

# Pilgrimage Churches: St. Ann's, Hornell

By Father Robert F. McNamara

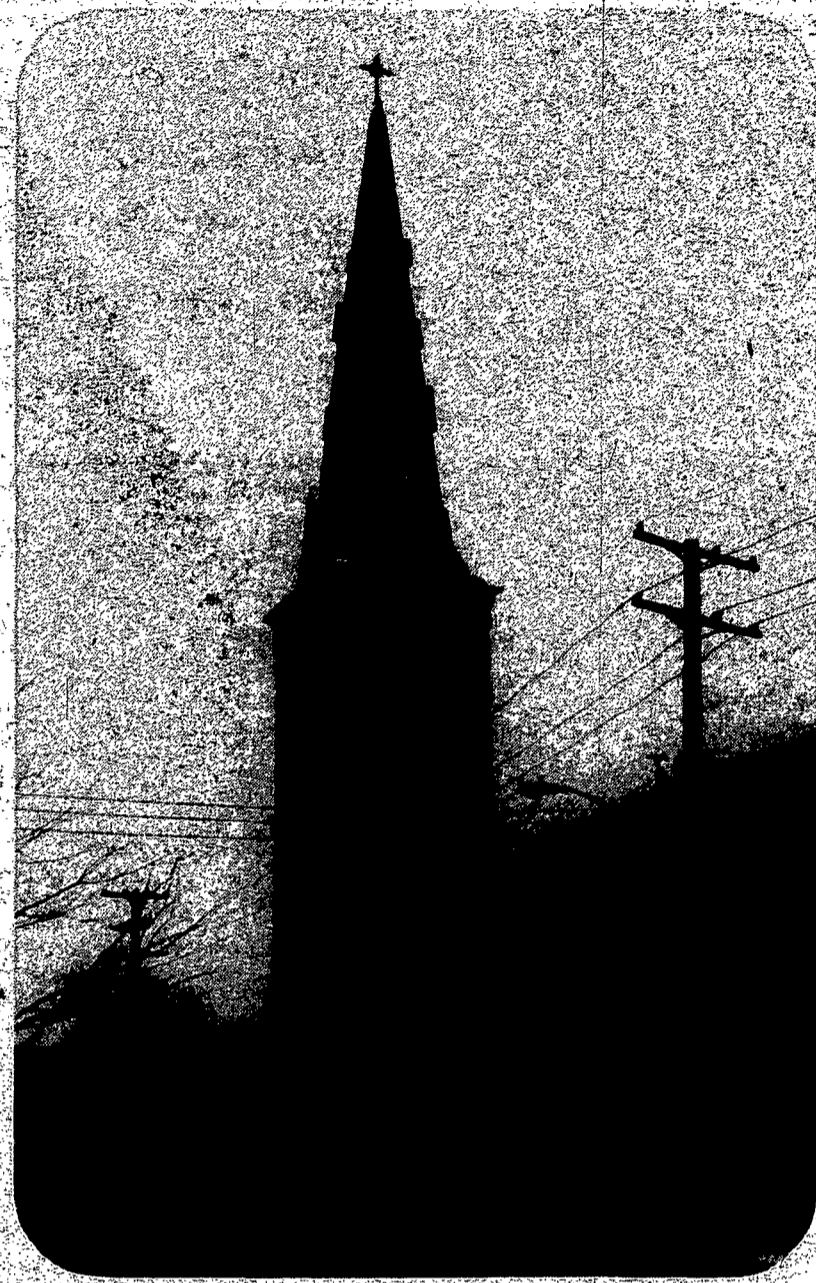
One of the principal reasons why Catholic immigrants settled in many of the small cities and towns of the present Rochester diocese is that they worked as common laborers on the canals and railroads that ran through settlements. Thus many Irishmen who built the Erie railroad around the 1850's chose Hornellsville as their permanent home. A half-century later, Italian laborers on the same railway established the Italian colony in Hornell. Both groups became affiliated with St. Ann's, which until 1931, was the only Catholic parish.

St. Ann's Church is one of the churches designated by Bishop Hogan as a "substitute" church for the pilgrimages of Advance Holy Year 1974. St. Mary's in Corning is the only other Steuben County church so assigned, and St. Columba's, Caledonia, is the only other pilgrimage church in the rest of the Steuben-Livingston diocesan region.

Mass was first celebrated in Hornell in 1843 by a Rochester Redemptorist missionary, Father Benedict Bayer. Thereafter it became a mission station, visited occasionally by Father Bayer and later on by Father Thomas McEvoy of Java, Wyoming County.

When Bishop John Timon was named head of the new Buffalo Diocese in 1847, he appointed the Reverend Michael O'Brien to be a resident pastor in the village, now at the start of phenomenal growth with the opening of the Erie Railroad. During his tenure of three years, Father O'Brien built the first St. Ann's, at the corner of Cass and Buffalo Streets. (Later on, Father O'Brien was pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Rochester. He subsequently moved to Boston and served as pastor of St. Patrick's, Lowell, Mass., where his uncle, Father John O'Brien had long served. It was after Father John that the "Father John's Medicine," the well-known tonic, was named.)

The original St. Ann's, in brick but only 30 by 40 feet, had to be



enlarged twice in the period 1861-1863, because of the rapid increase of the congregation.

The present St. Ann's, at the corner of Erie Avenue and Elm Street, was erected in 1868-1870 by Father Michael Creedon, and further enlarged to accommodate 1,000 people by Father James M. Early, in 1888. This was apparently achieved by turning the older building into a sanctuary and building out a new nave at right angles to it. The only major alterations thereafter were made in 1934 when the flood of July 7-8, 1935, poured a foot or more of water into the building. Fortunately, the damage was not

excessive. During the pastorate of Msgr. Lawrence Cannon, the marble altars were installed, as well as the chapel of Our Lady of Fatima.

Hornell was in the Buffalo Diocese until 1896, when the four Southern Tier counties were added to the Diocese of Rochester, which had been created in 1868. Though a relative late-comer to the diocese, St. Ann's can nonetheless boast to have, crowning its tower, the cross which once crowned St. Patrick's, the original cathedral church of Rochester. It was installed after the Rochester cathedral was razed in 1937.

## CDA Starts Membership Drive

A month-long membership drive is being conducted by the Court Our Lady of the Cenacle, Catholic Daughters of America (CDA). The drive will close with initiation rites on Oct. 16.

The CDA is a national organization of Catholic women banded together under the motto of unity and charity. The local chapter, Court Our Lady of the Cenacle #1139, meets once a month under the leadership of Mrs. Dorothy Taillie, regent.

Mission involvement is a top priority of the CDA. The group regularly rolls bandages from and makes hospital gowns. It collects numerous items for the missions such as Catholic books, prayer books, rosaries, coupons, eyeglasses, blankets, sheets and stamps.

In addition, it has fund-raising affairs which include an annual garage sale and a smorgasbord and Christmas bazaar.

It makes donations to worthy causes. This year, St. Jude's

Chapel was remembered and the Carmelite Monastery on Jefferson Rd. was presented with a set of Archbishop Fulton Sheen's taped meditations and a pantry shower. The children of The Rochester State Hospital were remembered with a Valentine Day party. A gift of children's clothing is given to the Pope's "Storeroom" each year. The court also sponsors a Vietnam orphan by a monthly donation.

It packs Christmas and Easter presents for nursing homes. The Court makes vestments for a

mission priest. A poetry and essay contest for grammar and high schools is sponsored each year.

This year, there are many interesting events planned on meeting nights in addition to the conduct of its ordinary business. A twelve supper will precede the first meeting of the season on Sept. 17.

Women interested in becoming members may contact the regent, Mrs. Taillie, at 467-0441 or the first vice-regent, Mrs. Genevieve Insalaco at 467-8139 for more information.

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# Deaths

## Helen Eberle

A Mass of Christian Burial for Helen M. Eberle was offered Aug. 20, 1974, at St. Augustine's Church, Miss Eberle, of 50 Normandy Ave., died Aug. 17 at St. Ann's Home.

She was a member of the Catholic Women's Club, the Women's Eucharistic League, Third Order of St. Francis, St. Raphael's Guild and the Daily Mass League. After her retirement

from the Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation, Miss Eberle worked in the office of the diocesan superintendent of schools and as secretary at Holy Apostles School.

She leaves one niece, Miss Ruth M. Eberle.

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