

# Along The Way

With Bishop Matthew H. Clark



Last Tuesday at Auburn we celebrated the Silver and Golden anniversaries of our priests ordained 25 and 50 years ago respectively. There were 12 of the former and 6 of the latter which made the number of jubilarians higher than it had been since I have been attending these events.

We had the Eucharistic liturgy at Sacred Heart and a luncheon after that in the parish hall. Men and women of the parish organized the event and prepared the meal; college students generously and very ably served at table.

It was a happy, good spirited event which was well attended by the priests who had come to honor their brothers.

Besides the relaxation the event itself provided it was also a special stimulus to reflect on the priesthood. Here are a few of the thoughts I have had since then.

● I have been a priest for over 21 years now. I can say that I love the ministry of the ordained priesthood more as the years go by. I am deeply convinced that it is a vocation which can engage challenge and deepen the spirit of the person who lives. Further, it is my conviction -- because you tell me so and because it is my own perception -- that a priest who lives in Christ and for the people can be richly significant in the lives of others.

● The most deeply appreciated priests I know have stayed alive to the times. They are not afraid to change because they see that process as a sign of life and growth. They know history well enough to know that challenges, growth and change have been constants in the Church. They know themselves well enough to understand that one who never changes lives in an isolation which becomes even more noticeable.

● The love of people is the greatest gift a priest can have. Such love -- where love is there is God! -- is creative, redemptive, healing, encouraging and sustaining. It is the strength which makes priests want to grow and the sustaining force which enables them to convert the pain of change to the joy of new life.

● Although deeply joyful, the ministry of priesthood in the contemporary Church is not an easy one. Priests are subject to many pressures. They are told to be more "human" by some; others tell them they shouldn't be like everyone else. Some never tire of remind-

ing them that they are not the only educated person in the parish any more; others seem disappointed when they don't know the answer to every question right on the spot. It has even been said that the bishop insists that they take proper rest and relaxation and loads them with work.

● There are probably not many groups of people who are more aware of their own shortcomings than priests. This awareness can be good if it leads to a healthy, mature dependence on God and trust in the strength of others. It can be death dealing if it leads in any way to fear, isolation or estrangement. We can give life to priests and to one another when we create a climate among us in which patience, compassion, understanding, the right to a good name and a basic presumption of good will in others are taken for granted.

I thank the Lord every day for the wonderful priests we have in the Diocese of Rochester. Please pray for all of us and continue to love us into new life.  
Peace.

## 125 Years of Schooling Noted At St. Patrick's in Owego

Owego -- Bishop Matthew H. Clark recently celebrated Mass as one of the highlights of the celebration of the 125th anniversary of St. Patrick's School here. The Sisters of Mercy have served 115 of those years.

Only two years after its beginning, the village of Owego was experiencing rapid growth and Father Nicholas Byrnes realized the necessity for a parochial school. Thus, St. Patrick's School, erected behind the church, opened its doors in 1859.

During the next few years, the introduction of the Erie Railroad shops in Owego added further to the burgeoning population and the pastor then, Father Francis Clark, petitioned Mother Mary Stanislaus of the Batavia community to send him sisters for the school.

On Jan. 29, 1869, the Sisters of Mercy arrived here to teach. Mother Mary de Sales and five other sisters were heartily welcomed.

In addition to the school, the sisters maintained an academy in which music and art held important places. They also opened a night school for grownups. These schools, together with the visitation of the sick and poor, spread the works of mercy in the area.

Just before the turn of the century, Owego was incorporated into the Diocese of Rochester under Bishop Bernard McQuaid: The sisters were invited by the bishop to remain in this diocese and in July 1901, they became part of the Sisters of Mercy of Rochester.

As the years went by, the school became overcrowded. Land known as the "Stanbrough property" on Front Street was purchased in 1948 at the price of \$17,000. This parcel was directly in back of St. Patrick's and gave the church all the ground from Front Street to Main Street. Funds were raised for a new school which was opened in September 1950.

A six-room addition was dedicated in 1967 by Bishop



The school in 1950.

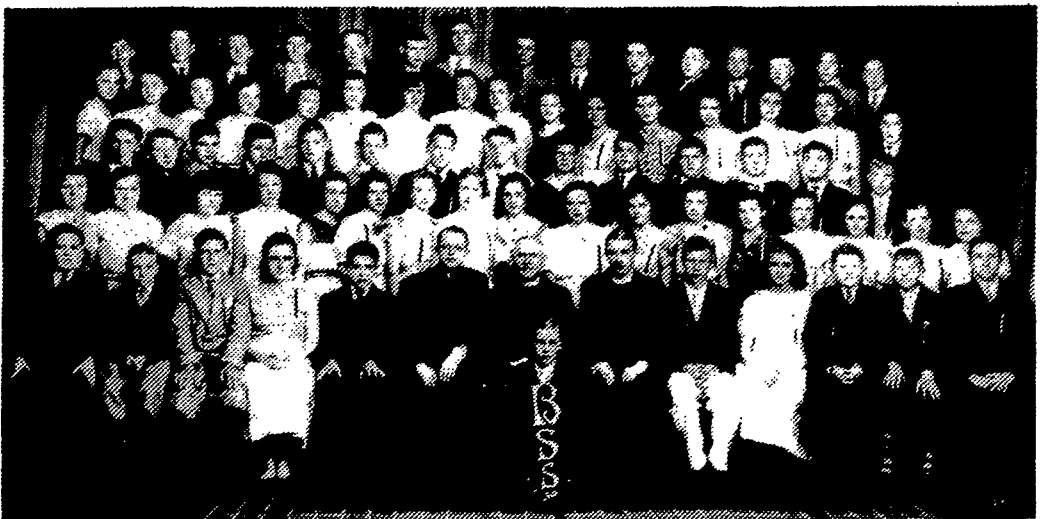
Fulton J. Sheep. Because of reorganization in the local school district, Grades 7 and 8 were eliminated from St. Patrick's. The kindergarten was opened in 1979.

The curriculum today is correlated with that of New York State and beyond. All students in K to 6 have, in

addition to physical education, music and art, an opportunity for hands-on experience with computers. Fifth and sixth graders may study Spanish. In cooperation with the public school, St. Patrick's has speech therapy, remedial mathematics and reading, use of the Resource

Center and a Gifted and Talented program.

Many volunteers help in the lunch room, library, and on parties and field trips, and with the Home School Association efforts and the Fall Festival. A School Scholarship Fund also has been established.



### Blessed Sacrament Reunion

The class of 1934 from Blessed Sacrament will celebrate its 50th anniversary at 6 p.m., Friday, June 1, at the Burgundy Basin Inn. Committee planners for the event are Nora Collins Wiesner, Art Knouf, Betty Shafer Dorety, Tom McDermott, Marie Lowenguth Webster, Edgar C. Maloney, Jean Curtis Lowenguth. Further information is available from Art Knouf, 271-0147.



Bishop Thomas J. Grady of Orlando imposes his hands on the head of deacon ordinand Gary Tyman.

## Gary Lee Tyman Ordained April 14

Gary Lee Tyman, a seminarian of the Rochester diocese, was ordained a deacon by Bishop Thomas J. Grady of Orlando, Fla., on April 14, in St. Quentin's Church in Louvain in Belgium.

Rev. Mr. Tyman is a third year student at the American College of Louvain, a seminary sponsored by the bishops of the United States.

He is the son of Raymond L. and Elizabeth Tyman of Phelps, and is a member of St. Francis parish there.

Rev. Mr. Tyman received

his BA from St. Bonaventure University in 1972, and his juris doctor from Cornell in 1975. Prior to entering the seminary in 1981, he was a partner in the Britting-Tyman law firm in Phelps. He completed his Clinical Pastoral Education at St. Peter's Hospital in Albany last summer.

Rev. Mr. Tyman will return to Rochester this summer for parish placement, then to Louvain, again, for fourth year theological studies in the fall.

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