



Many of the monuments and tombstones vandalized over the weekend at Holy Sepulchre date back to the Civil War.

Holy Sepulchre vandalized; three teenagers charged

Vandals knocked down 186 tombstones in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery late Friday night or early Saturday morning, causing at least \$5,000 in damage, according to E. Robert Vogt, the cemetery's director.

The vandalism was discovered early Saturday morning after a car passing by the cemetery on Lake Avenue was struck by a piece of stone heaved over the wall. The car's rear window was shattered, but the driver was not injured. She called police, who discovered the damage in the course of their investigation, according to Captain Harold Connor of Lake Section.

Monuments in the area of the cemetery west of Lake Avenue and just north of the main gate were overturned, including some 60 stones from the Civil War era. Others dated up to the 1920s.

Two fifteen-year-olds were arrested in connection with the vandalism and charged Sunday with second-degree criminal mischief. Another 16-year-old, Arnold Earl, was arrested and charged with second- and fourth-degree criminal mischief and third-degree autostrapping.

"Not one of the three would give a reason or could even say how it started," said Captain Connor.

Earl plead innocent Monday to the charges in Monroe County Court. His preliminary hearing is scheduled Tuesday, Feb. 18. The younger boys' cases are being heard in Family Court.

According to Vogt, New York State law specifically states that the parents of minors who vandalize cemetery property are financially liable for the damage.

"A lot of people have been calling to find out if their family's tombstones were damaged," Vogt added. He has also received calls from Civil War veterans and Catholic veterans' organizations, who offered to help repair the mess.

Cemetery workers lost no time in re-erecting the Civil War-era stones Saturday afternoon, but Vogt said they will "wait and see" what happens with the others since surviving family members of the deceased are responsible for maintenance of the plots.

Vogt said that the cemetery is vandalized an average of once or twice every year. But in the 13 years he has worked there, he has never seen so much damage done at one time.

"The professional security people said it is just not policeable," he said, noting that constant surveillance wouldn't be worthwhile to prevent damage one or two nights a year.

"When you do have a lot of security, the kids make it a game," he added.

Obituary Monsignor Albert Schnacky, Mendon pastor, dies at 67

Area residents were saddened early last week to learn that Monsignor Albert Henry Schnacky, longtime pastor of St. Catherine's Church in Mendon, had died suddenly Tuesday afternoon, January 14, 1985.

The 67-year-old priest was stricken with a heart attack shortly after burying his constant companion, a German shepherd named Heidi.

Monsignor Schnacky, son of Albert and Emma Haggmann Schnacky, was born in Rochester on July 16, 1918, and attended St. Boniface School. He studied at St. Andrews minor seminary and St. Bernard's major seminary, both of which have since closed. Monsignor Schnacky was ordained to the priesthood on June 5, 1943.

His first appointment was as assistant pastor of St. Andrew's Church on June 19, 1943. He later moved to St. Mary's of Auburn where he also served as assistant pastor. In 1947, he became director of the diocesan Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD).

He first came to St. Catherine's in July of 1956 as administrator. At that time, he also served as chaplain of the Nazareth Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph. In 1970, Monsignor Schnacky retired from the CCD and from his duties at the motherhouse. He was named pastor of St. Catherine's at that time.

In 1966, Monsignor Schnacky also received the title domestic prelate.

Monsignor Schnacky is remembered fondly by parishioners, associates and area residents as being generous, approachable and actively committed to both his parish and his community. He served for many years as chaplain for Mendon's volunteer fire department, and had baseball diamonds built on the grounds of St. Catherine's. Last fall, at Monsignor Schnacky's request, the parish began work on a playground that is scheduled to be completed next summer.

"Monsignor Schnacky seemed to have a special sensitivity to people of all ages," said Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey. "Young people were especially attracted to him, and sought him in great numbers to assist in their weddings. Older persons — parishioners and non-parishioners alike — found him compassionate and understanding. There was a certain simple humility about Monsignor that attracted people from an extended area and made them feel welcome in the Lord's house."



Bishop Hickey estimated that a total of at least 1,000 people attended either or both of two funeral services celebrated at St. Catherine's for Monsignor Schnacky, including the Mass of the High Priest, Friday evening, January 24, and the Mass of Christian Burial, Saturday, January 25. Father William Shannon, a retired Nazareth College professor and the current chaplain for the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, gave the homily at Saturday's burial service, and Father Paul Schnacky, pastor of St. Joseph's, Wayland, spoke of his brother's devotion to his family.

Representatives of the Mendon Volunteer Fire Department, state police, and two mounted policemen were among those who came to pay their respects. Many of the mourners walked from the church to the Mendon Village Cemetery for the burial, in what Bishop Hickey termed an unusual gesture of love and respect for the priest he described as "simple, open and gracious, in a way that always drew the crowds."

Known for many years for his commitment to ecumenism, Monsignor Schnacky was buried in a plot he chose 12 years ago, between the graves of a Lutheran minister and a Presbyterian.

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