

# Advertisers' Puzzle

Winners from the March 2, Advertisers' Puzzle were Milton Bojdak, Fairport and Margaret Wachner, Webster.

Some words in the puzzle included Lamplighter, Logos, Dominics, Nazareth, Lovasik, Cinellis, Fish, Blessed, Rosary, Zamaria, Back, Sheen, Helen, Steak, Catholic, Holiday, Import, Mary, Hope and Renewal

## MISSION NEWS



**L**ord, help me this Lent to stand by the cross of Your suffering poor in the Missions. With my prayers and my sacrifices, let me reach to them and tell them: "You are not alone. You are my sister, my brother. And I am with you."

This Lent, won't you "stand by" the suffering poor of the Missions... in Rwanda, in Sudan, in war-torn Liberia? Through your prayers and sacrifices, offered through the Propagation of the Faith, you can be with them. Won't you help those who serve the poor of the Missions today?



The Society for **THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH**  
Fr. Robert C. Bradler, Diocesan Director Attn: Dept C.  
Diocese of Rochester  
1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, NY 14624

\$40 ...\$1 for each day of Lent

\$100  \$50  \$25  \$10  \$\_\_\_\_\_ (other)

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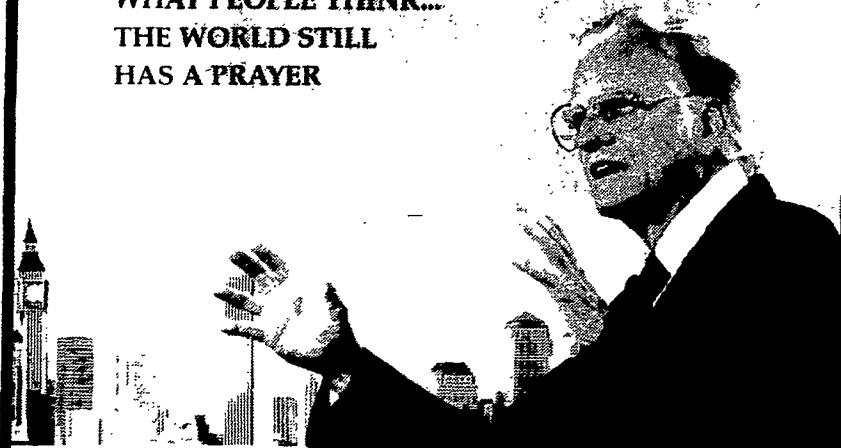
Please remember **The Society for the Propagation of the Faith** when writing or changing your Will. #344 3/16/95

## GLOBAL MISSION WITH BILLY GRAHAM MISSION WITHOUT WALLS

Experience a unique television event that takes you around the world in video segments from Billy Graham's historic Global Mission.

This special one-hour telecast will include on-location interviews with San Antonio Spurs star, **David Robinson** and Gospel Music Female Vocalist of the Year, **Twila Paris**.

**CONTRARY TO WHAT PEOPLE THINK... THE WORLD STILL HAS A PRAYER**



THURSDAY • MARCH 23  
9 PM • WOKR/13

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## Irish

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eminent local horticulturist. More recently, in 1956, Sister St. Mark McMahon, SSJ, (1899-1982) launched the remarkable School of the Holy Childhood for children with special needs.

A prominent lay philanthropist was Marie Curran Wilson (1911-1995). The widow of the late Joseph C. Wilson, former head of the Xerox Corporation, she continued his benefactions as chairman of the board of the Marie C. and Joseph C. Wilson Foundation.

Many Rochester Irishwomen have been called by their talents into fields other than public charity, such as education, business, medicine, law and government, and the arts.

There have been schoolteachers galore, a large number of them women religious. One thinks, for instance, of Sister Teresa Marie O'Connor, SSJ, (1873-1952), the first dean of Nazareth College of Rochester, and of Sister M. Francesca Connor, RSM, (1888-1970), the first principal of Our Lady of Mercy High School in Brighton.

Countless women of Irish descent have staffed our public schools. An outstanding example was Mary A. Sheehan (1892-1980), who was the first woman to be appointed principal of a Rochester high school (the FORMER? Monroe High School). She was also an ardent suffragette and served as president of the New York State United Teachers' union.

An educator at the statewide level was Helen Blackburn Power (1904-1995), who was long associated with Rochester's Blessed Sacrament Parish and a trustee of Nazareth College in Pittsford. Described as a "history maker" in local volunteerism, she served for 12 years as a member of the New York State Board of Regents. Many awards, including honorary doctorates from six colleges and universities in her Regents district, testify to her dedicated public service.

Women moved rather more slowly into the business world, but there were several local Irishwomen early engaged in executive positions. Cora McMullen McParlin (1859-1935) was a ranking official of the Ladies' Catholic Benevolent Association, a large national insurance organization. Kate Gleason (1865-1933) long served as secretary of the Gleason Works.

Julia Cox, a native of Ireland (d. 1915), was president of the Patrick Cox Shoe Manufacturing Company, one of the city's larger shoemaking firms. And who can forget Veronica Maher (1901-1981), who won national praise as director of the Rochester Red Cross during the demanding years of World War II?

Women interested in the medical arts first turned to nursing. One distinguished example was Catherine C. Brophy (1908-1982). Majoring in community health care, she was the first member recruited in 1948 for the public health nursing faculty of the University of Rochester. After 13 years of teaching at the UR, she was asked by the federal government to promote nursing projects in foreign countries. Her duties took her to South Vietnam, India and Ethiopia.

The legal profession also beckoned to some Rochester women of Irish antecedents. Margaret Coyne Klem (1896-1985) was admitted to the Monroe County Bar in 1924. Her real career, however, was in public health economics, in which she achieved nationwide recognition.

Honora A. Miller (1899-1979) was admitted to the county bar in 1925. After years of service in the City of Rochester's legal department, she was appointed corporation counsel in 1952 — one of the first two women to hold that position in a major American city (the other being her contemporary, Pittsburgh's Anna Alpern).

Today, women in public elective office are a commonplace. A district pioneer in political service was Margot Bassett Finigan (1906-1989). She was the first woman elected to the Monroe County Board of Supervisors (1960). Although she lost her bid, she was also the first woman to run for the City Council (1965).

Local Irishwomen have achieved some note in the liberal arts and the fine arts. Rochester-born Katherine C. Conway (1852-1927) was editor of the *Boston Republic* from 1908-26. Mary Boylan (1914-84) made a name for herself in New York and Hollywood as a character actress. Blanche Jennings Thompson (1887-1983) chaired the English department at Rochester's Benjamin Franklin High School for 19 years, while also writing a score of books for children.

Another writer of popular children's books was Esther Burns Wilkin (1902-85), often in collaboration with her sister, Eloise.

Eloise Burns Wilkin (1904-87), artist and civil rights activist, illustrated Esther's and numerous other books, mostly for young people. Some of these publications were reissued in Hebrew, Japanese, Italian, and Scandinavian editions.

Eloise also had a knack for designing dolls. One doll on display at New York City's F.A.O. Schwartz in 1960 caught the eye of Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev, who bought a baker's dozen of them.

Another Rochester artist who deserves mention is Kathleen McEnery Cunningham (1885-1951). An able portraitist, she was a pupil of Robert Henri, and a co-exhibitor with him, George Bellows, and other "radicals" in the epochal New York Armory Exhibition of 1914.

Were you surprised, by the way, to read before of an "Irish" woman attorney with the surname Klem — a name famous in the annals of Rochester's German community? Naturally, the children of Erin's emigrants have intermarried with Americans of other stocks. Even Limerick-born Rochesterian Catherine T. Wheelwright (1856-1932) was first wedded (in New Jersey) to a Spanish artist, Juan Vivion De Valera. Kate's and Vivion's son, Eamon de Valera (1892-1975), grew up to be premier and president of the Irish Republic.

Irish "Yanks" of Rochester have thus become Americanized (perhaps too much so), but they have surely passed down to posterity some Gaelic traits.

And what are the basic traits of Ireland's sons and daughters? Call them mercurial if you like, but they correspond not at all to the demeaning stereotypes of "Paddy" and "Biddy," caricatures borrowed from the British and elaborated by earlier Anglo-Americans. (Historian Dale T. Knobel studies this skew in his book, "Paddy and the Republic.")

Today the "Paddy" pigeonholing has lost most of its bitterness. Yet to many non-Irish Americans, the noun "Irish" still suggests the "stage" Irishman with his clutch of sentimental Tin Pan Alley ballads. The sons and daughters of Erin are far deeper and more complex than their "Hallmark card" image implies.

Strabo, the famous Roman geographer, came closer to the truth 2,000 years ago when he described these paradoxical Celts. They are, he said, "high spirited and quick to battle," although at the same time "easily led by those who desire to outwit them." But they are "otherwise straightforward," and "if won over by gentle persuasion ... willingly devote their energies to useful pursuits."

Rochester's Irish immigrants, women and men alike, became valuable citizens by the route of "gentle persuasion." May those who share their blood continue to pass on to future generations their faith, their idealism, and their valor.

Father Robert F. McNamara, diocesan historian, resides at St. Thomas the Apostle rectory in Irondequoit.