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Farewell To a Century

With March 3, 1969, the centennial year of the Diocese of Rochester came to an end. Before we moved ahead, let us look back for a moment at our celebration of the centenary.

When Bishop Sheen established a diocesan-wide Centennial Steering Committee early in 1968, he made it quite clear what type of observance he thought fit. In our age of suffering, it would be quite out of place to commemorate so churchly an event with spectacle and banqueting. This was a spiritual anniversary, so the events should be on the spiritual level.

The Centennial Committee started from there. Rather than concentrate on one big, showy event, it chose to scatter across the Diocese and across the months from March to March, a series of events, and to tie in with these main events other parallel observances. A "low-pressure" approach. There were to be eight key-celebrations.

The first was, of course, the consecration of the Most Rev. Dennis W. Hickey and the Most Rev. John E. McCafferty as auxiliary bishops. This took place on March 14, 1968. It will be recalled that the Apostolic Delegate to the U.S., Archbishop Luigi Raimondi, assisted by Bishop Sheen and Bishop James E. Kearney, were the consecrating prelates. Bishop Lawrence B. Casey, head of the Diocese of Paterson, and once Auxiliary Bishop here, was the preacher.

Then, in May, came the publication of the diocesan history: *The Diocese of Rochester, 1868-1968*, by Father Robert F. McNamara of St. Bernard's Seminary. It has won praise from secular papers within the Diocese and from national experts on Catholic Church history.



This symbol which has adorned the Courier-Journal front page during the Diocese's centennial year will be seen no more as the centenary celebration draws to a close this week.

On June 16, district concelebrated Masses took place in Auburn, Geneva and Elmira. The area Mass for the Rochester vicariate was offered in the Eastman Theater on October 13. It associated the diocesan anniversary with the sixtieth priestly anniversary of Bishop Kearney.

If attendance at the area Masses intimated that the day of large gatherings — for any purpose — is past, at least the parishes had a chance to commemorate the centenary at their Thanksgiving Day Masses. They did so with devotion.

Meanwhile, St. Bernard's Seminary had marked its seventy-fifth anniversary on October 10. The commemorative Mass was offered in Corpus Christi Church. Archbishop Terence Cooke, newly appointed metropolitan of the church province of New York, took this occasion to pay his first visit to Rochester, and there were eighteen other bishops present, along with 550 alumni. An ecumenical site was chosen for the alumni dinner: the Masonic Temple across from Corpus Christi.

An originally unscheduled, but appropriate follow-up of the Seminary jubilee took place on October 25. One hundred and fifty priests, alumni of St. Bernard's, took part in a concelebrated Mass in the Cathedral, as a sign of renewal of their priesthood.

The dedication of Beckef Hall, on May 7, was an officially planned centennial event. But one could also consider as centennial observances the dedications of Annunciation Church, Rochester (March 24), Our Mother of Sorrows Church, Paddy Hill (September 22), and St. Joseph Church, Penfield (November 14). We might also include the parish centennial Mass at St. Patrick's Church, Prattsburg, on June 30.

One of the most important parallel events of the year was the Bishop Byrne Memorial Mass offered at Holy Family Church in Auburn on October 16. The chief celebrant, Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, blessed a tablet dedicated to the memory of the heroic Maryknoll bishop, Patrick J. Byrne (1888-1950). Bishop Byrne was a graduate of Holy Family School. The Byrne Memorial brought to Auburn a

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Sex Course Defended by School Aide

The material of a sex education program, in use since last September in the elementary schools of the diocese, has been under "steady revision and re-writing for several months," Father Daniel Brent, associate Superintendent of Schools, this week told critics of the program in Auburn and Rochester.

"We think this is an excellent program — perhaps one of the best in the country — and we have studied many," Father Brent said. "But it's not a sacred cow. The syllabus committee has had changes on the drawing-board for some time. We remain open to the continuing suggestions and criticisms of parents whose children are receiving the course."

"But there is no intention to withdraw the course totally nor suspend the program right now pending a change of the syllabus," he said.

The sex syllabus has come under sharp attack from Father John Nacca, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church, Auburn. In two successive Sunday sermons Father Nacca told parishioners that the diocesan program should be halted because it was "needlessly detailed" and "a colossal failure from the child's psychological and emotional point of view."

Father Nacca found the support of 18 Auburn-area doctors and some parents of Auburn and Rochester who have written the Pastoral Office and the Education Office. They are demanding suspension of the sex courses in the elementary grades and a thorough review of the classroom material.

Six other pastors of Auburn, headed by Father Raymond J. Wahl, Episcopal Vicar for the eastern part of the diocese, publicly upheld the program.

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Seminary Enrollments Said on Rise

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — Increases in Roman Catholic seminary enrollments were reported by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate here.

Four hundred and ninety-nine more students enrolled in U.S. Catholic seminaries this year than in the 1967-68 school year, with the increase occurring at the college and theology level.

Minor seminary or high school enrollments continued to decline, with 160 fewer students entering these institutions during the current academic year.

However, it noted that the drop-out rate on all levels of seminary training continues at 12.4 per cent with 4,937 students leaving their seminary in the past year.

The greatest decline in candidates for the priesthood was reported in the novitiates of religious communities of priests. There were 525 fewer novices, or a decrease of 25.9 per cent.



A U.S. Army helicopter carrying President Richard M. Nixon settles slowly into St. Peter's Square at the beginning of an historic visit to Pope Paul VI Sunday, March 2.

Peace the Topic

POPE, NIXON MEET

From Courier-Journal Services

Vatican City — Pope Paul VI and President Richard M. Nixon of the United States met for more than an hour here to discuss international cooperation and how to find world peace through just and honorable solutions of current conflicts.

The official Vatican communique reported the following details of the Pope's 75-minute meeting with Mr. Nixon:

"The private conversation was principally concerned with the examination of those various situations where understanding between nations is more necessary, and where peace must be re-established, by means of just and honorable solutions of the conflicts in progress with respect of the freedoms and the lawful aspirations of peoples.

"Particular mention was made, in regard to international collaboration, of the need of intensifying support of the developing nations.

"While expressing his high appreciation of the contribution being made by the United States of America to the program of development, the Holy Father encouraged its continuation and its amplifications, always with due respect for the dignity and freedom of the peoples to whom it is given.

"His Holiness also expressed the confident wish that the action of the United States of America be directed

towards the defense and promotion of the ideals of a free just and peaceful society, according to the spirit of the Gospel and the very principles enshrined in the constitution of the country."

(It was the sixth recorded time a U.S. President had met a Pope. Woodrow Wilson met Pope Benedict XV in 1919; Dwight D. Eisenhower met Pope John XXIII in 1959; John F. Kennedy met Pope Paul in 1963, and Lyndon B. Johnson met Pope Paul twice, in October, 1965, at the United Nations and just before Christmas of 1967 in the Vatican.)

The question of establishing diplomatic relations between the Holy See and the United States did not arise during their talk, nor did it come up during a parallel conversation in an adjoining room between the Papal Secretary of State, Amleto Cardinal Coggiani, and U.S. Secretary of State William Rogers.

However, the roster of participants in that second conference made it clear that discussion had focused on Vietnam. The Holy See's Vietnam expert, Msgr. Luigi Dossena, was included, along with the apostolic delegate in the United States, Archbishop Giovanni Benelli, and the presidential adviser for foreign affairs, Henry Kissinger.

On leaving the Pope, the President

party came to the Sala Clementina in the Vatican, where more than 200 seminarians from the North American College saluted him with rousing cheers. Obviously in the best of humor, the President took the microphone and said that when he heard that the North American students were awaiting him he was sure that for once there would be no protest demonstrations. He also commented that he himself took a long time to get through the Electoral College, but that he finally made it.

Then, turning serious, he spoke of the challenges and opportunities for youth today. He said that youth everywhere has the same problem. In the United States, he said, certainly there never had been so much opportunity in education, employment and advancement for the young.

At the same time, he said, there is a "sense of frustration." Youth, he said, needs something more than money, adding that men do not live by bread alone. Youth needs, he said, a sense of purpose, of vision, of direction. In the spiritual and temporal spheres, he said to the seminarians, the roads may be different but the goals are the same. Youth, he said, needs to be for, not against something.

Step Aside, McNamara, Kearney Band on Way

By PINCER LEAVEN

As the Bishop Kearney High School Band passed the official reviewing stand at the St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York, last year, Maurice Dunne of the Irish Travel Bureau remarked: "I'd like to see that band in Dublin next year."

And so, on the morning of Friday, March 14, the Great Adventure begins. Bishop James E. Kearney will bless them, and 105 members of the band and their 8 chaperones will board busses for Syracuse and there take an Aer Lingus plane to celebrate St. Patrick in the Holy Isle.

For four days, the students will be the guests of the Irish Travel Bureau and the Irish people as they see the sights and wonders of St. Patrick's adopted home.

The "Dublin Sun" recently reported that the band will be "one of the largest ever seen in Europe," when it proudly takes its place in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin.

Brother J. L. Heathwood of Bishop Kearney High School, who will be a chaperone, reported that "All Ireland is excited about our coming."

Back at the high school, Andrew Kortz, who is over-all director of the trip and chaperone, describes the mood of the students as "Just all joy and jubilation. The students already have their bags packed and they can't wait to take off."

Besides playing and marching in the St. Patrick's day parade in Dublin, the band will also perform at half-time in the All-Ireland Hurling

Finals at Croke Park and will give a concert in the famous glass city of Waterford. The order of Christian Brothers of Ireland, which staffs Bishop Kearney High School, originated in Waterford.

According to Brother Heathwood, it won't be all work for the youngsters. While in Dublin they will take a bus tour of the famous city, meet its dignitaries at a reception and luncheon hosted by His Excellency Eugene Timmons, Lord Mayor of Dublin, and spend an evening enjoying the talents of the famous Abbey Players.

In Waterford they will be treated to tours of the glass factories and be entertained at Jury's Cabaret.

The evening before they return, they will dine at a medieval banquet given for them at Dunratty Castle in Limerick.

The ITB, a branch of the Irish Government, donated \$5,000 for the tour. But the trip is expected to cost \$43,000, so the students and interested persons at Kearney have been working for the last several months at donut sales, buffet suppers, concerts and white elephant sales to raise the needed capital.

Band director Raymond Shalin said that it was made clear to everyone "no student would have to pay for his own trip out of his own pocket." He said that the best players were going, not just those who could afford it.

The students are expected to return to the U.S. on March 20.

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These Latin American children are benefactors of U.S. aid sent through the American Catholic Overseas Aid Fund, sponsored by U.S. bishops. The annual collection in diocesan parishes is scheduled March 16.