

The Cathedral Is the Heart of the Diocese

Rochester Diocese Has Had Two — St. Patrick's and Sacred Heart

No matter how old or young a diocese may be, its heart traditionally is the cathedral. It need not be the mother-church nor the richest nor the handsomest nor the largest in the diocese. But it is the most important church, the center of diocesan life, because it is the Bishop's church, the seat of the magisterium, the core-spot of the teaching and administering authority the Bishop exercises as the chief shepherd of the diocese.

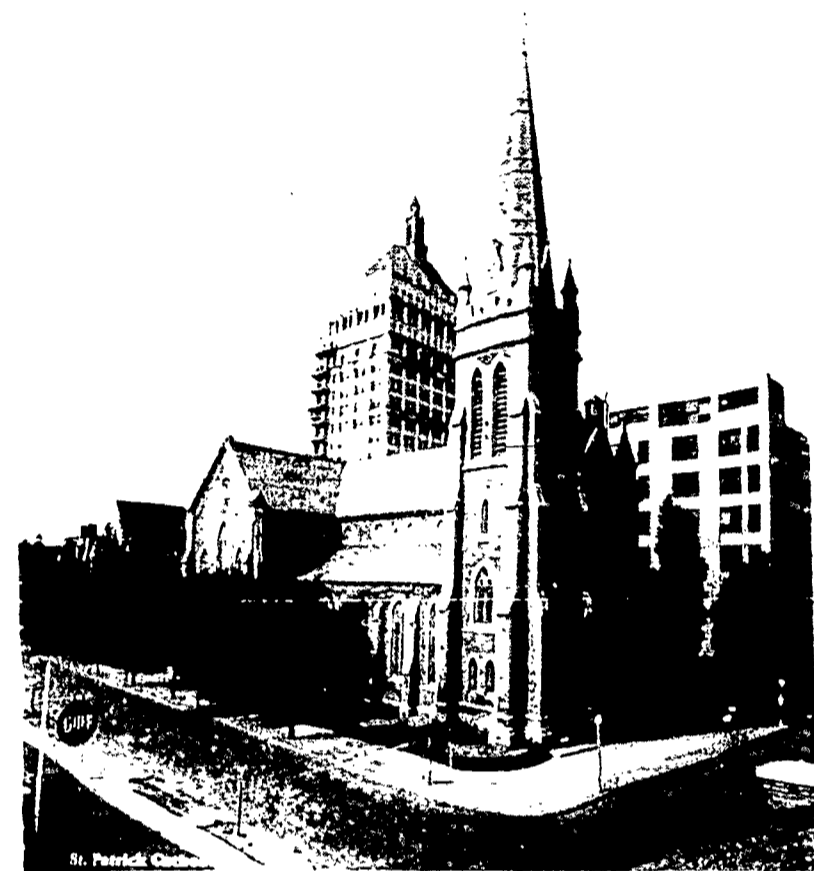
Rochester has known only two cathedrals in its 100 years: St. Patrick's, formerly on Plymouth Avenue North at the corner of Platt Street, closed and totally razed in 1937, and Sacred Heart on Flower City Park.

Rochester's first Bishop discovered a most likely church waiting to be dubbed his cathedral when he arrived in the summer of 1868. It was the third St. Patrick's, just rising on the northeast corner of Frank Street (now Plymouth Avenue North) and Platt Street. (Its predecessor

has been built there in 1823 and 1832.) A large Gothic edifice, designed by Patrick C. Keely of Brooklyn, (who had planned more than 700 American churches before he retired from architecture), it had been begun some four years before the diocese was established. Bishop John Timon of Buffalo laid its cornerstone on Oct. 9, 1864.

Although not completed, St. Pat's was opened for use on Mar. 17, 1869, nine months after McQuaid arrived. It was dedicated as the cathedral with splendid ceremonies on Nov. 6, 1870. Fifteen bishops were on hand, Archbishop John McCloskey of New York officiated and Father Isaac Hecker, founder of the Paulist Fathers preached the sermon.

Enlarged and refurbished 25 years later, the cathedral was solemnly consecrated on October 5, 1898, to coincide with the 75th anniversary of the building of the first, tiny St. Patrick's in



St. Patrick's was the Cathedral of the Rochester Diocese for 68 years. Built in 1869 at Plymouth Avenue North and Platt Street, it was razed in 1937.

'23. Bishop McQuaid also happily saw the completion of the cathedral coupled with his own 50th anniversary of priesthood and the 30th of his episcopate.

Archbishop Michael Corrigan of New York and Archbishop Sebastiano Martinelli, the apostolic delegate to the U.S., performed the solemn rites and Bishop McQuaid preached.

St. Patrick's served Bishops McQuaid, Hickey, O'Hern and Mooney for 68 years. It was the scene of ordinations, solemn feast days, fiery sermons and ceremonials related to civic events.

Four Bishops, born and raised in Rochester, were consecrated there: — Thomas F. Hickey on May 24, 1905, Edward J. Hanna on Dec. 4, 1913, John F. O'Hern on Mar. 19, 1929 and Walter A. Foery on Aug. 18, 1937.

In 1937 Eastman Kodak Company, a long-time State Street (Continued on Page 92A)

The Liturgy . . . Wonderful Things to Come

A Pastor Looks Ahead, Sees Changes in Parish Worship

By FATHER BENEDICT EHMANN, Pastor, St. Michael's Church, Rochester

The life-span of the Rochester diocese bridges the years between the two Vatican Councils.

The first 50 of those years were serene, placid, safe — the years between the Civil War and the First World War. True, there were controversies, alarms and discussions of theology in the Church: the Modernist furor, the Americanism scare. However, though these caused some flurries in Rochester, the general tenor of Catholic life and devotion in the diocese was uneventful.

Parishes were established, churches and schools built, societies instituted. Yet nothing of all this seems, in retrospect, to have moved ahead with the times. It simply duplicated the pattern of the Irish, German, Polish or Italian Catholicism which had nurtured the Catholics who moved here.

No one should belittle this. It was a great accomplishment. If anything more could have been expected of that first half-century, it might have been a greater sensitivity among priests and people to the new direction which the Papacy was taking to lead the Church toward greater social responsibility.

Yet even here we must note such praiseworthy exceptions as the Central Verein's study and application of Pope Leo XIII's



Father Ehmman wonders: What ever happened to such parish boy choirs as this at Immaculate Conception in 1950?

Rerum Novarum, and also the zeal of pastors and teachers to implement Pope Pius X's decrees on early and frequent Communion.

The second half of the Rochester diocesan century begins with the end of the First World War in 1918. It was a period of tremendous social upheaval. The war had toppled kingdoms and principalities, Communism came into power in Russia, a profound economic depression led into the Second World War, the East entered the theater of world politics, atomic energy was discovered and unleashed, interracial justice became a major issue. Indeed "the times they were a-changin'."

Through all this turmoil, the Holy Spirit was evidently renewing the face of the Church. The Popes of this period were dynamic men, equal to the challenge: Pius XI, Pius XII, John XXIII, Paul VI. The liturgy, the study of Scripture, the investigations of theology, were making giant strides of vigorous renewal.

And finally Vatican Council II, in the final years of Rochester's diocesan century, summoned the Church and gave her a mandate and a message for the new world which is now being born.

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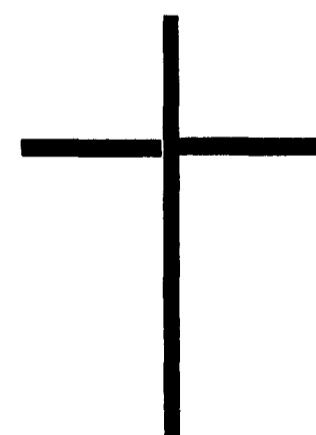
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