

137 Years of the Catholic Faith in Lima

By MRS. CHARLES SHIRLEY

Catholicism in the Lima area began in 1834 when its first Catholic settler, Thomas Martin of County Tipperary, Ireland arrived. Soon after, in 1837, came James Egan, followed in 1839 by Michael Courneen and John Brennan. These four formed the nucleus of the future Catholic parish in Lima. At first these hardy souls had to walk to Rochester, 19 miles away, to attend Mass and receive the Sacraments.

In 1842 a Father Murphy came from Rochester and offered the first Mass celebrated in Lima in the home of John Brennan. This home still stands on Lake Avenue, and is the residence of Clarence and Rose Egan.

In 1848 when Father O'Connor came from Canandaigua to organize a parish, there were only eight or nine Catholic families here. A building fund was

started, a total of \$350 was donated, and the first St. Rose Church was completed in 1849. By 1851, an evergrowing congregation made it necessary to build an addition to the church.

St. Rose Parish acquired its first resident pastor in 1853, when Father William Quigley arrived.

Under the pastorate of Father Thomas McGuire, a parochial school was built in 1856. The first teachers were lay teachers until 1875, when the Sisters of St. Joseph from Rochester assumed direction of St. Rose School as one of their first missions.

St. Rose Parish was part of the Buffalo Diocese until 1868 when the "Diocese of Rochester in America" to distinguish it from the Diocese of Rochester in England was established by Pope Pius IX.

This was during Father William Gregg's pastorate (1864-1875). Also during this time, the present St. Rose Church was completed and dedicated. In 1875 the old church building was remodeled for school purposes. Also during Father Gregg's pastorate, the rectory burned.

Some of the early church records were destroyed by the fire. One of the earliest baptisms that can be found in the records is that of Edward Phalen, born Sept. 30, 1865 and baptized by Father Gregg on Oct. 14, with Daniel and Julia Connolly as sponsors.

One of the early marriages on record is that of Thomas Gavin and Mary Hayes, performed on Feb. 17, 1874 by Father Gregg.

During the time of Father Edward McCortney, a high school course was added to the school curriculum in 1889, and thus St. Rose High School was the first parochial high school in the diocese of Rochester.

The present St. Rose School was built in 1894. Its upper floor was then known as Brendan Hall and it was there that parish and school dramatics were presented. St. Rose School is presently used for Christian Formation classes and for meetings of parish groups.

On Oct. 2, 1898 the parish celebrated the Golden Jubilee of its founding. The solemn pontifical High Mass was sung by the Right Reverend James E. Quigley, Bishop of Buffalo, later Archbishop of Chicago, and a native of Lima.

During that Jubilee year the pastor Father Simon FitzSimons reported that the church, Brendan Hall, rectory, and convent were all "wired" for electricity, and that their annual fair would be illuminated by electricity for the first time.

Father Ball, subsequently Monsignor Ball, celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his ordination in 1965 and retired from the pastorate of St. Rose Parish in 1967. Father Raymond F. Moore, his successor, remained in Lima until July, 1969, and was followed by Father James

F. Doyle, present pastor of St. Rose.

Over the years, thirty-nine Lima parishioners have entered religious life. Of these, the seven living include Bishop Hogan, his brother Father Michael Hogan, pastor of St. Paul of the Cross Church in Honeoye Falls, Father Ronald P. Harley, assistant pastor, St. Charles Church, Rochester, Brother Edward Conway of the Holy Trinity Order, Silver Spring, Md., Sister Leo Xavier Donegan, Sister Noreen Ryan, and Sister Patricia Farnan, all of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

New Jail Broadens Chaplains' Scope

By CECELIA VIGGO

As everyone must know by now, Monroe County has a new jail. Its bright, spacious modern facilities replace both the old jail and the penitentiary.

Also new is the rehabilitation program for all inmates. State law requires such a program for persons awaiting trial as well as for those serving sentences.

Father James Moynihan, diocesan chancellor, has been chaplain at the county jail for the past seven years. When the move from the penitentiary to the new jail is completed, Father Moynihan will share the duty with Father Walter Cushing, chaplain at the penitentiary.

The two are agreed that the chaplain should be available to Catholic and non-Catholic alike. He must listen to the prisoner, and help him to understand the religious and moral implications of his past life and present imprisonment.

"A chaplain must try to give the prisoner hope, and help him to place his confidence in God," Father Moynihan said. "He must also convince the prisoner to believe in himself, and urge him to recognize his potential and re-direct it towards positive goals."

Father Cushing observed that imprisonment marked a real turning point for many. "Because the prisoners have time on their hands, they have the opportunity to re-think their lives. It's rich ground for pastoral work," he said.

Greater effectiveness for the chaplains should be the result of the jail's new rehabilitation program, Albert Benedetto, director of rehabilitation for the new jail, said the rehabilitation

staff hopes to interview each inmate, and to seek out his special needs. "All problems of a religious or moral nature would be channeled to the chaplains," he said.

The Church's apostolate to the prisoner does not end with the chaplain, however. Since 1967, St. Bernard's Field Education program, under the direction of Father Edwin Metzger, has assigned two seminarians each year to work with the county penitentiary rehabilitation staff.

In addition, the Rev. Mr. John Behnke, a deacon at Holy Family parish, is a fulltime volunteer with the penitentiary rehabilitation program. Aside from his counseling work, Rev. Mr. Behnke helped organize and coordinate education programs. He anticipates that these programs will prosper at the new jail, with its five modern classrooms, auditorium and closed circuit TV system.

The Jail Ministry is an ecumenical organization of five clergymen established last summer to "provide a ministry to service the special needs of those who are defendants, prisoners and probationers in the process of criminal justice, especially poor persons involved in the judicial process."

Father Robert Kreckel, pastor of Immaculate Conception and a member of the ministry, reported that members had been working with prisoners awaiting trial or sentence, helping them to obtain information about their cases and bailing them out when possible. The Jail Ministry is meeting with the rehabilitation staff, to determine the scope of its future work.

"We would like to have other roles," Father Kreckel said.

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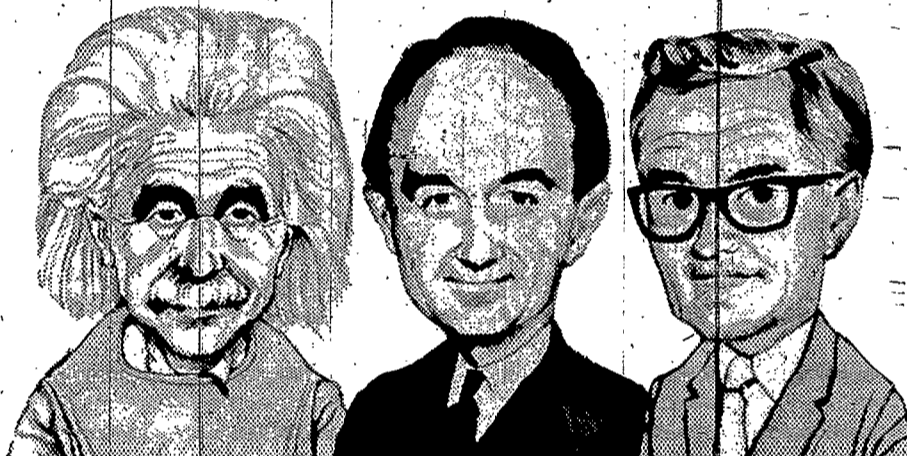
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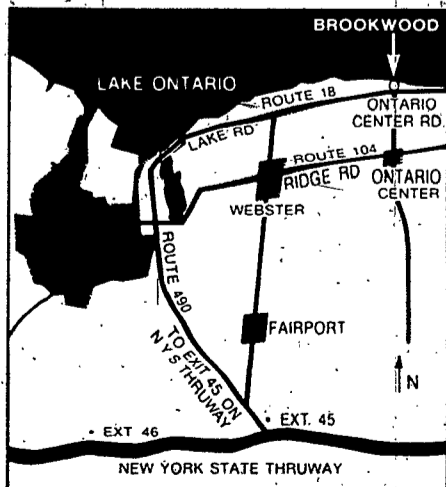
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