

Laymen Helped to Strengthen Faith of the Diocese

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mons and Thomas H. O'Connor.

Mr. O'Connor, who recently retired from the Courier staff, and who provided much of the information for this article, made the Courier a truly diocesan paper, reporting the details of countless parish and regional events in which the Church in this area sank its roots deep into the lives of thousands of people.

Archbishop Edward Mooney and Bishop James E. Kearney blessed and encouraged the proliferation of Catholic lay people's activities. During their time as bishops of the Diocese most Catholic lay people, of course, continued to profess their faith in their personal day-to-day lives in their family, business and community circles. Many also focused their faith in the many Catholic organizations which provide service, instruction, recreation, inspiration. And behind each organization is a nucleus of devoted leaders.

Certainly one of the most colorful and best-known organizations for laymen is the Knights of Columbus and among its



Lay leaders of the largest fund raising drive in diocesan history, from the left: Paul McGuire, Robert Wegman and Henry Kearse. A diocesan-campaign raised \$10,532,980 in 1965 for expansion of Catholic higher education. In 1952, a 12-county drive for diocesan high schools brought in \$4,505,185, and in 1960, a high school campaign in Monroe County yielded \$5,898,690.

leaders were Charles Barnes who aided in organizing scores of councils, Raymond Nary and Michael Moynihan.

George McKay, a Rochester Knight, organized the First Friday Luncheon Club to encourage men to receive Holy Communion when such practice was still rather rare. The Club continues to this day to provide Catholic men a monthly get-together to hear a talk on a topic of current religious interest.

The diocesan offices and the residence of Bishop Fulton J. Sheen are in the Columbus Building, built by the Knights of Columbus 40 years ago preceding the 1929 financial disaster of the Great Depression. Instrumental in bringing the building to reality were John Connors, Richard T. Ford, John P. Boylan and Peter Tettelbach.

Other prominent laymen in the Knights of Columbus have been such members as George Boucher, William F. Shafer, John J. McInerney, Angelo DiNieri of Rochester, Basil Vailancourt of Elmira, Michael Leary of Ithaca, John Leo,

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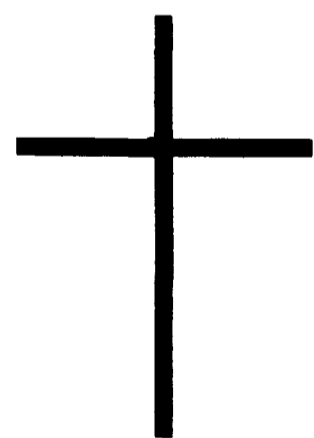
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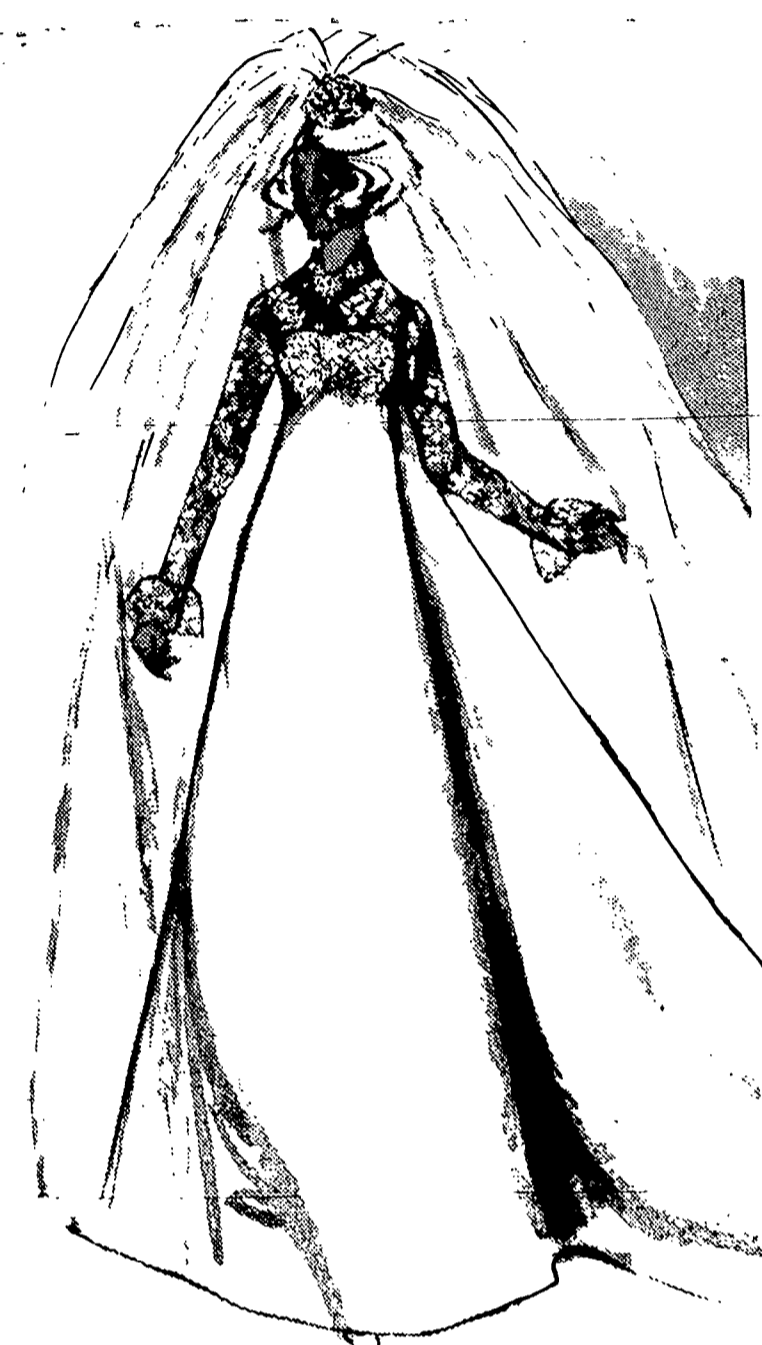
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