

St. Januarius... Much to Celebrate

Naples — There were all kinds of things to be celebrating at St. Januarius Church over the weekend. Bishop Joseph L. Hogan joined with the parishioners to observe the centenary of the church's foundation and to dedicate the unusual shrine of Our Lady of the Grapes on the church grounds. This combined with the nation's bicentennial and the traditional time of the harvesting of the grapes in the area, made for a festival of splendid proportions.

The shrine, designed by Rochester artist John Menihan, was

commissioned by the pastor, Father Robert Smith, in 1972. Menihan sculpted a Madonna and Child of weathered steel and last year placed them in a vineyard setting behind the church.

Today's parish is known throughout the diocese for the breadth of its ecumenical and social activities, which Father Smith actively promotes.

Nearly 200 years ago this community at the foot of Canandaigua Lake incorporated

itself into the township of Middletown. The village was named Watkinstown after William Watkins an early settler in the area.

But by 1806 a revolution in fashion had seized the area and the townsfolk, like many others in Upstate New York, renamed their community for a place whose name carried an aura of romance and of the long ago and far away.

This community called itself Naples; and when, almost 80 years later, Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid decided to establish a parish for the

50 or 60 Catholic German immigrant vintners, he chose the name of St. Januarius, the patron saint of Naples, Italy, for the church.

The first pastor was Father Dietrich Laurenzis, a German priest who established the parish on Oct. 4, 1876.

Three years later, the congregation built and dedicated, on May 19, a little white church with gothic windows and a belfry.

During this time, Naples and the Keuka Lake area were rapidly developing as a wine producing center. Today the town stands at the heart of New York's wine industry.

In the early days, the church was served by German-speaking

Redemptorist priests from Rochester and Buffalo. In the year that the first church was dedicated, the parish reverted to mission status, a situation which would last until it became a parish once more in 1911, by decree of Bishop Thomas Hickey.

Parish records indicate that the pastorate was held by Father William Frank from 1919 until 1930. Father Frank was followed by Father George Dowd whose tenure was but a year. Father Edward Scheid was pastor from 1931 to 1937.

In that year Father Herbert Stürmer was named pastor. He was to serve the longest pastorate—until 1951.

Father Stürmer was followed by Father Henry Bleier whose 13 year time of office saw a redecoration of the church and the dedication of a shrine to Saint Januarius. Father Bleier died suddenly in 1964, less than a week after his brother Leo, the owner of a religious goods store in Rochester, also died.

In that year Bishop James E. Kearney appointed Father Bernard Kuchman pastor of the parish.

With Father Kuchman's arrival, the parish launched a drive to build a new church. That church was completed in 1966. A striking, contemporary building, it was designed by James Johnson and Peter Romeo.

Also featured in the church was a shrine dedicated to Our Lady of the Grapes.

Father Robert Smith took over the pastorate of St. Januarius in 1971.



Photo by Ben Susso

FIRST FRIDAY

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan will celebrate Mass for the First Friday Club at 11:45 a.m. Oct. 1 in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Rhinecliff and Imperial Drives, Brighton. Afterward, lunch will be served in the parish hall, and Bishop Hogan will speak. Everyone is invited.

RETREATS

Father John Walchars, SJ, a well-known writer on Eastern and Western religious thought, will lead a retreat at the Cenacle Retreat House, Oct. 1-3. The Cenacle also will host a retreat led by Father Donald Hinfey, SJ, Oct. 29-31. Further information on either program is available through Sister Betty Rogers, RC, 271-8755.

PARISH RETREAT

Holy Spirit Parish in Penfield has scheduled a three-day retreat offered by the Renewal Center at the College of Steubenville, in Ohio. Father Angelus Migliore will direct the retreat, Oct. 8-10.

There will be talks at 8 p.m. Masses Friday and Saturday, and at sessions that begin at 10 a.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. Saturday and 9:30 a.m. Sunday. The retreat will end Sunday morning at the 10:30 Mass.

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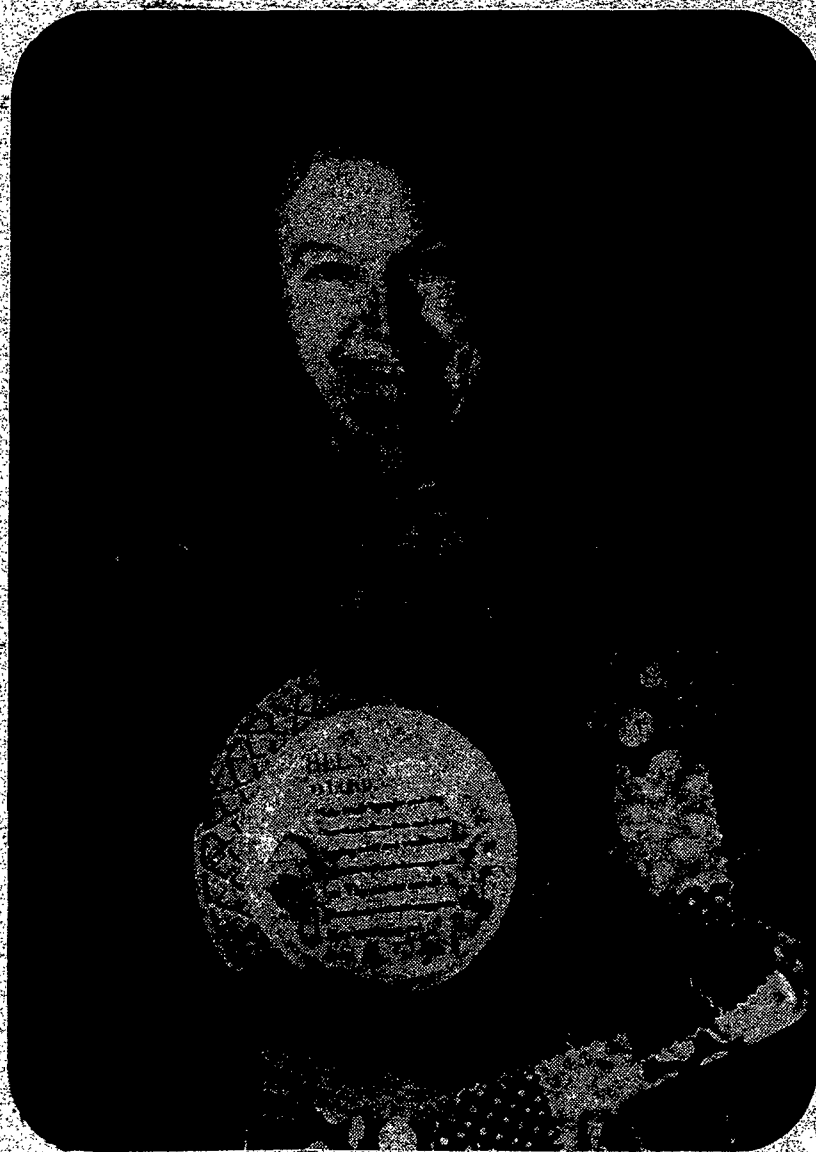
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Garage Sale

Mrs. Stella Masuzzo of 124 Crimson Bramble Road, Henrietta, holds two of the many items she is offering in a Garage Sale to benefit the Carmelite Monastery on Jefferson Road. The sale, open each weekend through October, features items hand made by the cloistered nuns. The sale is held at Mrs. Masuzzo's home.



Library Given Historic Newspapers

Fairport weeklies covering more than 100 years have been added to the St. John Fisher College collection of local newspapers. On behalf of the Fairport Public Library, Director Raymond Buchanan recently presented the college with all issues of the Fairport Herald Mail from Feb. 14, 1873 to Dec. 30, 1974.

Robert Gullo, director of the Charles J. Lavery library, said, "We

see the papers as supportive elements to a real education. Education comes through many channels, not just scholarly works. These papers will give people the opportunity to read first-hand information to understand how the common man felt about issues."

The accessibility of Fisher's already extensive collection of local papers and memorabilia was one reason Fisher was chosen to

receive the Fairport papers, Buchanan said. Hours are 8:15 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Friday and 2 to 11 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The library is open to the public.

The Lavery Library now has examples of 15 separate papers published in early Rochester from the 1820's through the 1930's from such towns as Canandaigua, Hilton, Brockport and Elmira.



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