Depression sparked Catholic-action groups

By Father Robert F. McNamara
Guest contributor

On April 7, 1932, the Diocese of Rochester took over operations of the Catholic Courier and Journal, renaming it the Catholic Courier.

The reason for the diocesan takeover was that the Great Depression was about to force the lay owners of the CCAJ to discontinue publication. Two beneficent lay apostolates grew out of the Depression and have made such a difference to the church that their establishments rank as headline events of the decade. These two enterprises are the parish credit union and the Catholic Worker Movement.

Five parish credit unions were established in Rochester during the latter years of the depression. The first was the Holy Family Credit Union, which received a charter from the State of New York on April 21, 1938. Holy Family Credit Union proved of great value to its shareholders during the remaining years of the depression.

1930s:

Catholic Charities umbrella enables agencies to operate more efficiently

By Father Robert F. McNamara
Guest contributor

As the Catholic Journal, began its second decade, the opening in 1906 of St. Anne's Home for the Aged provided the biggest news headline.

St. Ann's was Bishop McQuaid's last foundation, just preceding his death in 1909. But unlike our two seminaries and a number of now-defunct institutions that date from his days as bishop, St. Ann's has not only endured but still provides an invaluable service as well.

The tireless bishop fell ill with pneumonia around the time of his 80th birthday in 1903. Illed by his illness, he had long thoughts about aging and death. What saddened him most was the fact that so many older people had nobody to care for them. Out of these thoughts came his resolution to "build a home for the aged that would be worthy of my declining years."

Following his recovery, Bishop McQuaid set about planning for "St. Ann's Home for the Aged." He bought a property on Lake Avenue between the pre-eminent street and Eastern Avenue. The initial unit was a two-story structure with its own chapel and housed 150 women and 30 men.

1900s:

Seminary established

By Father Robert F. McNamara
Guest contributor

Without a doubt, the most notable diocesan occurrence of the 1890s was the opening in 1898 of St. Bernard's Seminary.

As a result of the ecumenical Council of Trent (1545-63), which decreed that, wherever possible, each bishop should operate a seminary in his own diocese as part of the Church's response to the Protestant Reformation.

In 1868, Bernard J. McQuaid was installed as the first bishop of the diocese of Rochester. Within a year he had set up a pre-

"To teach, to support, to admonish, to encourage one another..."

Congratulations to the Catholic Courier on 100 years of reflecting on the faith.

Diocese of Rochester

"In the Sight of All, U.S. Catholic Conference, 1966