

# Pilgrimage Churches: St. Columba, Caledonia

By FATHER ROBERT McNAMARA

Bishop Joseph Hogan has designated three churches in the Steuben-Livingston Region of the diocese as substitute churches of pilgrimage for Sacred Heart Cathedral in the Advance Holy Year of 1974.

The first of these to be picked by the Bishop was the newly-remodeled Church of St. Columba, in Caledonia.

"Caledonia" was the old Latin name for Scotland. The earliest area settlers around 1799 — were chiefly Scottish in background, so the choice of the name is understandable.

The first Catholic settlers began to arrive around 1830-1840. They were mostly Irish laborers engaged in digging the Genesee Valley Canal (1834-1842). Not enough of them settled in Caledonia for the time being, however, to have a church of their own. After 1848, they belonged to St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Scottsville. The pastor of Scottsville came over and offered Mass one Sunday a month for them and the Catholics in nearby Mumford, Monroe County, in a private home. In 1854, the present St. Patrick's Church was opened at Mumford, to serve both villages.

In 1881, Bernard J. McQuaid, the first bishop of Rochester, named Father George J. Eisler pastor of Scottsville. In 1885, on the instruction of the Bishop, Father Eisler prepared to build a church for the community's Catholics. Caledonian Stephen Reed promised to give all the sand that was necessary. The parishioners had a "hauling bee," carting the sand from the Reed farm to the present church lot, which had been purchased in 1880. A cellar was excavated and the foundation walls were begun. Bishop McQuaid, attended by 40 priests, laid the cornerstone on June 10, 1885. The frame gothic church with bell-tower was ready by November 26 for the first Mass. To what saint was it dedicated? To the great missionary of Scotland, St. Columba (or Columbkil). What better patron in such a Scottish town?

In 1889, St. Columba's was made a full-fledged parish, and Father Eisler, who had built it, was transferred from Scottsville to be the first resident pastor.

## Sr. Kathleen Kolb Final Profession

Sister Kathleen Ann Kolb made her final profession of vows in the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy on Sunday, June 2. The profession took place during an afternoon Eucharistic liturgy at the Mercy Motherhouse on Blossom Road.

Father Terence Fleming, Motherhouse chaplain, was the celebrant and officiated at the profession rite.

"All love demands commitment," Father Fleming said in his homily, and is often expressed in a vow, as in marriage or religious profession. It is one thing to say yes with words, it is another to say yes with one's life. One who vows recites her vows every day of her life by the way she lives."

Sister Kathleen Ann has been a nurse in the Motherhouse Infirmary since 1972. She entered the Mercy Congregation in 1966 after graduation from Our Lady of Mercy High School.

After her first temporary commitment in 1969 she attended St. James Mercy Hospital School of Nursing in Hornell and received her R. N. degree from there in 1972.

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St. Columba's today is essentially the same building, with several later additions. The founding pastor added a vestibule, baptistry, choir-loft and three front porches in 1912, and a huge sacristy in 1917. Somewhere along the line, the exterior was stuccoed. There were no substantial changes thereafter until the late 1950's, when the sixth pastor, (now pastor emeritus), Father William J. Devereaux, added an attractive new brick vestibule and tower, designed by Rochester architect Edward M. Lorscheider.

Vatican II inaugurated a revision of the liturgy which required a rearrangement of sanctuaries. Under the guidance of the present pastor, Father Emmett Halloran, the parish engaged Rochester architect James H. Johnson, to revamp the interior according to the new norms. The work was mostly finished by December, 1973. Among the interesting features are the tabernacle and grill by the prominent Rochester sculptor Carl Zollo, and the altar and sanctuary furniture by the internationally famous Wendell Castle of Scottsville.

St. Columba's deserves to be a pilgrimage church. It is the finest example of imaginative liturgical remodeling in the Rochester diocese.

## New Directors Named for Family Center

Three new members joined the Board of Directors of the diocesan Catholic Family Center at its annual dinner June 5.

New directors are Mrs. Barbara Stokes of Penfield, Anthony J. Mordaci of Rochester, and Robert J. Betterton Sr. of Pittsford.

They replace outgoing members Father L. John Hedges, Mrs. William T. Howe, and Richard F. Crilly. Crilly, the outgoing president, has been replaced by Lawrence V. Camuso, of Rochester. The main speaker was Father Joseph F. D'Aurizio, director of Catholic Charities.



SISTER KATHLEEN

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward A. Kolb, 1438 Winton Road North, of St. Ambrose Parish.

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The Values Clarification Workshop will be conducted by Sidney Simon and Howard Kirschenbaum. It is designed to teach instructors, students, administrators, counselors and parents how to develop better personal interaction and self-esteem.

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