

Fr. O'Connell Lauded for Holiness, Obedience

Father J. Joseph O'Connell, affectionately known by thousands of young people in the 1940's and remembered for pastoral zeal in four parishes, was buried last Thursday following the Mass of the Resurrection at St. Rose Church in Lima.

Father O'Connell, 63, died March 29 in St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira, where he had been a patient since last June.

Retired in June, 1967, because of ill health due to emphysema, he lived in Honeoye Lake and Green Valley, Arizona, after leaving pastoral duties at St. James Church, Waverly.

Bishop Hogan, a cousin of Father O'Connell, celebrated the funeral Mass. On Wednesday, Auxiliary Bishop McCafferty offered a Mass in Waverly.

Father O'Connell is survived by three sisters, Miss Monica O'Connell of Rochester; Mrs. Rose Busch of Clinton and Mrs. Paul Nugent of Summit, N.J.; two brothers, James M. O'Connell of Lima and Bernard M. O'Connell of New York City, and several nieces and nephews.

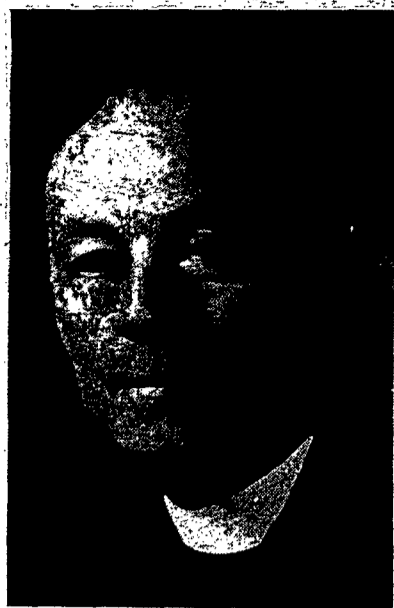
Bishop James E. Kearney,

who preached the eulogy, said that Father O'Connell had patterned his life on the life of Christ—"the life of doing God's will on His behalf." "Always a priest and always a gentleman," the Bishop said, "virtue went out from him and touched everyone he met and served."

Concelebrants of the Mass were Father O'Connell's classmates: Msgr. Joseph A. Cirrincione, and Fathers William D. Tobin, Joseph P. Haffey, Elmer A. McNamara, Bernard G. Newcomb, Gerald G. Kelly, and Father Michael C. Hogan, a cousin.

Bishop Kearney touched on Father O'Connell's enthusiasm and obedience for every task diocesan authorities ever asked him to perform. "But when sickness came in recent years, he showed great generosity, humility and resignation when we asked him to sacrifice parish life because his health had begun to collapse."

The Bishop called Father O'Connell's 13 years at Nazareth Academy "the outstanding peak of his career." There, the Bishop said, "he became a remarkable missionary in the lives of



FR. O'CONNELL

thousands of girls and was a most potent influence in the life-history of the school."

"A weaker soul would have said 'I might have expected better years at the close of life.' But Father Joe accepted the heavy cross of sickness with enthusiasm, for he never forgot His Master's words 'Let a man deny himself, take up his cross and follow Me.'"

The Nazareth Academy Persian Choir sang at the Mass.

Ordained in 1934, Father O'Connell was assistant pastor at St. Mary's Church in Auburn until 1939. He organized the first youth program in the parish, was active in direction of the Lyceum Players and was widely known as a preacher.

During his 13 years as chaplain at Nazareth Academy, 1939-52, he was beloved by Rochester teenagers. Dynamic enthusiasm, dedication and happy piety marked his relations with the students.

A devoted sports fan, he followed basketball and baseball enthusiastically. Small in stature, meticulous and dapper in dress, always well-prepared in teaching and preaching, he had friends in every part of the diocese.

He was weekend assistant at St. John the Evangelist Church, Humboldt Street, during most of his Nazareth years.

He moved to the pastorate of Holy Cross in Rochester in March, 1952, and because of failing health was transferred in 1955 to St. Michael's Church,

Livonia Center, and its mission St. Mary's in the town of Honeoye.

At Holy Cross, Father O'Connell organized the Xavier Club for young people and directed fund-raising for a \$225,000 addition to the parish school and convent.

In 1958 he led the Honeoye Lake parish in building a new church dedicated to Our Lady of the Hills to replace a small mission chapel outgrown by the enlarging summer attendance in the resort town. The Livonia Center church also was renovated and redecored in his six year pastorate.

Named pastor of St. James Church, Waverly, in 1961, he served there for six years until his lung disease forced full retirement. He moved to a small home in the hills overlooking Honeoye Lake but wintered in Arizona where the dry, warm climate aided his health.

While at Nazareth Academy, Father O'Connell was diocesan director of both the Sodality

Union of all high schools and colleges and the Parish Union made up of parochial groups in the national Sodality of Our Lady. He stimulated membership, directed retreats and study days and annually led diocesan groups to conventions. In 1950 he led a diocesan Sodality Pilgrimage to Rome.

In 1947 he began the organization of the first Cana Conference in the diocese. During the mid-50's he directed the city-wide Youth Holy Hour which almost filled St. Joseph's Church in downtown Rochester every month.

He maintained a warm and long association with Nazareth Academy Alumnae Association and the Sisters of St. Joseph community to which he had guided hundreds of vocations.

He was born in Lima, Dec. 29, 1907, and attended St. Rose's school, Lima High School, St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's Seminaries. He earned a Ph.D. degree at St. Bernard's in 1932.

Msgr. Ball Praised

Geneva—His pastoral care for young people, concern for the sick, and happy fellowship with priests are fond remembrances many share about Msgr. Edward K. Ball, a fellow Genevan, Msgr. John E. Maney, said of him in eulogy at funeral services last Friday.

Msgr. Ball, retired from the pastorate of St. Francis Church last year, died in Florida on March 29. He had been pastor in Geneva for 25 years and would have celebrated his golden anniversary in the priesthood this June.

Bishop Hogan was the principal concelebrant of the Mass of the Resurrection. Assisting were Msgr. John M. Ball, brother of the deceased, Msgr. John Duffy, Father M. Kavanaugh, S.J., a cousin, and Father Gennaro J. Ventura, pastor of St. Francis Church.

Other concelebrants were priests who had been assistants to Msgr. Ball through his years at St. Francis.

"Today we give back to God the soul of one whose influence

on our lives was strong and good," Msgr. Maney, pastor of Corpus Christi, Rochester, said. "His whole life was dedicated, completely and irrevocably to preaching the word of God to all men of good will."

Citing Msgr. Ball's 34 years service in Geneva, Msgr. Maney called De Sales High School and St. Francis parish "enduring memorials of his love and devotion, his untiring labors and countless sacrifices for God's children and His Kingdom."

"Throughout his priestly life Msgr. Ball was a happy man. His ready wit and keen sense of humor brightened the lives of all around him. He had the uncanny ability to laugh at himself and make others see the humor of their lives precisely at the very moments when discouragement and frustration threatened to overwhelm them."

Msgr. Ball was principal of De Sales High from 1928 to 1939. He was pastor of St. Patrick's, Dansville, for five years before being assigned to St. Francis in 1945.



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