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At St. Joseph's:

Building A 'Sense of Community'

By MARY ANN GINNERTY

Cayuga—"When someone is a stranger in my church, I know it. It is one of the advantages of a smaller community," said Father Ronald Gaesser, pastor of St. Joseph's parish here.

"The parish is large enough to be a challenge, and small enough for me to be involved in people's lives. This is what parish is all about. There has been a sense of real fulfillment being pastor and knowing people care," he said.

Seated in a rocking chair in the living quarters behind the church, Father Gaesser conveyed the message that St. Joseph's Parish is alive and well. His comments on the 125 year history of the parish, commemorated this spring, were intertwined with bits of Americana.

He explained that the parish was founded during the birth pains of Catholicism in this

country, having been formed as a mission station in 1853.

Father Gaesser came to St. Joseph's, then a mission church, in October, 1972, as the first resident pastor since 1903. (He also serves as the chaplain at Eisenhower College.) The parish observed its 125th anniversary May 5 with the celebration of Mass, by Bishop Joseph Hogan, and a dinner for 180 parishioners in the Community Hall.

"When I came here the people were on the verge of bursting forth and were not as conservative as I had expected. They pushed me! The parish has become young again with young people moving into town and starting their families," he said.

Father Gaesser spoke at length about building community as an important part of his task in Cayuga. The addition of a two story wing to the church completed in May, 1974, was an important step towards that goal. It

provides a place for parishioners to gather together for different functions. The first floor contains a new sacristy, parish office, and quarters for the pastor. The second floor is a parish meeting room capable of being converted into three classrooms plus a kitchen. It hosts dinners, bible school and CCD classes.

Relaxing in his quarters filled with plants, Father Gaesser spoke about the vital reality that community is based on, faith. Faith starts, he said, as a faith-filled people caring and living authentic and honest lives that touch the lives of others. This is living as a Christian in community and is what we are trying to build.

St. Joseph's first parish council was formed in February, 1973. Father Gaesser drew a corollary between the parish of today and the involvement of the laity in the mission of the Church to the active role the laity played as they organized the parish over a century ago.



St. Joseph's Parish in Cayuga celebrated their 125th anniversary earlier this year with a special Mass celebrated by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan. At the front of the altar, from left, Father Ronald Gaesser, Bishop Hogan, and Father Michael Conboy.

In addition to the parish center, the interior of the church has been renovated. Much of the work was done by residents of the Auburn

Correctional Facility through its work release program. Exterior improvements for the Church should be completed this summer.

Father Gaesser looks at his parish as a community of hope and looks forward to new challenges that lie ahead for the community of St. Joseph's and himself.



FATHER DALTON

Auburn Native In New Post

Father Robert Dalton has been appointed by the Glenmary Home Missioners to be director of the organization's students at Washington Theological Union, Washington, D.C. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Dalton of Auburn. Ordained for Glenmary in 1962, Father Dalton has served missions in Georgia, North Carolina, Kentucky and Virginia. For several years he was director of the Glenmary novitiate program.

In Memoriam

Elmira— Priests of the Chemung-Schuylar Region concelebrated a memorial Mass for Pope Paul last Saturday, the day of his funeral. Representatives of all the parishes in the region took part in the liturgy at St. Patrick's Church.

Father Kevin Murphy, coordinator, invited "all the people of our region" and "people of other faiths who would like to join us in prayer." Father Joseph Egan preached the homily.

Family Affair

Elmira— The Divorced and Separated Catholics will have a special family liturgy, followed by a tureen supper, on Sunday, Aug. 20, in St. Patrick's Church hall. The event is scheduled to run from 4 until 8 p.m. There will be activities for children.

Auburn Man Elected To National AOH

Auburn—Thomas McNabb, of Auburn, was elected national president of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) during the national convention of the Irish American organization held in Killarney, Ireland last month.

While there, he said AOH representatives met with leaders of more than 30 political groups from Northern Ireland in an effort to organize a "peace forum" in Washington, D.C.

"Our conclusion and that of many groups in this country and in Ireland is that the British troops have to be removed before any movement toward peace can take place," he said, McNabb would like to see the U.S. intervene in the situation in Northern Ireland hopefully to

act as mediator in the politico-religious dispute.

McNabb, who resides with his family at 31 Logan St. here, is the city's safety inspector. He is the youngest of seven children born to Emmett and Marguerite Lawler McNabb whose own parents came from Portrush, County Antrim and Balinglass, County Wicklow, Ireland respectively.

McNabb said that he hopes to encourage the organization to become more politically involved and to create greater awareness in the Irish-American Community about what is happening in Northern Ireland.

He plans to be active with the Irish National Caucus which is organizing the "peace



THOMAS McNABB

forum" for late fall. The forum would include elected representatives from England, the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland.

Deaths

E.T. Keating

Elmira— A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Eugene T. Keating July 31, 1978, at St. Francis Church in Overton, Pa. A veteran of World War II, Mr. Keating was buried with military honors. He was a communicant of St. Cecilia's Church, Elmira.

Memorial gifts may be made to Notre Dame High School.

Mr. Keating is survived by his wife, Helen Rouse Keating, daughter and son-in-law Jeanne and Floyd Seeley, son, John, of Washington, D.C., son and daughter-in-law Thomas and Mary Ellen Keating of Syracuse, and four

grandchildren. He also is survived by one sister and brother, and several aunts, cousins and nieces and nephews.

He was retired from the Bendix Corporation, and had served as a staff sergeant in World War II, seeing action in Africa, Sicily, Italy, Anzio, France and Germany. He was a recipient of the Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Croix de Guerre. He was a member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Catholic War Veterans and the Nocturnal Adoration Society.

Sr. M. Lally

Sister Mary Nolasco Lally, a Sister of Mercy for 64 years, died Aug. 8, 1978, after an

illness of several months. She had celebrated her 88th birthday on Aug. 2.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated last Thursday in the Motherhouse chapel.

Sister Nolasco was on the staff of six that opened Mercy High School 50 years ago. She was cook-supervisor of the school cafeteria. From 1931 until 1969 she had charge of the Motherhouse kitchen. She continued to help in the kitchen until 1976.

She was born in County Galway, Ireland, where her sister, Mrs. Kate C. Cotton, and her brother, Michael, still live. Another sister is Sister Mary Andrew Lally, at the Mercy Motherhouse. There are cousins and nieces in Binghamton.

Hibernians To Endow NDU Center

The Ancient Order of Hibernians proposes to raise \$1.3 for the Center for the Study of American Catholicism at the University of Notre Dame. Contributions will be sought from Irish-Americans generally, according to an announcement from the university.

The endowment will provide an academic chair and support the center's activities, principally as they relate to the role of Irish-Americans in U.S. Church history. The university's library and archives pertinent to the project

date back to 1842, the announcement said.

The Notre Dame proposal was approved at a recent national meeting, which was held in Killarney, Ireland. The

national board had recommended approval last November.

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