

# Msgr. Randall

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Kearney named the then Father Randall to the post of managing editor of the Catholic Courier-Journal, succeeding Father Leo C. Mooney. At the time of his appointment, the paper was struggling through financial difficulties; and the priest launched a circulation campaign to achieve Bishop Kearney's desire for 100 percent parish subscriptions.

Five years later, Msgr. Randall brought the Catholic Press Association convention to Rochester. Within nine years, the priest was to be elected president of the national association. In that convention year, however, Msgr. Randall testified before the Senate subcommittee investigating a national newsprint shortage.

His sentiments represented the publishers of the nation's Catholic press and their 12,000,000 subscribers, he told the subcommittee. He deplored at that time "the widespread reports of black market operations as one of the major factors behind the scarcity of newsprint."

Also during that time and later, he championed keeping postal rates for the Catholic press at a standard commensurate with publication income.

In 1949, Msgr. Randall was named secretary of the CPA, and vice president of the association in 1954. In that year the association resolved that Catholic journalists promote "just and charitable attitudes toward persons of other religious and social groups."

In May of 1956, at a convention in Dallas, Msgr. Randall was named president of the association and was cited for "his zealous conduct of the association's affairs, his inspired leadership and his unflinching devotion to duty." He served two terms as president.

According to James A. Doyle, executive secretary of the CPA, Msgr. Randall, throughout his nearly 40-year membership in the group, demonstrated himself "one of the giants in the whole history of the Catholic press in America and should be remembered as such."

"Almost single-handedly he acquired the Catholic Press Directory from a private publisher for the association and was the driving force behind several efforts to establish a viable national advertising sales agency, which culminated in the present-day Catholic Major Markets Newspaper Association."

The press, however, did not capture all of the priest's energy.

In 1937, the 32-year-old assistant pastor at Holy Family in Auburn was named assistant director for the diocesan Society for the Propagation of the Faith. A year later, he was named director, a role he held until 1956. Also in 1938, he was made chaplain to the Carmelite Monastery.

In 1940 he directed fund-raising efforts for the

Catholic University of America and Nazareth College. In the year he was named to the newspaper, he was coordinator of War Activities of the Diocese, was diocesan director of National Catholic Community Services, diocesan moderator of the Legion of Decency and conducted a \$300,000 drive for St. Mary's Hospital.

He was honored by Pope Pius XII with the title of Very Reverend Monsignor in 1947. That title was upgraded to Right Reverend in 1956.

In 1952, Bishop Kearney appointed the priest as pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, succeeding Msgr. Joseph S. Cameron. At the time of that appointment, then, Msgr. Randall wore the hats of pastor, diocesan office director, chaplain, managing editor, national office holder and fund-raiser.

Born in 1906 in Newark, John Randall schooled at St. Monica's in Rochester and prepared for the priesthood at St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries.

He was ordained in Rochester June 6, 1931, this year being his golden jubilee. His first assignment was at the old St. Patrick's Cathedral here.

In his time he served as chaplain not only to the monastery (for which he also conducted a fund-raising drive to construct the buildings on Jefferson Road), but also to the Police Holy Name Society, the Blackfriars Guild and the Joint Council of the CIO-AFL Central Board of Trade and Labor.

Virtually every organization he touched returned him with an award or citation.

Anthony J. Costello, publisher and general manager of the Courier-Journal, recalled that "Msgr. Randall gave me my introduction to the Catholic press. I worked with him for seven years. His reputation in Rochester was the same that he had nationally. If a job needed to be done he was the man to do it."

"It would be difficult to find a harder working individual. I had the pleasure to travel with him to many business



**MSGR. RANDALL** meetings throughout the U.S. to establish the Catholic Major Markets Newspaper Association which, incidentally, has produced millions of dollars in advertising for all Catholic newspapers throughout the country.

Doyle said, "He liked to give the appearance of a cranky curmudgeon, but at heart he was kind and warm, always seeking perfection in the work he did and the work he asked of others."

In 1966, Msgr. Randall resigned as pastor of Immaculate Conception. Five years later, Bishop Joseph L. Hogan announced the priest's retirement from the Courier-Journal.

After a brief respite, however, Msgr. Randall took a post with the Catholic Near East Relief Society, commuting from Rochester to New York City to carry out his work.

In addition he was one of the principal movers in the Catholic Golden Age Society during the past decade and served as its first president.

In 1973, during a solemn investiture ceremony at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Cardinal Terence Cooke formally installed Msgr. Randall as a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre.

In 1946, Msgr. Randall spoke at the departure ceremonies for Maryknoll sisters returning to mission fields after World War II.

"Never will there be any peace," he said, "until mankind learns to kneel with these Sisters at the feet of the Master and there learn that real peace and happiness consist not in power, nor influence, nor wealth, nor prestige, but in love, love of God and love of our neighbor."

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# Father Brennan Slated to Speak

Father Joseph Brennan, former rector of St. Bernard's Seminary who has recently returned from a stint in Cambridge, England, will speak on the topic of "A Yankee in King Arthur's Court: Interfaith in England," at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 29, in the courtyard of Temple B'rith Kodesh, 2131 Elmwood Ave.

The priest, a noted Bible scholar and leader in Jewish-Christian dialogue, has been

slated as part of the temple's Summer in the Courtyard Series. This evening, July 22, Nisanne Lowe, violinist, will perform in concert with Joseph Werner.

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# Irish Dancers Victorious

The Desmond Penrose Irish Dancers of Rochester placed first in the junior and senior competitions of the category, Original Teacher's Choreography, on Saturday, July 11, at the Monroe County Fairgrounds.

The all-day competitions drew dancers from across the state and were sponsored by the Rochester Feis Committee. This year also marks the 25th anniversary of Desmond Penrose teaching in the area.



**SCI-FI FILM** — "War of the Worlds," 8 p.m., Thursday, July 23, Eisenhart Auditorium, 657 East Ave. Admission \$2.50. Rochester Museum members and seniors \$1.50.

**WILDER TRIBUTE** — Arrangers Holiday concert, 8:15 p.m., Friday, July 31, Jazz pianist and jazz singer Susannah McCorkle will perform vocal and instrumental compositions by the late Alec Wilder. Tickets \$4, \$5, \$6. Eastman School of Music.

**LAWN PARTY BENEFIT** — Lawn party and sale from 2 to 8 p.m., Saturday, July 25, at 172 Warwick Ave. off Arnett Boulevard to benefit Westside Theatre Collective, a non-profit community theater group.

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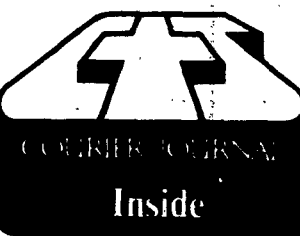
**WILL YOU SHARE A CATHOLIC EDUCATION WITH A WORTHY CHILD?**  
For over 80 years, a strong Catholic school system served children in Rochester's central city neighborhoods. But there aren't very many Catholic schools left in central Rochester these days. Saint Augustine's and Saint Monica's Catholic Elementary Schools, located on Rochester's southwest side, serve children living in neighborhoods ranging from the city's 19th and 3rd Wards all the way to downtown Rochester. Many children are from genuinely poor families. Families which are plagued by sickness or suffer the death of a parent, for example. These worthy children and their families find themselves in real poverty through no fault of their own. These parents desperately want their children to be educated in a Catholic school, to be exposed to high academic standards, a healthy sense of discipline, the values of patriotism, and most of all, to Christian teachings. . . . . . We've established a CATHOLIC EDUCATION FUND to help pay the costs of educating children who are needy and worthy. So many good people have helped bring Catholic education to Rochester's poor over the past few years. Will you help? Your financial contribution — large or small — will help us serve more deserving children now and in the future!  
**Father Bill Barrett, Father Bill Trott**  
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Yes! I'd like to help. Enclosed is my gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to Saint Augustine's-Saint Monica's CATHOLIC EDUCATION FUND.  
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at Sonnenberg Gardens

Canandaigua Wine Company, Inc., has a special wine tasting room . . . its primary purpose to acquaint visitors with all brands produced by the winery. Tourists can see and taste the wines and get more information about where they are available in their home areas.

The tasting room is unique in that it is not located at the winery. It is on the grounds of historic Sonnenberg Gardens, an extremely popular tourist stop in Canandaigua. A century old building, used originally as the cannery for the estate, was completely remodeled to house the tasting room. The character of the original cannery has been preserved and highlighted with authentic winery cooperage and artifacts. The centerpiece is a beautiful stained glass triptych, "Abundance," designed and built in 1911.

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