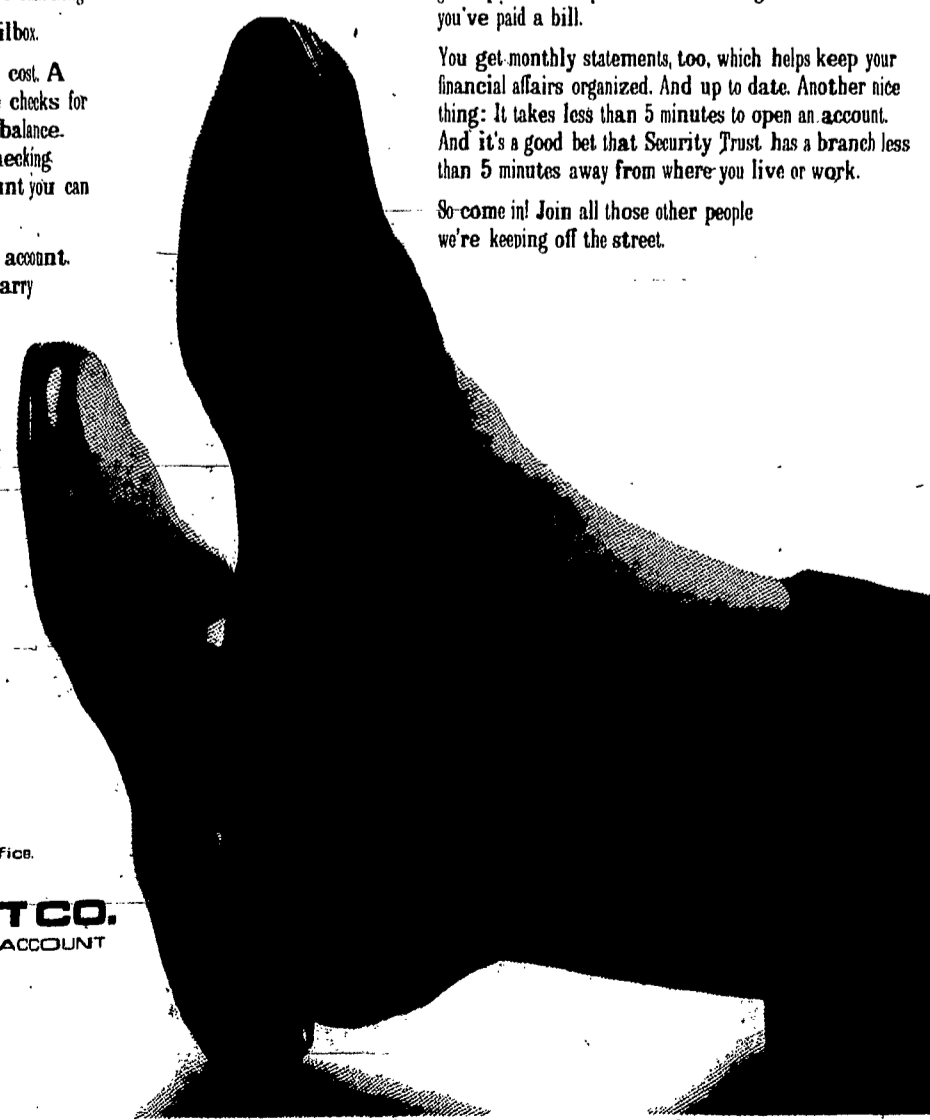
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