

Thomas O'Connor

Continued from Page 1

with Catholic journalism in the area.

He once quipped that at his entry into the field he anticipated his work would last one year. Instead it became his career.

He held a variety of titles at the Courier-Journal. His work, however, was principally editing and reporting diocesan news.

Father Henry Atwell, former editor of the paper, remarked last week:

"Mr. Thomas O'Connor's death breaks a link between the pioneers of our diocese and those of our present generation. He knew personally all ten bishops of our diocese and was known and admired by them. He devoted himself to the Catholic press for more than 35 years, convinced that only through information and communication would Catholic lay people be effective participants in the Church's varied ministries and apostolates.

"He believed in the importance of parish events which many people considered to be trivial, because he realized that in these events people met people and grew in awareness of the wider needs of parish and community.

"He was a competent, well-informed newspaperman who could glean the news, write the story, compose headlines and layout and even promote circulation.

"And best of all, he was a gracious gentleman, a devout Christian and a patient and loyal friend."

Anthony J. Costello spoke of Mr. O'Connor's retirement years last week. Costello, general manager of the Courier-Journal, visited with Mr. O'Connor on the day of his passing.

"Tom was a dear friend and a great journalist," he said. "He will be sadly missed by his many, many friends.

"Tom had been retired from the paper for nine years, but frequently he kept in touch with us with constructive criticism and news tips. Many of us found it very enjoyable and rewarding to spend an afternoon with Tom and his lovely wife, Helen, and discuss our newspaper.

"Shortly before he died, we called him to write a story on the passing of Bishop Kearney. Tom agreed, as we all knew he would, but told us that this would probably be his last story.

"He may have been retired for nine years, but he always was a part of our Courier-Journal family, and will always be considered as one of the cornerstones on which this newspaper was built."

On the occasion of his 25th anniversary with the paper, Mr. O'Connor was feted with a party at which Bishop James E. Kearney said:

"Tom O'Connor's career is singularly marked by his consecration to duty. He is the personification of loyalty not only to his superiors but to every Catholic parish, every Catholic organization, and

every Catholic person in the diocese."

A graduate of the old Cathedral High in 1912, Mr. O'Connor attended Notre Dame University for one year before leaving to find work. He was proud of his link with the university and was an active member of the Rochester Notre Dame Alumni Club. The organization named him its Man of the Year in 1957.

The title again came his way when the Catholic War Veterans so designated him.

Twice, Mr. O'Connor served as grand knight of the Rochester Council of the Knights of Columbus. He also was among the founders of the Rochester First Friday Club. He was a life member of the Musa Caravan, Order of the Alhambra. He once edited that group's Musa publication, for years the only organ of its kind in the nation.

He belonged to the

Helen Schreiner

Helen A. Schreiner, formerly of Rochester, died April 12, 1977, in Orlando, Fla. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Augustine's Church here by Msgr. John M. Duffy and Father Paul J. McCabe.

During World War II, Miss Schreiner served with the SPARS, an adjunct of the U.S. Coast Guard. She was awarded the American Area Medal and Victory Medal.

She was a daughter of the late John and Olive Schreiner and a graduate of St. Augustine's School, Nazareth Academy and the old Mechanics Institute. On her release from service, she attended college in West Palm Beach, Fla., and later worked at the Norfolk, Va., Veterans Hospital, the Grandy Sanitarium in Norfolk and the Orange County Convalescent Home in Orlando.

Survivors include three sisters, Mrs. Mary Olive S. Tucker, and Mrs. Gerald C. (Margaret) Hamm of Rochester, and Mrs. Richard M. (Eleanor) Arenz of Salem, Ore.; an uncle, Paul Schreiner; nieces, nephews and cousins.

Knights of St. John, St. Eustace Commandery, and the Layman's Retreat League.

In recent years, Mr. O'Connor kept an active interest in the progress of the Courier-Journal, keeping in frequent contact with its staff and management.

Mr. O'Connor is survived by his wife, Helen E.; a daughter, Helen Viola; six sons, John T., Robert W., Richard J., Leo B., James A., all of Rochester; and Thomas J. of Canandaigua.

Auxiliary Bishop John E. McCafferty was the principal concelebrant for the rites at Sacred Heart Cathedral. He also was the homilist.

The bishop spoke of Mr. O'Connor's fidelity to truth which he said was reflected in the man's profession. The bishop corrected himself to call it Mr. O'Connor's vocation.

Present also in the sanctuary were Msgr. John M. Duffy, Msgr. John Randall, Father Robert McNamara, Father Benedict Ehmman, Father William Endres and Father Thomas Wheeland.

Bishop Hogan was unable to attend because of illness.

Cathedral Mass to Note Canonization

Auxiliary Bishop John E. McCafferty will offer a Pontifical Mass in Sacred Heart Cathedral in celebration of the canonization of John Nepomucene Neumann, CSSR, at 2:20 p.m., Sunday, June 19.

Bishop Neumann's canonization will take place the same day in Rome.

Between the years 1836 and 1848, Bishop Neumann visited Rochester at least six times which makes the canonization of local interest.

The public is invited to the Cathedral Mass and parishes are urged to send representatives to honor the first American male citizen to become a saint.

Communion First, Say 2 in Vatican

First Communion before 1910, should be restored. The practice of putting off first confession until a child is 9 or 10 had become widespread in many places, including the United States. In 1973 a declaration was issued by the Vatican aimed at ending the practice. It said the Church's traditional discipline, as expressed in

The letter to the world's bishops was signed by Cardinal James Knox of Australia, prefect of the Congregation for the Sacraments and Divine Worship, and Cardinal John Wright of the U.S., prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy.

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Fr. Leary Celebrates

The 40th anniversary Reception for Father John Leary of St. Mary's in Elmira will be held on June 12 from 3:30-5 p.m. in the Marian Centre.

CAMBODIA CRITICIZED London (RNS) — Amnesty International, which campaigns for prisoners of conscience, has condemned the treatment of prisoners in Cambodia. It expressed concern at the lack of response by the Cambodia government to its past appeals and questions about alleged executions and maltreatment of civilians.

Agency To Act Today

Canandaigua — The Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency Executive Committee will take action today (Wednesday) on the closure of St. Mary's Hospital obstetrical unit. The committee meets at 4:30 p.m. at the Sheraton Canandaigua Inn. The meeting will be preceded by an informational meeting at 3 p.m. also at the inn.

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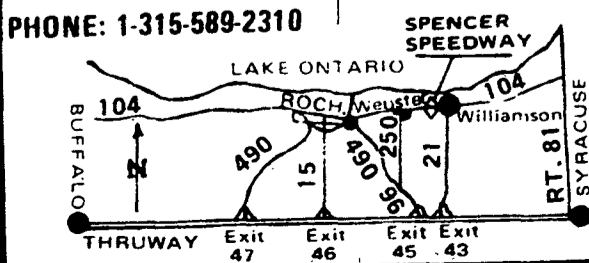
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