

Requiem Mass Held For Father O'Rourke



FR. DANIEL O'ROURKE

Pictured in 1968 at St. Patrick's Day party in his honor

Mass of the Resurrection for repose of the soul of Father Daniel B. O'Rourke, pastor emeritus of Our Mother of Sorrows Church, Greece, was celebrated in the church Friday morning.

Father O'Rourke, 81, pastor of the Greece parish for nearly 32 years until his retirement in 1961, died May 5, 1970, in St. Ann's Home, where he had resided since 1964.

Burial was in Our Mother of Sorrows Cemetery. Father O'Rourke is survived by two nieces, Miss Helen O'Rourke of Auburn and Mrs. John Potter of Rochester.

Bishop Hogan was principal celebrant of the Mass. Concelebrating were Father George S. Wood, who succeeded Father O'Rourke as pastor of Our Mother of Sorrows, Msgr. Robert A. Keleher and Fathers Thomas F. Brennan, Edward J. Foy and Andrew Teuschel.

Father Raymond F. Moore, chaplain of St. Ann's Home, in the eulogy described Father O'Rourke as having lived in two worlds — the world of the priest, during which he spent a half century of service to God, the Church and its people, and the world of humanity, in which he exercised unusual kindness and generosity to his fellowmen, particularly children.

During his long tenure as pastor of Our Mother of Sorrows, Father O'Rourke saw it rise from a small country church to a large suburban parish of more than 1,000 families and ten Sunday Masses. He supervised the building of the parish school and convent, and dedicated the adjoining "Paddy Hill" tract.

As he marked his 30th year as pastor in 1959, the "Paddy Hill Padre" said that when he began in 1929 there were 60 families and \$13 in the collection.

"Before the building boom started in 1945," he declared, "I knew all my parishioners by name. I've tried to keep up with all the newcomers and go door to door to meet them, but these days they move in faster than I can get around."

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He estimated he had baptized "at least 2,000" during his three decades there, and had instructed as many as 35 adults for entrance to Catholicism in a single year.

In 1930 he directed celebration of the parish centennial, with Governor and Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt present, and with State Senator Charles Tuttle representing President Hoover.

Born Sept. 19, 1889, in Scipio Center, he was the son of Peter and Ellen Hogan O'Rourke. He attended Scipio Center School and, when his family moved, Holy Family School in Auburn; Auburn High School, and St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's Seminaries. He was ordained in old St. Patrick's Cathedral by Bishop Thomas F. Hickey, Rochester's second bishop, on June 12, 1915.

His first assignment was to assistant pastor of St. Augustine's Church. In 1920 he was transferred to assistant at Sacred Heart Church, Rochester.

In 1925 Father O'Rourke was named pastor of what he termed "my little diocese" — St. Gregory Church, Marion, Epiphany Church, Sodus, and its mission, St. Rose Church, Sodus Point. He was appointed pastor of Our Mother of Sorrows on Oct. 31, 1929. He also served as chaplain of Nazareth Academy from 1935 to 1939.

Mass of the Resurrection for repose of the soul of Father John M. Merklinger, 58, spiritual director of Becket Hall, the diocesan residence for seminarians studying at St. John Fisher College, was celebrated Friday afternoon in St. Anne's Church.

Father Merklinger, who had been ill for several months, died of a heart attack May 5, 1970. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. He is survived by a sister, Mrs. Louis E. (Mary) Maier, and several aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

Bishop Hogan was principal celebrant of the Mass. Concelebrants were Fathers Raymond J. Wahl, Edward J. Lintz and 14 classmates and close friends. Father Louis J. Hohman, rector of Becket Hall, preached the homily.

"His love of Christ rested in the simplicity of his faith," the preacher said of Father Merklinger. "The most concrete evidence of his heart was his relationship with the sick. The magnificent concern he showed in 12 years of hospital work created respect, love and affection, which comes back to this fan even today."

Born in Rochester Dec. 11, 1912, Father Merklinger was the son of the late John and Marguerite Froehler Merklinger. He attended St. Augustine's School and St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's Seminaries, and was ordained June 4, 1937, in old St. Patrick's Cathedral by Archbishop Edward Mooney, Rochester's fourth bishop.

Father Merklinger Mass Held



FR. JOHN MERKLINGER

Father Merklinger served as assistant pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church, Rochester, from 1937 to 1942; at St. Alphonsus Church, Auburn, from 1942 to 1943, and at St. Ann's Church, Hornell, in 1943. Dur-

ing the same year he was appointed assistant at St. Anne's Church, Rochester, serving until 1958.

On June 24, 1958, he was appointed pastor of St. Mary's Church, Dansville, and was transferred to the pastorate of St. Alphonsus Church, Auburn, on July 17, 1962.

Last year Father Merklinger asked for retirement from heavy parish responsibilities because of ill health. His request was granted and he was appointed to Becket Hall on June 25, 1969.

During his time in St. Anne's parish, he served also as chaplain of the Newman Club of the University of Rochester Medical Center, chaplain at the Monroe County Infirmary and at Municipal and Strong Memorial Hospitals. He also was chaplain of the diocesan Comitium of the Legion of Mary from 1950 to 1959.



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