

St. Margaret Mary Notes 50

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, former Bishop of Rochester and former pastor of St. Margaret Mary's Church, will open the celebration of the parish's 50th anniversary celebration on Saturday, Sept. 15 with a Mass of Thanksgiving at 7 p.m. He will be joined at the altar by Msgr. Maynard Connell, Father Raymond Heisel, both also former pastors, and Father Robert Smith, the present pastor.

Father Charles Bruton was appointed on the Feast of the Sacred Heart, June 14, 1929, to found the parish by Bishop John Francis O'Hern.

St. Margaret Mary, the parish patron, is recognized as the initiator of the Church's devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The church was incorporated on July 11, 1929, and the charter meeting was held on Aug. 30. More than 175 new parishioners attended.

On Sept. 15, Bishop O'Hern presided at the Mass of Dedication in a frame building which took just four months to construct.

The following year a five-classroom school was opened for children of the parish. That building was enlarged in 1947.

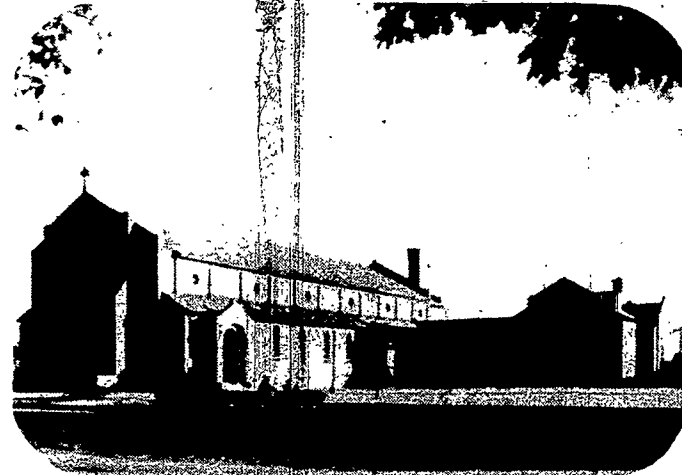
The sisters who taught at the school were originally housed in a home. A convent for them was constructed adjacent to the school and was opened in 1938.

The school has been staffed first by the Franciscan Sisters, and now by the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

Following the Second World War, the Irondequoit parish grew so rapidly that the need for a larger church became evident and, on Oct. 17, 1948, the feast of St. Margaret Mary, ground was broken for a new building.

The first Mass in the new church was celebrated on Christmas Eve 1949. The original frame building was dismantled and taken to West Webster where it was reconstructed and dedicated as St. Rita's Church.

Msgr. Connell succeeded Father Bruton as pastor in 1956. Father Bruton had died in April of that year.



St. Margaret Mary's Church and rectory in a 1950 photo.

In turn Msgr. Connell was followed by Bishop Hogan, Father Heisel and Father Smith.

Ancillary to the history of the parish is the history of the parish bulletin.

The bulletin is celebrated as being 45 years old this year. Originally called the Alacoque News (Alacoque is St. Margaret Mary's last name) and later the Parish Bulletin and now the Monitor, the bulletin has served not only the parish but also the general public. From time to time the witticisms of former pastor Father Heisel were reprinted in the daily newspaper.

Other events on St. Margaret Mary's calendar for the anniversary are a Teen Dance on Friday, Sept. 28, from 8 to 11 p.m. in the School Auditorium; a parish "Feet-a-Thon," a three-mile walk through the area for

youth who will collect pledges for a jubilee gift to the parish; a Banquet and Entertainment on Sunday Sept. 30.

The last event will open with an 11 a.m. Mass. At 4 p.m. parishioners will gather at the Party House on Beahon Road for dinner, a show staged by parishioners, and dancing. Reservations for the day are required and may be obtained by calling 544-6206 or 544-6197.

Free Series Begins at Nazareth

Sunday Afternoons at Nazareth, a series of free entertainments in the Arts Center, will open Sept. 16 with A Greek Experience, an audio-visual presentation by Douglas Lytle. It is based on the work of six summers and a sabbatical year spent in

Greece. Lytle is professor of professional photographic arts at Rochester Institute of Technology. For this series, the Arts Center auditorium is opened at 2:30 p.m., the shows begin at 3 and seating is on a first-come basis.

THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER

"The Death of a Child"



EDWIN SULEWSKI
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Death is a shock to each of us. We are seldom prepared for the abrupt end of a life that is important to us. Sometimes we may see it as a blessing for a loved one who has suffered through an accident or a lingering disease — but, more often, we do not accept it easily. Such is usually the case in the death of a small child, no matter what the cause. We search in vain for a reason — and, of course, none can be found. Even though we know life holds no guarantee of physical eternity, we still think of death as arbitrary, striking at random, with no plan or purpose. We watch it take, not give — with no consideration of our wants or needs. Perhaps worst of all, it is the one part of life we feel we have little or no control over. The death of a young person calls upon all the faith we can muster in our God. With Him, and the comfort and love of our friends, we must once again look ahead, learning to cherish each moment and looking afresh at our own lives. If we can, we must let our own lives take on greater meaning and value because of the life that won't be lived by someone we loved. Your questions about the death of a child can be answered in more detail by a member of our staff. Call or stop by. Use our lending library of books concerning death, dying, bereavement, and related subjects.

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