

A Heritage of Faith for Our Diocese

This is the concluding article in Rochester Diocese history written for the Courier-Journal to commemorate the diocesan centennial by Father McNamara, author of the centennial history THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, 1868-1968.

By FR. ROBERT F. McNAMARA

In writing the history of our diocese, I could not but be impressed by the deep and vibrant faith of those leading immigrant pioneers of all generations who laid the foundations of our parishes and institutions.



JOHN AND ANNA MARIA KLEM

How well their descendants maintained the faith would be another study in itself, and one difficult to document. But I have encountered abundant evidence in several cases across the diocese, that later generations indeed maintained their Catholic heritage. One sign of this is the number of family vocations to the priesthood and the religious life.

John O'Connor, who came to Auburn in 1810, was one of the most dynamic Catholics in the eastern part of the diocese. His home long served as a "Mass house" for visiting priests, and he was a founder of Holy Family parish. Catholic descendants of John O'Connor still remain, I believe, in Auburn and his grandson, Father John J. Hickey, was pastor of Holy Family from 1885 to 1923.

Thomas Hendrick, stalwart leader of the Penn Yan Catholics, had 22 children. His namesake, Thomas, became Bishop of Cebu in the Philippine Islands; another, Monsignor Joseph Hendrick, was pastor of St. Francis de Sales, Geneva, a third child, Charlotte, was a Religious of the Sacred Heart.

Michael Byrnes came to Lima around 1850. Lima did

not have its own pastor then, so Michael would walk the 20 miles to Rochester on Saturday, attend Mass there on Sunday, and walk back to Lima on Sunday afternoon. Bishop McQuaid was assisted by Michael and his brother in purchasing the "Bishop's Farm" at Hemlock Lake, now the property of the Society of the Divine Word.

Father Simon Fitzsimons, pastor of St. Rose's, Lima from 1884 to 1912, was enthusiastic about Michael Byrnes. "If I had 12 men like him," he declared, "I could move mountains."

Michael and Patrick were cattle experts, and rather prosperous. Two priests of the Diocese of Rochester today are great-grandchildren of Michael Byrnes.

Patrick Burns (Byrnes) had two daughters and one grandchild who entered the Rochester Sisters of St. Joseph. One of the daughters, Sister M. Xavier, died a victim of her own charity in 1918. She volunteered to nurse the victims of the influenza epidemic in Mount Morris. In the course of her work, she contracted a fatal case of the disease.

In Rochester proper there were a number of the immigrants who passed on their strong faith to the generations that followed them.

Patrick Kearney's descendants have included nuns, members of the Religious of the Sacred Heart. Patrick, who came to Rochester in 1824, was one of Rochester's earliest merchant tailors. His family later intermarried with the Hones, another prominent Rochester Catholic family. Four members of the family of Edward Duffy entered the same Sacred Heart community. Edward Duffy, who came to Rochester in 1842, was the grandfather of the late Justice James P. B. Duffy.

Patrick Barry was surely the most influential Catholic Rochesterian of the last century. His sons continued his tradition of Catholic charity. His granddaughters, Harriet Barry, founded the Charles House, our first Catholic settlement house, which is still flourishing.

One of the pillars of the "French Church" was Joseph Savard, who, with his brother, Pierre, moved to Rochester from his native Quebec in

1834 or before. Joseph's descendants include a Rochester pastor and at least one nun.

Early German Catholic families in Rochester established the same pattern of hereditary faith. Mrs. Joseph Minges had three daughters who joined the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Mrs. Minges came to the city in 1831.

Another immigrant, Joseph Schutte, gave his eldest daughter to the Sisters of Charity of Notre Dame. Schutte settled in Rochester in 1836, was an early member of German Catholic societies here and a member of the board of directors of St. Joseph's Orphanage.

But it is the Klem family, without doubt, that holds the record. John and Anna Maria Klem came to Rochester from Germany in 1816, and thus became the second German family to settle here, and the first German Catholic family. I have recounted, in the diocesan history, the family tradition that Mrs. Klem walked to New York to have her infant daughter baptized.

The Klems' oldest child, Bernard, became a leading Catholic in Rochester, active in St. Patrick's parish, and then in the foundation of the city's first German parish, St. Joseph's. In a day when the large family was more the rule than the exception, Bernard had an exceptionally large family: 22 children. Today there are still many branches of the Klem family in the Rochester area.

There have been at least 17 priests in this family: two diocesan, four Basilians, five Redemptorists, three Jesuits, one Franciscan, one Holy Cross Father, and one Maryknoll. And there have been 27 nuns: nine Sisters of St. Joseph, six Sisters of Mercy,

10 School Sisters of Notre Dame, one Maryknoll Sister, and one Franciscan Sister. Furthermore, these listings, I am told, are not necessarily complete.

But it was not simply because the Klem family was a large family — or any other pioneer Catholic family was a large family — that it contributed a considerable number of its members to the Church. It was because of the faith which the original immigrants, whatever their national antecedents, inculcated in their children and their children's children.

I can think of no better way to prove this — and to point out, in the concluding article, the underlying factor that binds together the whole history of the Diocese — than to quote a wonderful letter written in 1948 to his daughter by George E. Schantz, a grandson of Bernard Klem.

After some personal observations, Mr. Schantz goes on to say: "There is another inheritance I leave to you which is far more precious than earthly possessions, namely my Holy Catholic Faith. May you persevere and die in this holy faith."

"Embrace the tribulations God has destined for you. Jesus will give you the necessary help to carry your cross with patience and resignation."

"May my children live in tranquility, may we all meet in heaven, where there is no more suffering."

"May the blessing of the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost be upon you, and may the Sacred Heart of Jesus, our dear Mother of Perpetual Help, and good St. Joseph, guide, bless and protect you always."

"Good bye now, until we meet in Christ's Heavenly Kingdom."



Spring fashions will brighten the dreary end of winter at three upcoming shows: Monday night at Aquinas (Edwards); next Friday night at Holy Spirit, Penfield (Paraphernalia), and Wednesday, March 19, at McQuaid (McCurdy's), all starting at 8. The mini-model getting ready for the Aquinas show is Mary Sue Borelli, with, clockwise, Mrs. Pat Borelli, Janet Cantone, Mrs. Elizabeth Anderson, Mrs. John Kommeth and Ellen Metherell.

Discussion Series Slated in Ithaca

Ithaca — Catholics have been invited to four discussion meetings scheduled here from March 9 through March 26.

An award-winning feature film, "The Gospel According to St. Matthew," will be shown at 7 p.m. Sunday, March 9, in Boynton Junior High School. Discussion will follow.

Three other meetings are scheduled at Immaculate Conception School hall. They are: Wednesday, March 12, 8 p.m. — "The Changing Church,"

Bishop John E. McCafferty; Sunday, March 23, 8 p.m. — "Youth in the Church," a panel of youths; Wednesday, March 26, 8 p.m. — "Community Action in the Urban Church," Father P. David Finks, vicar for the Office for Urban Ministry, Rochester.

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SSI VOCATIONS HEAD TO SPEAK AT TWO NATIONAL MEETINGS

Sister Anne Mary, local director of vocations for the Sisters of St. Joseph, will spend next week at two national conferences.

She will speak on the theology of religious vocations during the third National Institute of Vicars for Religious, March 10-12 in Detroit. As eastern regional consultant, she will take part in a New Orleans meeting, March 13-16, of the National Sisters Vocation Committee.

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The Man Behind the Christian Network

(Last of a 2-Part Series) By CARMEN VIGLUCCI

Announcer Scott Ross' story in a way parallels that of the founder of the Christian Broadcasting Network.

Pat Robertson. The son of a former U.S. senator, a graduate of Yale University law school, he once headed a "Stevenson for President" drive in a New York City borough and had

political aspirations as a liberal Democrat.

"After my conversion to Christ," says the 38-year-old, who in appearance and accent is reminiscent of John F. Kennedy, "my political outlook changed completely. I'm not political in thinking now, but spiritual."

His entrance into the broadcasting business "seemed absurd," says Robertson.

When a family friend called to find out if he would be interested in buying an abandoned television station in Portsmouth, Va., Robertson, "I didn't even own a television set, let alone know how to operate a television station."

After the friend presented the proposition in a face-to-face meeting, Robertson "went out under the stars in

the Shenandoah Valley and prayed, 'Lord, if you want me to buy the station, how much will it cost.'"

The answer came — \$37,000. He began negotiations and although the asking price was \$75,000, \$25,000 for the equipment and \$50,000 for the station and land, he eventually completed the deal — for \$37,000.

After that followed a fantastic story of getting the station off the ground, depressing bills being met in last-minute style from unexpected sources, until finally the station began operations Oct. 1, 1961.

That shaky beginning has grown to seven radio stations and two television stations. Recently, CBN went on the air in Bogota, Colombia.

Robertson explains the phenomenal growth simply,

"The Lord has been good."

This philosophy permeates the network, including the local outlet. Letters are signed, "In His name," and carries over into advertising regulations.

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Bishop Sheen to Speak At Parish Convention

Bishop Fulton J. Sheen will give the opening address at a parish convention — Friday night, March 14, and Saturday afternoon, March 15, for parishioners of Holy Name of Jesus Church.

Sessions will be in nearby Cardinal Mooney High School auditorium. Father Thomas M. Redington, pastor of Holy Name Church, said Bishop

Sheen will speak at 7:15 p.m. Friday. A "coffee hour" will follow.

Presentation of a constitution will highlight Saturday's sessions. Purpose of the constitution is the formation of a permanent Parish Council. Saturday's schedule:

12:30 p.m. — Registration; 1 p.m. — Presentation of Proposed Constitution; 1:30 — Finance Session; 2 — Entertainment by the Parish "Younger Generation" Group; 2:30 — Religious Formation Session; 3:15 — Display Booths by Members of Parish Organizations.

"Convention" co-chairmen are Victor DeSimon and Allis Hall. Session leaders will include: constitution, Michael Polozie, Thomas Spinelli; finance, John Timmons; religious formation, Donald Burke.

Music Festival Set at Mooney

Bands from all the schools conducted by the Sisters of Mercy will present an "Interparochial Festival" at Cardinal Mooney High School, Sunday, March 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Highlighting the evening will be "March of the Astronauts" written and conducted by Mr. Roger Eckers of the Cardinal Mooney Faculty. The choir's chorus will be directed by Mr. Edward Taylor; and the overall program will be conducted by Sister Margaret Caulfield of the Sisters of Mercy.

BACK ON SCHEDULE

"Dare," the weekly discussion program presented by McQuaid Jesuit High School, will return to its regular broadcast time this Sunday, March 8, at 11:30 p.m. on WRCB-TV, Channel 10. Father Albert P. Bartlett, McQuaid rector, will speak on porography.

Deaths

Mrs. Crowell

A requiem Mass was offered last Saturday in St. Augustine's Church for Bertha M. Crowell of 145 Normandy Ave.

Mrs. Crowell, widow of Arthur J. Crowell, died Feb. 26. She leaves two sisters, Mrs. Anna Siebold of Long Island and Mrs. Lull Schaefer of Rochester, and several nieces and nephews.

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Laity' By C

The Rochester members, presents lieze its goals. R association may d Drive, Rochester, I

Contributing to the mol in the Catholic voice of the layman. Th be expected to play a in the future of the C ligion is to retain," or should write "regain," and relevance as moder comes more secularized.

There can be no do lay voice constitutes an important elements of to

When it is recalled thers of the Church in v fied the Church as a "God", it must be realized voice may not be regar by an accidental elem Church. It is the regg the educated layman opinions on matters of the entire Church.

Pope Pius XII defin duty, and the "Constiti Church" from Vatican II

"An individual laym son of the knowledge, or outstanding ability may enjoy, is permiss times even obliged to opinion on things wh the good of the Church

It is not surprising bishops have become s discouraged, for all to only voice heard from th been that of dissent. O voice of dissent is oft for sometimes the laym once requires him to against something which to be wrong.

But the voice of ass port is equally necessary so, in that it informs when they have found way to guide modern n good and meaningful C

The lay voice may s

CHURC

The Decer

By Father P. Dav

In the town of Greece last week citizens' committee of Arcadia High flowed over into gym classrooms. They came their feelings before Board on a proposed would bus-in 50-in- to the Greece elemen The children would fill desks and the costs wo out of state and federal

The antagonisms var that evening seemed all portion to the issue at h seem that the "forgott America is beginning to his suburban lethargy.

The cause of his rati awakening seems to be tegration. But mixed it tional pot is an equal anger over subsidies goi the education, nutritio tion of the poor of the U

Since World War II government has subsidiz ban dweller. The exce of expressways and tow built to open up the colonization with hardy from the taxpayers.

Ten million dwellings built with Federal Hou ity funds (FHA) in op rounding the America middle and upper in while a few thousand made available to low lies. Industry, foundati eral funds by the billio to develop universities tuition for the children income groups.

ST. PAU

The True

By Peter Schinell

The author of the foll the third in a series of meditations, has taught tic in New York City and currently is in see at Woodstock.)

"Remember how gene Jesus has been. He was your sake he became r through his poverty yo come rich."

St. Paul's see the Corinthians,

Pope John XXIII wro ery has often incoo especially when I was an friend and relative very poor." An incom viewing poverty, but Gv John, who hoped that I praised as "born poor an In spite of the richness o we think of him as poor attitude towards the ric of this world was that I be used to help others.

It was this attitude th the Paul urged, the C