



Visiting Priests

Two Illinois priests with roots in the Rochester diocese looked up some old friends here last week. This photo shows Msgr. William J. Donovan and Father Edward Wright with Msgr. John M. Duffy and John Norton, in the garden of the Spring House. Msgr. Donovan, a native of Geneseo who spent his school days in Rochester and Canandaigua, taught at Aquinas Institute and was superintendent of diocesan schools, 1923-1929, while on loan from the Diocese of Rockford. Ninety-four years old and 65 years a priest, he has an edge over Msgr. Duffy, who is 85 and has been a priest for 55 years. His traveling companion, Father Wright, grew up in St. Boniface parish here.



Ad Multos Annos!

Auxiliary Bishop John E. McCafferty (center) and Father George Wood (right), pastor of Mother of Sorrows Church, were among the more than 300 who feted Msgr. John Duffy (left) on the occasion of his 55th anniversary of ordination and his 85th birthday.

The Open Window

By FATHER HOHMAN

What Is Religion?

Dear Father Hohman,

I find your latest letter in the 'Courier most interesting—so simple—just follow your thought on theology and we have it made. Problem is which priest do we believe—t-

Fr. Hohman here are as many diverse opinions among you theologians as there are grains of sand. You can't agree among yourselves as to what is right and wrong today, or if anything is wrong.

I was brought up in the period of time where nuns and priests taught religion, love of God and moral right and wrong. We were taught to obey our conscience but only after we formed a "right" conscience. Who today is saying what a right conscience is? I loved my religion and tried to live it.

But as the Catholic religion stands today I don't have much respect for it. Nuns and priests are social workers, welfare reformers—doing everything but teaching religion. The Church no longer teaches with authority, demanding

discipline and thereby giving security, and demanding respect. I'm wondering if there is such a thing as sin—no one talks about it. No wonder the world is in the condition it is.

I am in daily touch with young adults who say they no longer believe in the Catholic Church for it offers them nothing, and I agree. All the challenge and inspiration are gone.

If the religious today got back to the job of teaching religion and love of God and leading a moral life, then maybe the rest of us would get the incentive to go out and make the world a better place to live, but first we need someone to teach us, inspire us and give us a firm foundation on which to build.

From one who liked it better the way it was before.

Dear Liked-it-the-way-it-was,

The very way you signed your letter indicates that you have taken one of several positions in respect to theological thinking and therefore you are part of the problem rather than being the solution. In other words, you are presenting one of several theological solutions to the present day dilemma. You speak of returning to a right conscience as though the way you think is the

guarantee of a right conscience. You and many others make the rather gratuitous assumption that anyone who has tried to grow in theological thinking and who goes beyond what you were taught say 20 or 30 years ago is out to destroy the Church and everything it once stood for.

One of the most interesting statements that you make (and you are in company with many other people) is that you favor priests and religious returning to "the teaching of religion and true morality." Please be honest enough to admit that the religion you are talking about is your own definition of religion and the true morality you are talking about is your own definition of true morality. The fact that you deplore the involvement of priests and sisters in issues of social justice indicates that your knowledge of religion is very one-sided and autistic. In conclusion, I quote from the letter of James, first chapter, 27th verse:

"Pure, unspoiled religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world."

There is no way of eliminating one or the other of these injunctions. Why not try the whole package?

Anniversary Festivities Set At St. Mary of the Assumption

Parishioners of St. Mary of the Assumption in Scottsville will celebrate the 125th anniversary of their church on Tuesday, Aug. 15. Bishop Joseph L. Hogan will offer Mass at 6 p.m. with the pastor, Msgr. Gerard C. Krieg; the pastor emeritus, Father Edward H. Hartmann, and priests who have assisted at St. Mary's over the years.

After Mass, there will be a dinner at the Mapledale Party House in Rochester, beginning with cocktails at 7:30. Reservations should be made through 889-1512, 889-

Eucharistic Devotions Scheduled

The monthly devotions before the Blessed Sacrament at Blessed Sacrament Church have been slated for Thursday, Aug. 6. The theme for the rites, according to Wilma Higgs, who organized the program, is priestly fidelity to the teachings of the Magisterium.

The devotions begin with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at noon. Recitation of the rosary follows at 12:15. The afternoon concludes with a 5 p.m. benediction and a 5:15 p.m. Mass.

3160 or 538-6440.

Scottsville has had a resident pastor since 1848. The cornerstone of the church was laid by Bishop John Timon of Buffalo on the Feast of the Assumption in 1853.

Taking part in the commemorative liturgy will be representatives of the various parish organizations and age groups, and three former parishioners who have entered religious life. The latter are Father Julian McVean, OFM; Father Robert Baker, SM, and Sister Barbara Baker, MSHS.

Michael G. Miller is dinner chairman. Thomas J. Connor will be master of ceremonies and singer Pat Torpey, a former parishioner, will entertain.

A collection of things associated with parish history will be on exhibit in Hartmann Hall Aug. 12-20. Among them is a baptismal gown used by a parish family since 1854. Dr. Glenn Kist has written a history of St.

Mary's entitled For Everything There Is a Season, and this will be on sale during the exhibit.

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