

# James P. B. Duffy...an Appreciation

By FATHER ROBERT F. McNAMARA

It is now six months since the passing away (Jan. 8, 1969) of Judge James P. B. Duffy. At the time of his death the obituaries stated the main facts of his career as a public-spirited citizen. But James Duffy during his life exercised a far wider influence for good than these hasty sketches indicated. He deserves a fuller appreciation, for he was certainly one of the most notable Catholic laymen in the history of this diocese.

To exercise leadership in a community, a man must normally have a certain prominence of family and a certain background of culture. James Patrick Bernard Duffy enjoyed both of these advantages. His grandfather, Edward Duffy, was Irish-born, but was already an experienced businessman when he settled in Rochester in 1842.

Edward's son Walter, the father of the future justice, was a well-educated man who continued and expanded upon the business enterprises of Edward Duffy. He was a founder of Rochester's largest department store, Duffy & McInerney (later Duffy-Powers), was president of the Four City Bank and an official of other important business concerns.

James P. B. Duffy (born Nov. 25, 1878) was given a very good education. After attending Washburn College and Rochester Free Academy, he received in 1901, the bachelor of arts degree from Georgetown University (where he was "President of the Yard"); and in 1904 the bachelor of laws degree from Harvard University. He then went on to New York as a leading member of the Rochester Bar, and in 1935 was admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court.

An active member of the Democratic party, lawyer Duffy was a natural political candidate. He served in the Seventy-Fourth Congress from 1934 to 1936 as a representative of the 38th District. Before his election he had been, for one year, a member of the New York and Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission, set up after the repeal of the 18th Amendment. He likewise served two terms on the N.Y. State Probation Commission. And in 1937 he was appointed by Gov. Herbert Lehman to the New York State of the State Supreme Court, 7th Judicial District. His term of office continued to the end of that year. During the war years, 1941-1945, he was also an official of the national U.O.

Justice Duffy had meanwhile made a name for himself as a merchant. From his father he inherited the Duffy Powers store, which he headed ably (and even compassionately) from 1911 to 1952. He was also a trustee of the Rochester Savings Bank.

What was perhaps most notable about James Duffy as a Rochesterian was his active participation in many civic activities. He was a member of some of the most distinguished social organizations, among them the Genesee Valley Club, the Harvard Club, the Georgetown Club, and the Humdrum Club (one of the noted Rochester men's literary clubs, founded in 1897).

He was an official of the local Red Cross, the Rochester Chamber of Commerce, the Rochester Auto Club, and the Rochester Museum. Especially memorable was his 28 year membership of the Rochester Board of Education, of which he was for four years president. When he retired from the Board in 1932, School Superintendent Herbert S. West said of him: "No person in public life has ever been more devoted and sincere."

Mr. Huffman was associated with Col's Manufacturing Company in Hartford for many years. He was an honorary life member of the Jacksonville, Fla., Knights of Columbus. He was a native of Conquest, N.Y.

Survivors include three sons, David, of Coventry, Conn.; Truman, of Jacksonville, and William, of Wethersfield, Conn.; 14 grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

Leo A. Doser, 81, of 189 Thornton Road, Irondequoit, died Monday, July 7, 1969 at Rochester General Hospital.

He is survived by his wife, Marcell E. and was the father of Father Edward A. Doser, C.S.B., a teacher at Aquinas Institute; John R. Doser; James C. Doser; Mrs. R. Stanley Malmgren; and Mrs. Edmund Chapman.

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The second retreat of the Rochester Retreat League in 1916. Arrow shows James P. B. Duffy, co-founder. Anyone recognizing others in the picture should contact Father McNamara at St. Bernard's Seminary, 2260 Lake Ave., Rochester

The judge felt a special sympathy for undertakings of social welfare. He was a founder of United Charities (now called Family Service of Rochester). He was a trustee of the Rochester Community Chest for over three decades, and a member of the Monroe County Mental Health Board. And long before the city was confronted with an acute racial dilemma, he was a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

To have had a man of such widespread influence to represent in the leading civic organizations would have done credit to local Catholicism even if he had been an "ordinary" Catholic. But Judge Duffy was an extraordinary Catholic, a man of simple but profound piety who truly "felt with the Church"; was attentive to its interests, and brought its teachings to bear upon all his activities.

Earlybird Rochesterians who frequented the neighborhood of the Four Corners were long accustomed to seeing the tall, spare attorney emerge from his bachelor quarters—for years in Hotel Rochester—and take his brisk daily walk out to St. Patrick's Church to attend an early Mass. The Duffys had been members for years of St. Patrick's Cathedral, and James Duffy served as one of its trustees for 29 years, both while it remained the cathedral parish and after 1937 when it returned to the humbler status of an ordinary parish church. When he was buried, it was from this, the oldest Catholic parish in Rochester.

The judge was a member of the Knights of Columbus, the

Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Knights of Equity, and the Third Order of St. Francis. In most recent years, he was an active member of the Catholic Interracial Council of Rochester. Members of the CIC—like members of other organizations to which he belonged, religious or secular—were always happy to see him at the meetings. They knew that he would contribute sage comments and diplomatic recommendations.

Two notable contributions that he made to the spiritual life of the Rochester Diocese were the Lay Retreat League and the Nocturnal Adoration Society. In 1915 he was a co-founder of the league, and in 1929 he became a co-founder of nocturnal. If he was loyal to his legal Alma Mater, Harvard, he was also strongly loyal to his collegiate Alma Mater, Georgetown. Indeed, Georgetown officials hailed him as "Mister Georgetown."

The judge was always happy to cooperate with diocesan authorities. His original connection with United Charities of Rochester was as one of the appointed Catholic representatives on the board which founded that agency. Again, while a member of the Rochester Board of Education, he played an active role, around 1920, in hammering out the details of the "Rochester Plan" of released-time religious education for public school students of different denominations.

The present bishop of Syracuse, Most Rev. Walter A. Foery, assisted Bishop Thomas F. Hickey of Rochester in the preliminary released-time discussions. Bishop Foery recently said of Justice Duffy: "He undoubtedly had more to do with released time in our public schools than any other individual." The "Rochester Plan" was a pioneering effort in New York State. It was subsequently adopted in other towns of the State and other dioceses.

In 1940, "released-time" arrangements were officially approved as state law. James Duffy therefore made a major contribution to the religious education of thousands of children.

Organizations really enjoyed honoring Judge Duffy because he gave so much of himself without personal profit, to every cause he served. When he retired from the Rochester Board of Education, the Rochester Teachers' Association made him an honorary member. The association said of him: "To every problem of public education he has brought a scholarly habit of mind, a judicial temper, a courageous spirit, and a broad sympathy."

Catholic organizations acted on the basis of a like appreciation. Georgetown gave him an honorary Doctorate of Laws in 1951, and in 1961 named this former member of the Georgetown Crew, to the college's athletic Hall of Fame.

Nor were ecclesiastical distinctions wanting. In 1931, the third bishop of Rochester, John Francis O'Hern, recommended Mr. Duffy for Roman honors. Pope Pius XI granted the petition and bestowed upon Duffy the knighthood of St. Gregory. Later on in the same year, the Grand Master of the Sovereign Order of the Knights of Malta admitted him to this exclusive military-religious organization.

When Pope Paul VI projected his visit to New York on Oct. 4, 1965, the American Knights of Malta were asked to occupy places of honor at the papal field Mass in Yankee Stadium. During the television coverage of that notable event, the camera paused briefly on the 86-year-old Justice Duffy. There he sat, bareheaded for all the chill of the night air, swathed in the folds of the official black cloak that bore the white Maltese cross of his Sovereign Order.

There was something appropriate about knighthoods for James Duffy. As a local publicist said of him, he was truly a "courtly" man. A knight without fear and without reproach. A tall, spare, handsome man, naturally graceful, unconsciously stylish. Indeed, one might say that he was more than knightly; he was regal, with the majesty of one of the high kings of old Ireland.

His was a long life—four score and ten years. He saw many changes in that lifetime but it was typical of his optimistic spirituality that he should have declared, a few months ago, in the midst of the turbulence that beset the Church: "These are great days for a Catholic to be alive!"

God rest James Patrick Bernard Duffy! We must seek far for his equal as a model Christian layman, a truly Catholic.



Jon L. Prime of 20 Wincanton Drive, Fairport, has been appointed business manager of McQuaid Jesuit High School and will begin work there Aug. 1.

Prime holds degrees in business administration from Bradley University and the University of Rochester. He has been on the staff of the latter, as manager of the busbar's office and as senior internal auditor.

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## What Would Christ Do?

How many times in life we must ask ourselves: What would Christ do? How would He react in this or that situation?

The missionary also asks this question many times over! Faced with discouragement or difficulties, he, too, attempts to learn what Christ would do. He, too, wants to imitate Christ as well as he can.

"One foreign missionary asks this question in a letter to our office: 'It is now four and a half months since I arrived in Japan, in a new city of 150,000 citizens. What does one do to spread the Faith among so many people, for whom Christ is just a vague name in their history books? WHAT WOULD CHRIST DO?'

"No doubt He could gather great crowds around Him as He gave thrilling sermons. His very presence on the streets, in the busses, in the trains, His sanctity and charity, would inspire many to follow Him, which I cannot. His night long vigils with His Father would reap thousands of converts.

"I cannot really do what Christ would do. All I can do is TRY to imitate Him, and in His chapel, morning and night, plead with Him to rain down His special love on Japan, to bring more and more to know Him."

But as the letter continues, it is clear that this missionary is certainly following the example of Christ. Armed solely with his gospel and the love of Christ in his heart, he is proceeding on a missionary task for mankind.

"The Wind of the Holy Spirit is gently breathing over us," he writes. "Our little flock of 15 Christians has increased to 30. On Holy Saturday I had the privilege of baptizing our first Christians, a mother and her two little girls. It was one of the most joyful baptisms I have ever performed. One new Christian, Mary Magdalene, was so happy that tears of joy were streaming down her face."

This missionary has certainly taken up the challenge of a life in imitation of Christ. Can we do any less?

Can we read of poverty and suffering, of illiteracy and disease, and remain unconcerned? Can we, as followers of Christ, know that there are two billion people who have not even heard His name, and remain indifferent to the missionary call of the Church?

Of course not! Let us, then, look to the example of Christ in His compassion and concern for mankind. Let us pray and sacrifice for the missions. Let us do what Christ would do!

Don't forget: THE MISSIONS NEED YOUR HELP IN THE SUMMER TOO!

SALVATION AND SERVICE are the work of The Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Please cut out this column and send your offering to Right Reverend Edward T. O'Meara, National Director, 366 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10001, or directly to your local Diocesan Director.

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Rt. Rev. Msgr. John F. Duffy  
30 Chestnut Street  
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## Deaths

### Mrs. Mitchell

Elmira — A solemn Mass of requiem was celebrated July 16 in St. Patrick's Church for Mrs. Josephine Mitchell, widow of Alfred Mitchell.

Mrs. Mitchell, of 816 Walnut Street, had been the last of a family of 11 who were graduated in 1911 as the first class out of the St. Joseph Hospital School of Nursing.

She leaves two sons, Dr. Alfred A. Mitchell of Elmira and Timothy, of Newington, Conn.; two daughters, Mrs. Joseph Schappart and Mrs. Leo Krolak, both of Elmira; a sister, Mrs. Veronica Dowling of Corning and several nieces and nephews.

### T. M. Hoffman

Truman M. Huffman, Sr., father of Sister Mary Aurelia, S.S., of Rochester, died July 7, 1969, in Hartford, Conn. He was 82 years old.

Mr. Huffman was associated with Col's Manufacturing Company in Hartford for many years. He was an honorary life member of the Jacksonville, Fla., Knights of Columbus. He was a native of Conquest, N.Y.

### Leo A. Doser

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A native of Rochester, he was employed for 37 years at the Gleason Works.

He is survived by his wife, Marcell E. and was the father of Father Edward A. Doser, C.S.B., a teacher at Aquinas Institute; John R. Doser; James C. Doser; Mrs. R. Stanley Malmgren; and Mrs. Edmund Chapman.

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**NOW**  
By Father Rich  
This Sunday afternoon the entire listening wits breath during the moon-landing of astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin will be dropping slowly down carefully for an enough to land on safe.  
They expect it will level surface because area, chosen months a been extensively pho close range, is in a sa gion called the "Sea of Tranquility."  
The little-known in this euphoric title an of the rest of lunar are about to explore priest, Giovanni Ricci astronomer who publishes the moon in 1951.  
This was only 40 ye less had made his first astonished the world that the moon was a smooth sphere and it shine with its own light.  
**COM**  
**ON TI**  
**Suskind's**  
By Father Paul  
When visiting Father left at 11 p.m. Su thought: "Get the 11:0 to bed." Instead of it didn't look promising, the David Suskind She pected to be relaxing. ing.  
Whenever I got the kind Show was a kind mentary, or a William ing-Line" type of thing false.  
The July 6 program bachelors, around 35 point was to find out h normal, good-looking m jobs and education got old without being ma the most part without of marriage.  
The show turned out other of those sex re that are sating the e performance was mostl relations, using the u present day superficial Listen to the words year-old goats—"Wor married to have an of 17, 18, 19-year-old i able. They're fun. Th laxed. The 25-year-old us. They're not as m laxed."  
And another: "I can ingful relationship wit And another: "Wome fun. I keep a stable, o time." And another: " anytime that you want er: "There's more to a  
**AND C**  
**Priest A**  
Dear Father Cuddy,  
In the June 27 issue er," your column w "Argument for Priestl agree with every word of June 27.  
I do feel that what many priests (of every spoken conclusion of namely, that celibacy s to be imposed on ev who is called and choo a priest.  
In conversations wil the past several mont covered that age ("you are deplorable terms l tion) has little to Church's current probl difference I can see v age is a matter of "aw  
A younger priest whi treme difficulty living life is conscious of a view of possible cha legislation. An older having this extreme t not foresee any possib largely because of his background, but perh cause he fears the futu admit that celibacy is lem.  
Even the younger through a great deal of the realization "surface (I am here speaking where celibacy is the ac  
When I became a pri celibacy on myself. Non thinking priests who h blaming the Pope or for the "forced celiba our way of life. The ti whole Church has bee Rite priests do not m believe that the preser the whole Church—is q  
There is a great dea data to show that lay p percentage, are syma idea of allowing priests  
It would be a terrib do away with celibacy I I remember reading an