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MISSION SUNDAY

50th Anniversary To Be Noted On October 23-24 Weekend

See Centerfold

This year on Mission Sunday, it marking the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the diocesan and national Office for the Society of the Propagation of the Faith, it is well to remember that the United States also was once mission territory.

In fact, this area received \$4,000 from the Propagation in France during those dark years following our Civil War. The diocese remained classified as mission area for the first 40 years of its existence.

In 1908 it was transferred from the Vatican's Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith but it was not for almost another 20 years before a missions office to help others was established.

In 1926, the diocese contributed \$8,125 in the first annual Mission Sunday drive. How that contrasts with the \$766,067 collected in 1975!

Father Leo C. Mooney was the first director of the office and served until 1937. He was succeeded by Msgr. John S. Randall, 1937-1956; Father George S. Wood, 1956-1961; Msgr. John F. Duffy, 1961-1969, and the present director, Father Joseph Reinhart.

As always a special collection to gather funds for this work has been scheduled for Mission Sunday weekend, Oct. 23-24. A special seven-minute taped message on the 50th anniversary of World Mission Sunday has been sent to all parishes for their use.

Speaking of the occasion of the 50th anniversary, Father Reinhart said, "I am filled with gratitude for all those who have been concerned with the works of the Mission Church. I would like to make a special mention of gratitude for Bishop Hogan who from the very beginning has been a missionary bishop, keenly aware of the needs of the mission world."

One of the first things he did as bishop was to visit every mission of the diocese — in Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Selma, Ala."

Father Reinhart also spoke of the work of the priests and sisters and brothers and "all of the people of the diocese who have constantly responded to every appeal" for the missions.

"With people like this behind us we know we will be able to continue our work — to stretch out our hands and hearts to those who still need us."

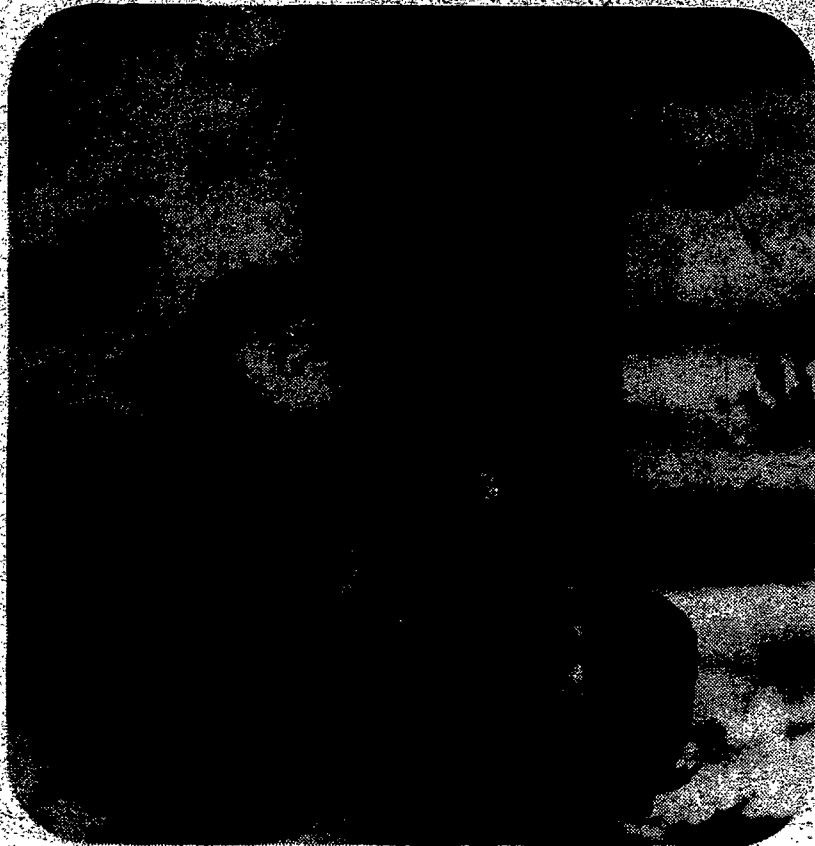
Following is a list of persons from the Rochester diocese who serve in the missions:

Sister Jean Bellini, SSJ, Brazil; Father Howard T. Bieber, IM, Philippines; Father Thomas F. Brown, OMI, Brazil; Sister Christel

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TV Mass On Missions

The missions will be the theme for Bishop Joseph L. Hogan when he celebrates the television Mass over Channel 10 at 8:30 a.m., Sunday, Oct. 24, Mission Sunday.



Falling Leaves

The fall season is once again upon us, and with it those few weeks of the year when the leaves spring forth in their multi-colored reds, oranges, and yellows. A sure sign of the coming of winter, these leaves fall to the ground all too soon, as Laura Bride, a fifth-grader at Our Lady of Lourdes, discovered for herself.

Broadcast to Continue

Msgr. Cirrincione Retiring as Pastor

Msgr. Joseph A. Cirrincione, who has been at St. Francis of Assisi Church throughout the 42 years of his priesthood, will give up parish work July 1.

He will continue to broadcast the Family Rosary for Peace. "That's a commitment for life," he said last week, "and a pretty big job in itself."

Father Cirrincione was assigned to the Whitney Street church immediately after his ordination in 1934. He became its pastor in 1937, at the age of 27.

After his first pilgrimage to Fatima — he has made "about a dozen" — he began a weekly radio series on the Fatima story in January 1948. He also inaugurated novenas in honor of Our Lady of Fatima for world peace and the conversion of Russia. In 1950, he started the daily rosary broadcasts which now reach every part of the diocese. Occasionally groups join Father Cirrincione in the parish

center chapel, but he depends "on three or four very faithful people, who come in every evening."

"Their dedication," he observed, "is as important as mine. I couldn't do it without their responses."

The "radio priest" will remain on the premises of the southwest Rochester parish. He will live with his aged mother in a house that was used as a convent from 1956 until 1969.

St. Francis was established as a mission in 1929, five years before Father Cirrincione was sent there. As pastor, he oversaw plans and financial drives for a boys' center, a girls' center, an outdoor shrine, a new sacristy, a new organ and redecoration of the church. And he had the parish out of debt by 1950.

Pope Paul VI named him a Papal Chamberlain in June 1966, and Bishop James E. Kearney invested him in the robes of office during a rosary broadcast that August.



Bishop Edward T. O'Meara, left, and Bishop Joseph L. Hogan celebrated Mass marking the 50th anniversary of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith (missions) at a Mass in Rochester.

No Room For Indifference

My dear People:

Next Sunday, Oct. 24, is World Mission Sunday. On that day we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of this worldwide day of "prayer and sacrifice for the Missions." This event coincides with the 50th Anniversary of our own Rochester Missions Office which was established by Bishop Thomas F. Hickey, our second bishop, on April 22, 1926.

If we wish to love Christ, then our charity must embrace the whole world. We must all unite in the general effort of the Church to spread Christ's message. Today there is no room for indifference, apathy and spiritual selfishness!

Thousands of missionaries, dedicated to spreading the Gospel, give themselves totally, willingly face danger, and are patient, generous and persevering even when their efforts seem fruitless and progress is slow.

The obligation and the honor of giving our missionaries generous help rests upon all of us. The missionary cause needs us: it needs our love, our prayers and our offerings. The missionary cause is the cause of Christ Himself, summoning all humankind to know and love God.

Next Sunday, World Mission Sunday, please give generously to The Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Sometimes we forget how much the Church in the U.S. received from the generosity of others in the past. Even Bishop McQuaid received a gift of \$4,000 from the Society when he was trying to build up the Church of Rochester shortly after becoming its first bishop!

Today, this Society, the Holy Father's own organization for the missions, has before it the full panorama of the world to be evangelized, an awareness of missionary requirements throughout the world, and a charity that is awake to all needs and all opportunities to help in our name.

Trusting in your continued generosity, I beg the Lord's blessing on you.

With every best wish, I remain

Joseph L. Hogan

+ Most Reverend Joseph L. Hogan, D. D.
Bishop of Rochester

MSGR. CIRRINCIONE