

Father Leo W. Welch, SJ, missionary to Philippines

Father Leo W. Welch, SJ, a Webster native who served as a missionary in the Philippines for more than 50 years, died June 28, 1990, at the Loyola House of Xavier University, Cagayan de Oro, in the Philippines. He was 83 years old.

Born in Webster on Feb. 20, 1907, Father Welch attended Holy Trinity School, Webster, and St. Andrew's Seminary, Rochester, before entering the Society of Jesus. After studying at Woodstock College in Baltimore, Md., and Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston, Mass., he was ordained to the priesthood at Woodstock College on June 23, 1935.

Father Welch's first assignment came at Canisius College in Buffalo, where he taught physics for a short time. Shortly thereafter, he became a meteorologist at Manila University in the Philippines when the U.S. government hired the Jesuits at the observatory to alert the Navy of threatening typhoons in the area.

Father Welch became a prisoner of war when the Japanese occupied Manila during World War II.

After the war, the priest taught physics in several Jesuit universities in the Philippines, including the University of Manila, Ateneo de Davao, and Xavier University.

During his years of service in the Philippines, the missionary developed a strong desire to work as a pastor to the country's needy. Although he did not receive permission to work with the poor until he was in his mid-60s, the priest set about the assignment with great zeal.

He learned a new dialect to begin his pastoral work, which took him to the huts and mountainous dirt roads of rural Bukidon, Philippines. To get around, Father Welch walked or used a motorbike — which he still rode at age 78.

"The ministry of Father Welch will be remembered longest for his love of the children in his barrios," said Sister Diane

Dennie, a niece of Father Welch and principal of St. Lawrence School in Greece. "Many of these poor children would not have received an education if they had not come to live with him."

Father Welch celebrated his 50th jubilee in 1985 and still showed no signs of slowing down, according to Sister Dennie. "He had no less than 15 of these children living with him on the church grounds," said Sister Dennie, who added that her uncle provided food, shelter, tuition and much love for the children.

More than 30 priests celebrated a Mass

of Christian Burial for Father Welch at Xavier University in the Philippines on Monday, July 2. Father William Hart, pastor of Holy Trinity, celebrated a memorial Mass at the Webster church on the same day.

In addition to Sister Dennie, Father Welch is survived by two sisters, Connie Welch and Margaret Dennie; two brothers and four sisters-in-law: Raymond and Florence Welch, Norbert and Hazel Welch, Margaret Welch and Jeanne Welch; and many other nieces and nephews.

ABA votes

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group of ABA members to promote the neutrality resolution. One of the leaders of that group was Palermo, the association's incoming treasurer.

But House of Delegates members who supported the pro-abortion resolution in February said the issue will not go away.

"It's just a matter of time before the issue comes back and we win it," said Estelle Rogers of Washington.

"I see this position as proper for the ABA to have taken," said Kathleen Keller of Waukegan, Ill. "The ABA was never intended to be partisan."

Outgoing president L. Stanley Chauvin Jr., of Louisville, Ky., favored the neutral

'At Home Retreat' planned

ROCHESTER — An "At Home Retreat" for homemakers, wives and mothers who find that a weekend retreat is not possible, will begin meeting Monday, Sept. 10, from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

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stance. But Talbot D'Alemberte of Miami, who will succeed Curtin when his term expires, spoke in favor of the February resolution.

ABA's position on abortion is considered important because the association provides government officials with assessments of the qualifications of nominees for judicial appointments.

EWTN

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"family network that espouses Christian values," adding that the network is "very informative on moral values."

Father Shamon's effort is one of several attempts to make EWTN available in the diocese. In Rochester, the Knights of Columbus have been working with the diocesan communications office to convince Greater Rochester Cablevision to pick up the network.

In a letter dated Aug. 8, Bishop Matthew H. Clark urged diocesan pastors and priests to push for support of a 24-hour Catholic and Christian cable station in Monroe County.

Bishop Clark suggested that EWTN is "one possible resource that would provide Catholic programming on cable television." He also noted that cable companies "historically have been reluctant to reserve a channel solely for Catholic/Christian programming unless a substantial number of subscribers request such programs."

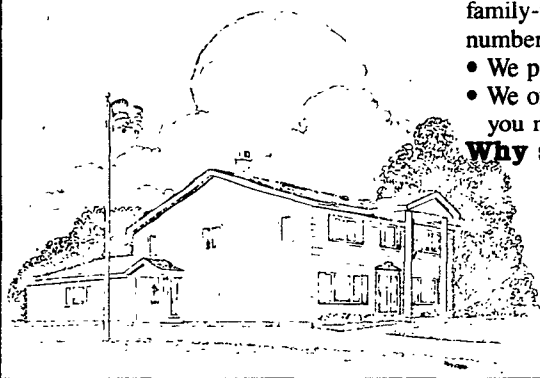
In asking for cooperation in the effort to make EWTN available in Monroe County, Bishop Clark asked each parish to appoint a contact person to work with the Knights and Father George Norton, director of telecommunications and public information officer.

"It is our hope that if sufficient support is evident, the cable company may be convinced to include EWTN in their schedule."

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