

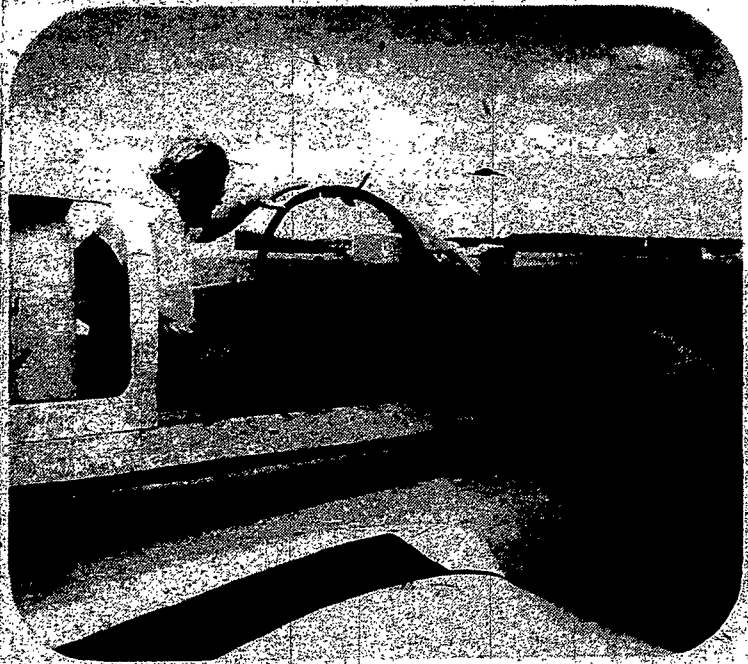


Photos by Susan McKinney

Going Home!

A statue of the patron saint of parish priests, St. John Vianney, returned home last week, from the grounds of the former St. Andrew's Seminary, to Becket Hall, diocesan house of studies on the St. John Fisher Campus. The statue, given by the ordination class of 1940, was intended as an inspiration for seminarians. St. John is the only parish

priest to have been canonized. At left, Joseph Bianco and John Toole, of Genesee Building and Waterproofing, Inc., position the statue on their truck, prior to the move. Center, the statue, secured, is enroute. Right, Father John Hempel, rector of Becket, views the statue's new location. A welcoming Mass was celebrated afterwards.



Msgr., the Pilot

Msgr. William Roche, pastor of St. Catherine's in Ithaca, prepares to board his American Traveler airplane prior to a flight through summer skies. The priest's hobby is featured in this week's Centerfold.



FATHER LAMMERS

Fr. Lammers Notes 40th

Ovid — Father William Lammers, pastor at Holy Cross Church, recently celebrated the 40th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. Father Lammers is the son of Mrs. Anna Lammers who presently resides in Holgate, Ohio.

Father Lammers was ordained May 26, 1934, at the Pontifical Institute Josephinum, in Worthington, Ohio, for the Diocese of Rochester.

Prior to moving to Ovid ten years ago, Father Lammers was assigned to St. Andrew's, Mount Carmel, and Holy Family parishes in Rochester. He has also served as pastor at Epiphany Church, Sodus, and Holy Family Church, Auburn.

Friends and parishioners will fete Father Lammers Sunday, July 28, at 3 p.m. at Holy Cross, and at 5 p.m. at Nor Mac Manor.

Father Sebastian Sets Retirement

Father Sebastian Congiacomo, CPPS, the Roman who built a flourishing Rochester parish and lent his name to a city park, is retiring this month, in the 54th year of his priesthood.

He is going home to Italy, to spend a long time with his brothers and sisters, but his permanent home is 1205 Lexington Ave., Rochester 14606.

That is the address of Most Precious Blood rectory, completed last year in Father Sebastian's final effort to consolidate the immigrant settlement he shaped throughout its 44 years. The school, the hall, the convent, the new church, preceded the rectory, as Father Sebastian's dream took shape. In 1930, when the Italian missionary got off the boat, the rural crossing at Lexington and Stenson, was marked by a small, white clapboard building with a cross atop its front gable.

A new church was dedicated Nov. 1, 1970, the day the pastor celebrated the golden jubilee of his ordination.

Meanwhile, the children and grandchildren of the original Italian settlers had formed a close-knit, growing community that was able to swing its weight against both church and state. In 1968, they fought for their school and overturned a diocesan decision to close it in the name of economy. In the following years, they spearheaded a campaign to force the closing of a noxious landfill in the neighborhood. Victory was followed by the creation of a 5 1/2-acre park on adjacent property, and the city named the park after Father Sebastian, the pastor who drove his own school bus.

Father Sebastian will be 78 years old on Aug. 22. He plans to leave for Italy on the 29th.



FATHER SEBASTIAN

He has been with the parish since its beginning in 1930 as a mission of the Precious Blood Fathers. His last official function will be the celebration of the Feast of St. Anne, July 28, that sets off the annual parish festival.

A new pastor will be nominated by the Precious Blood Society and formally appointed by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan. The assistant is Father Peter Nobili, who also is a Precious Blood priest from Rome.

Father Sebastian's friends, especially children, are invited to a reception from 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 11, in the hall. A skit on his life will be presented at 4:30 by a group of parishioners. Bishop John E. McCafferty will give the homily at a special Mass at 10:30 that morning.

A supper party for the priests of the diocese is scheduled for Aug. 18, to follow at 5 p.m. Mass at which the homilist will be Father Carlo Della Vecchia, CPPS, the provincial and onetime assistant pastor.