

Pilgrimage Churches

St. Alphonsus, Auburn

By Father Robert F. McNamara

Substituting for Sacred Heart Cathedral as a Holy Year pilgrimage church in the Seneca-Cayuga Region of our diocese is St. Alphonsus Church in Auburn.

Anybody acquainted with the history of the Catholic Church will most likely recognize the patron saint of this church as St. Alphonsus Liguori, founder of the Redemptorist Fathers. And a further thought will probably occur to one who knows the history of the Rochester Diocese: I'll bet the Redemptorist Fathers of St. Joseph's in Rochester, as pioneer missionaries to the German-speaking immigrants of western New York, had a hand in setting up this church!

Indeed they had. St. Alphonsus parish was officially organized in May 1853 on the advice of the Rochester Redemptorists, who had been visiting Auburn on a missionary basis. There were then about 15 German families, who were joined from the outset by a few Irish families. They bought a barn on Wall Street, at a cost of \$400, remodeled it, and named it after St. Alphonsus. The parishioners were too few and too poor during the next decade or so to maintain a permanent resident pastor. Some secular priests were assigned, it is true, but they did not stay long, so more than once the Rochester Redemptorists had to take over again in order to keep the church going.

In 1861, the Redemptorists were able to buy an old Adventist church on Water Street. This was gradually improved during the next 10 years. In 1868, Auburn, hitherto a part of the Buffalo Diocese, became subject to the newly-appointed first bishop of Rochester, Bernard J. McQuaid.



On Nov. 26, 1871, Bishop McQuaid dedicated the "new" German church. He arrived the night before on the 7:10 train, and at 9 p.m. the 49th Regimental Band, gathering in front of the "German pastoral residence," gave the Bishop a "grand serenade." The dedication next day was carried off with modest pomp and ceremony and great rejoicing.

This Water Street church served the congregation until 1930. Even the fire of March 11, 1910, was not taken as an occasion for moving away from the downtown location. However, in 1929, Father Frederick Straub, the parish's most dynamic pastor, purchased lots in a residential area on Genesee Street. Here a new St. Alphonsus Church arose. Designed by architect George F.

Lorenz of Rochester, reproduced almost exactly the pattern and dimensions of the Church of Mount Carmel in Rochester, also Lorenz's work. The dedication on Dec. 21, 1930, was presided over by Bishop John Francis O'Hern, third bishop of the Rochester Diocese. Mrs. Angeline Baker, oldest member of the congregation, had placed the first bouquet on the altar of the original St. Alphonsus Church on Wall Street, 77 years before. Now she placed the first bouquet on the altar of the new church.

St. Alphonsus Church has remained substantially unchanged since its dedication in 1930. It stands as a symbol and reminder of the contribution made by Catholics — particularly by German Catholics — to the faith and general welfare of Cayuga and Seneca counties.

Gabriel Richard Course Set

The Gabriel Richard Institute Rochester Center will offer a personal development course beginning Feb. 25 at the Laurelton Presbyterian Church and at Mother of Sorrows on Feb.

browski, Sister Mary Noel, and Florence Scott were chosen to represent both classes at the Second Rochester Area Speakers Olympics to be held June 7.

Gabriel Richard Institute, founded by the Christophers as a non-profit, non-denominational organization, offers the course twice a year in the Rochester Area. The course deals with the development of self-confidence and personal awareness.

Recent graduates Gordon James and Jessie James received the Better World Award from the Institute. Their fellow classmates Della DeMarle, Frank Dom-

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Hornell Area News Notes

PARISH ELECTIONS

Hornell — At a recent Religious Education Board meeting at St. Ann's, four new members were elected: Mrs. Frances Lamacchia, Raymond McHale, James Mooney and Charles Moynihan. The recently formed Youth Ministry group will be led by Mrs. Barbara Arnault and will consist of the following parishioners: Mrs. Dolores Andrus, Mrs. Arlene Clark, Miss Josephine Ciancaglini, Mr. & Mrs. William Connors, Mr. and Mrs. James Tobin, Mr. and Mrs. James Wall, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Griswold, Mrs. Kathleen Caruso, Mrs. Connie Koehler and Mrs. Jane Fahl.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Wayland — The women of St. Joseph's will attend the Rosary Society Annual Christmas Party being held tonight, Dec. 11, at Vin's Lounge. On the menu are roast beef and ham. In charge of tickets are Teresa Russell, Mary Lou Buckley and Caroline Trautlein.

ROSARY SOCIETY

Wayland — St. Joseph's Rosary Society is making up Christmas boxes for the shut-ins. If anyone would like to help with donations, accepted will be packages of dates, mints, fruit cocktail, candy bars without nuts, and fresh fruit. There will be a box in the back of the church for these items or they may be left with Caroline Trautlein or Evangeline Schuster by Dec. 15.

FESTIVAL SET

Dansville — The turkey festival at St. Mary's will be held Dec. 13 and 14. There is still time to donate articles by contacting the rectory, 728-2228.

HEM RITE

Hornell — In observance of Thanksgiving, area churches, through their new organization known as Hornell Ecumenical Ministries (HEM), sponsored a prayer service Wednesday, Nov. 27, at St. Ann's Church. The service was prefaced by a Youth Sing and included a collection to be presented to CARE.

CONFIRMATION RITES

Hornell — The Holy Spirit can do wonderful things if only you will remain open to His power. Bishop Joseph L. Hogan told a Confirmation Class of 87 at exercises held Nov. 25 at St. Ann's Church. Bishop Hogan administered the Sacrament during a concelebrated Mass of the Holy Spirit. Father Robert C. McNamara, pastor of St. Ann's welcomed the Bishop and the class was presented by Father William Spilly, associate, who with Sister Mary Jude, eighth grade teacher at St. Ann's School, prepared the class for the reception of the Sacrament. After bestowing their chosen new names upon the members of the group, the Bishop concluded: "You should have a new name because you now have a new mission in life — to serve God and each person you meet in a more mature manner." Escorting the Bishop was an honor guard composed of 12 members of the Fourth Degree Assembly of the Hornell Knights of Columbus.

INTER-FAITH RITE

Canisteo — The Canisteo Council of Churches sponsored an ecumenical service, Giving Thanks Together, Nov. 27 at St. Joachim's Church. Clergymen taking part in the ceremony were Rev. Gerald Wright, Canisteo Wesleyan Church, Rev. Robert Clingan, First Presbyterian Church, Father Otto Vogt, pastor of St. Joachim's. A youth choir

comprised of students of each church sang songs of thanksgiving along with the congregation. Rev. Clingan offered a prayer and lead responsive reading of a psalm. Rev. Wright gave the meditation with the topic, Bread and Spiritual Perspective. Father Vogt gave the benediction.

CWU MEETS

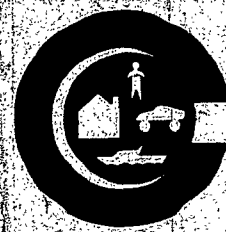
Hornell — Sister Mary Kruckow of the Office of Human Development was guest speaker at the World Community Day observance held by Church Women United of the Hornell Area recently at St. Paul's United Church of Christ.

The Christmas project of the CWU will be disbanded this year, but assistance will be given to provide clothing for the Head Start program at Washington School, especially for three to seven year olds.

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

Dansville — Mrs. Albert Snyder recently was installed as president of the Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary. Others inducted into office by Mrs. Frederick Beckwith are Mrs. Lloyd Mahoney, vice president, Mrs. Thomas Faulds, secretary, Mrs. William Mitchell, treasurer, Mrs. Joseph Rongo, guard, Helen Simon, sentinel, and Jean Driscoll, Mrs. Casimir Krochmal and Mrs. Raymond McClusky, trustees.

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