

Dr. John H. Dessauer; pioneer, 88

ROCHESTER — Many people knew that Dr. John H. Dessauer was a pioneer at Xerox Corporation — one of the first to recognize the potential of the xerographic process.

What many people didn't know is that he was also a noted Catholic layman. Dr. Dessauer died on Thursday, Aug. 12, 1993, at Strong Memorial Hospital. He was 88 years old.

Unlike some modern scientists, Dr. Dessauer never saw a conflict between what his vocation revealed and what his Catholic faith claimed, according to Father Charles J. Latus, pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Church, 26 Mendon-Ionia Road, Mendon.

At Dr. Dessauer's Mass of Christian Burial on Aug. 16, Father Latus, the celebrant, read from a booklet Dr. Dessauer wrote for his family titled, *Why Scientists Believe in God*.

It read, in part:

"Every new scientific discovery, every new understanding of nature's great wonders, reveals more brightly the handiwork of an intelligent Creator."

Dr. Dessauer guided Xerox in translating scientific theory into practical production. In 1945, he read an article in *Radio News* about a process then called electro-photography, invented by Chester F. Carlson and then under development by the Battelle Memorial Institute. Dr. Dessauer told a vice-president at Haloid that he was en-

thusiastic about the process' possibilities, and by 1947, the company had acquired rights to its use.

Dr. Dessauer organized the Haloid Company's research effort that became Xerox Corporation Research and Engineering Division of which he was named executive vice-president in 1959.

Dr. Dessauer was instrumental in the planning, building and equipping of the first multi-million dollar research facilities in Webster and was in the forefront of advances made by the firm. He was awarded xerographic and photographic patents, and authored many articles on both areas.

In January, 1966, he became vice-chairman of the board of directors and executive vice-president in charge of the Research and Advanced Engineering Division of Xerox Corporation until he retired from active management in June, 1970.

Dr. Dessauer was born in Aschaffenburg, Germany. After receiving his early education there, he went to Albertus Magnus University in Freiberg for liberal-arts studies. He then took up chemical engineering at Munich's Institute of Technology where he obtained the equivalent of a bachelor of science degree.

He received his master's and doctorate degrees in engineering sciences at the Institute of Technology in Aachen.

Dr. Dessauer emigrated to the United States in 1929. He first joined the research department and later the photographic paper manufacturing department of Agfa Anasco Company in Binghamton. He became associated with the Rectigraph Company in 1935 shortly before Haloid Company purchased the firm.

A member of the National Academy of Engineering and a counselor of the academy, Dr. Dessauer also served as a trustee of Fordham University and on various boards at Harvard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of Rochester. He also served on a number of federal committees, including the U.S. Department of Commerce Panel on Invention and Innovation.

In addition to several other trustee roles and prestigious memberships, Dr. Dessauer was a trustee of Catholic Charities, Rochester, and the Men's Advisory Board at St. Mary's Hospital. In May 1963, LeMoyne College in Syracuse awarded him an honorary doctor of letters degree which cited his "contributions to the field of science and engineering and his continuing good example as a Christian person."

He is survived by his wife, Margaret; three children: Thomas, and Margot (Norton) of Rochester, and John of Cape Cod; two brothers, Guido and Joseph Dessauer of Germany; a sister, Bertl Veit; and 13 grandchildren.

— Rob Cullivan

James H. Gleason; active in politics

LIMA — James H. Gleason, a longtime political activist in Livingston and Monroe Counties, and an active Catholic layman, died on July 29, 1993. He was 82 years old.



Born in Lima, Mr. Gleason was elected town supervisor 11 times from 1940-61. He also served as representative on the Livingston County Board of Supervisors and as Democrat Committeeman for Livingston County. After moving to Monroe County in 1967, he was a candidate for the Monroe County Legislature in 1972.

A 1934 graduate of the University of Notre Dame, Mr. Gleason was a member of Knute Rockne's last freshman football team. He was an active alumnus and was chosen "Notre Dame Man of the Year" by the Rochester Alumni Chapter in 1954.

His many activities as a Catholic layman included the Knights of Columbus, the Notre Dame Alumni Club, the Rochester Laymen's Retreat League and the Nocturnal Adoration Society.

Mr. Gleason also worked for the Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Company as a life underwriter and registered representative for more than 40 years. He was a founding member and the first president of the Lima Rotary Club; a volunteer Lima firefighter; and vice-president of the Board of Trustees of the Lima Public Library. He also served on the Board of Visitors of the State School at Industry in Rush under New York State Governor Averill Harriman.

Mr. Gleason is survived by his wife, Loretta O'Connell Gleason; his children and their spouses: Judith and John Stonehill, and Wendy Gleason of New York City; Joan and Joseph Panus of Victor; and James and Mary Fran Gleason of Oak Park, Ill.; eight grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

He was pre-deceased by his first wife, Dorothea Busch Gleason, who died in 1971.

Mr. Gleason's nephew, Father Frederick Bush, celebrated a Mass of Resurrection on Aug. 2 at St. Rose Church, 1985 Lake Ave. Interment took place at St. Rose Cemetery in Lima.

— Rob Cullivan

St. Mark's

Continued from page 5 — a solid foundation."

- A baptismal font, which has a mahogany base and a granite capstone and cascade. The font can accommodate both adult and infant immersion baptisms. Healy included an elevated section for infant immersion with the water flowing from an upper basin into a larger pool below.

- An elaborately carved ambo designed by Otis and used for holding sacramental oils. The ambo is clothed by a climbing olive branch wood carving.

- A mobile ambo or lectern that can be lowered and raised depending on the lector's height.

The second phase of the building project will convert the old church into six religious-education classrooms. It will also create office and storage space. Construction dates for the second phase have not been set as of yet.

— Rob Cullivan

Sister Cyril Smelt, SSJ, served as teacher and administrator for nearly 40 years; 78

PITTSFORD — Sister Cyril Smelt, SSJ, who served as a teacher and administrator in diocesan Catholic schools for nearly four decades, died on Sunday, July 25, 1993, at the Sisters of St. Joseph Convent Infirmary, 4095 East Ave. She was 78.

A Rochester native, Sister Cyril was a graduate of Nazareth Academy and Nazareth College of Rochester. She also attended Boston University, Cornell University and the University of Rochester.

Among the schools at which Sister Cyril served were: Immaculate Conception (eight years), Blessed Sacrament (11 years) and Holy Rosary (seven years), all of Rochester. She also spent two years at Brighton's Our Lady of Lourdes School as well as two years as principal of St. Pius X School in Chili.

In addition, Sister Cyril was diocesan supervisor for inner-city schools from 1965-70 and diocesan assistant superintendent for instruction from 1970-74. She retired to the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in 1977. She moved to the order's infirmary in 1990.

A Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Cyril was celebrated on Tuesday, July 27, in the motherhouse chapel. Principal celebrant was Father Richard A. Hart. Monsignor William H. Shannon and Fathers John S. Hayes, Joseph D. Donovan, Donald J. Curtiss and Eugene R. Weis assisted.

Sister Cyril is survived by two sisters-in-law, Jean (Thomas) Smelt and Joan (Robert) Smelt; nieces, nephews, a cousin and the members of the Sisters of St. Joseph congregation.

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