



The Diocese of Rochester  
50 Chestnut Street  
Rochester, New York

Office of the Vicar General

July 22, 1959.

Reverend dear Father:

His Excellency, Bishop Kearney, has commissioned Father Robert McNamara to write the history of the Diocese of Rochester. Father McNamara would like to publish this history shortly before the Centenary of the diocese is celebrated in 1968.

This is a mammoth undertaking. Father McNamara has already done much research in the archives of this and other dioceses; much more remains to be done. Since the history of the individual parishes will constitute the major part of the work, it is obvious that the author cannot be successful in this project without the whole-hearted support of his fellow-diocesans - that means all of us.

I realize that your parish schedule demands most of your time, especially during the school year. About the only respite you have is during the summer. Could you use some of your leisure hours in gathering data for the enclosed questionnaire during the coming month and a half?

The questionnaire is based on forms sent out by other dioceses in similar projects. At first sight, it seems rather extensive. Father McNamara understands that it may be impossible to answer certain questions; others may be answered only partially. He would take it, however, as a personal favor, if you would endeavor to answer the questions as completely as possible. He requests also that you follow the instructions heading the questionnaire.

The original should be mailed to Father Robert F. McNamara, 2260 Lake Avenue, Rochester 12, by Tuesday, September 15. The copy is to be retained in your parish files. If you have a mission, please make a separate reply for that church, as the historical sketches will be filed according to congregations.

Thanking you in the name of His Excellency, Bishop Kearney, and Father McNamara for your cooperation, and with cordial personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Lawrence B. Casey

Auxiliary Bishop of Rochester

OUTLINE FOR PARISH HISTORICAL REPORTS, DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, 1959

N.B. Please answer the following questions on the history of your parish, to the best of your ability. Where the data are not available, or are of doubtful exactitude, kindly indicate this fact with a question mark. Replies should not be made on the questionnaire itself, but typed on separate sheets of standard-size typewriting paper, using only one side. NUMBER the paragraphs of your reply consecutively, according to the numbers of the queries themselves.

These replies are to be preserved in the diocesan records. The more exact they are, therefore, the greater will be their value.

I. TITLE AND DATE OF ORIGIN OF PARISH

1. Full, official title of parish; street, address, town.
2. Date of establishment as a mission, if so established at first. ✓
3. Date of incorporation, and names of incorporating trustees.
4. Date of establishment as a parish or quasi-parish, if never a mission.

II. TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

5. From what parish or parishes was your parish originally cut off?
6. Name any missions ever connected with your parish, and give dates of their attachment and detachment. ✓
7. Which of these missions is still connected with the parish?

III. CHURCH PROPERTY

8. Describe the Catholic beginnings of your parish: a. time of arrival, principal national origins, general types of employment of parish pioneers; b. date, building, celebrant of the first Holy Mass; etc. ✓
9. What was the location and original cost of the first church property? When was the first church built, of what material and size was it, how much did it cost, and who were its architects and/or builders? Under what priest was it built? If ever enlarged, when did this take place, to what extent, and under what pastor? If it has been replaced by successive churches, when were they built, at what cost, and under what pastor?
10. Briefly describe, with dates, important parish historical events: e.g., cornerstone-laying; dedication; unique events connected with it, secular or religious; any unusual sidelights, etc.
11. Give the location and date of acquisition of the first rectory; the date of any major additions thereto; the date and location of any subsequent rectories, with the name of the pastors responsible. ✓
12. Does the parish own any other property besides church, rectory, convent, school and cemetery? If so, what and where are these, who acquired or built them, when, and for what purpose?

IV. CATHOLIC POPULATION

13. Give the number of Catholics in your parish (exclusive of those in your missions). What percentage do they represent of the total population within your parish boundaries? ✓

- 14. What was the original total population of your parish? If there has been a considerable growth or decline from this original total, during what era did it occur, and what were its causes? *no comment*
- 15. If any groups of national origins different from those of your parish pioneers have since immigrated into your parish, who are they, at what epoch did they enter, and what percentage, roughly, do they constitute of your present parishioners? *no comment*
- 16. If you have any non-white parishioners, to what race do they belong, and what is their number? How many of these attend your parish school? *no comment*
- 17. Outstanding parishioners. Please name any outstanding lay pioneers associated with your parish, and indicate their contribution. Also any parishioners of a later date, men or women who have achieved note or even notoriety on a state-wide, nation-wide, or international basis.
- 18. Please indicate with dates any extraordinary events connected with your parish or parishioners: e.g. disasters; outbursts of bigotry; troubles with early trustees; notable converts; notable visitors; notable benefactors; unusual human-interest stories; wartime events; major labor troubles, etc., etc.

V. PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS AND CATECHETICAL CENTERS

- 19. Some of our parish schools were preceded by, or sprang from, pioneer parish schools taught by the pastor or lay teachers. If this was true in your parish, please describe the undertaking briefly and state the period in which it functioned. *no comment*
- 20. If you now have a parish school and/or catechetical center, when was it opened, on what site and in what type building, and with what staff?
- 21. Please give the date and extent of any additions to this original building, and the name of the pastor responsible. Also the date and a brief description of any subsequent school houses, and of any major additions thereto, again naming the responsible pastor.
- 22. Did your parish school ever have a ninth or tenth grade or a highschool department? If so, when? *no*
- 23. What was the student population when your parish school first opened? What is its present student population? *no comment*
- 24. On what site and of what building material was the first parish convent constructed, and during what years was it in use? Please give the date, architect, and pastor, and describe the extent of, any addition to the original convent, or any new convent subsequently built.

VI. PARISH CEMETERY

- 25. If your parish has a cemetery, state its official name, location, date of organization, original area, and the area and date of acquisition of subsequent acreage. (If you have no cemetery, where are your deceased parishioners buried?) *no comment*
- 26. How is your cemetery organized: membership association, private association, special corporation, etc.?

- 27. If a special corporation, please give date of incorporation and names of original incorporators. *No comment*
- 28. Where were your parishioners buried before this cemetery was acquired? *No comment*
- 29. On what date did the first burial take place in your cemetery; and what is the average number of burials per year? *No comment*
- 30. Mention any notable events connected with the cemetery, as, e.g., difficulties; opposition to church burial laws, etc. *No comment*

VII. HISTORICAL RECORDS

- 31. State the number of baptisms, first Communion, confirmations, marriages, and deaths recorded in your parish records from the beginning of those records to the present.
- 32. What other sources of parish or diocesan history do your parish files possess beyond those required by canon law: , e.g. diaries of pastors; files of announcement books or bulletins; pastoral letters and circulars of bishops (what bishops?); parish scrapbooks or collections of newspaper clippings; census records; parish notitiae, etc.?
- 33. Do you possess any pictorial records (photos, paintings, drawings) of the following: pastors and assistants; parochial school teachers; parochial school children (groups or classes); the building in which the first Mass was celebrated; the first temporary church or church and other subsequent pictures of the parish plant; pictures of important or typical parish events, etc., etc.?
- 34. Has your parish ever issued any books, booklets, or published articles, on the parish history; and do you have these on file? Do your archives contain any unpublished manuscripts dealing with the same subject?
- 35. Upon what sources in addition to the official parish records and the items mentioned in #34 have you based your answers to the queries of this questionnaire? *None*

VIII. PERSONNEL

- 36. Please list all pastors and administrators of your parish, with the inclusive dates of their terms of office. Please mention any outstanding facts about their lives before, during, or after their pastorate in your present parish.
- 37. Please list all assistant pastors, with inclusive dates of their service in your parish. Mention also any outstanding facts about their lives, before, during, or after their terms of service there.
- 38. Please list, with their surnames, all sisters who have been principals in your parish school, with the dates of their terms of office. Note also anything outstanding about these sisters while there or at other periods of their lives. *None*
- 39. Please list, with dates of ordination, all parish priestly vocations; with date of profession, all parish vocations to brotherhoods; with date of reception, and Christian and family names, all vocations to sisterhoods. If any one of these later on became outstanding, please state the nature of their distinction.
- 40. Please list any parishioners who distinguished themselves or gave their lives in the armed forces of : the Civil War; the Spanish-American War; World War I; the Korean War; in other engagements of the armed forces, except World War II *No comment*



THE PARISH HISTORICAL REPORT

JULY 31, 1959

I. TITLE AND DATE OF ORIGIN OF PARISH

1. The Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel  
75 Ernestine Street  
Rochester 19, New York
2. (?)
3. The parish was canonically erected and incorporated July 26, 1928.  
The incorporating trustees were:  
    Mr. James H. Ryan  
    Mr. Elmer A. Biesenbach.
4. The parish was canonically erected July 26, 1928.

II. TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

5. The parish was originally cut off from St. Monica's Parish and St. Augustine's Parish.
6. (?)
7. There are no missions at this time.

III. CHURCH PROPERTY

8. Father Edward T. Meagher took over as the first pastor of the parish on August 1, 1928. Originally the parish consisted of people of Irish and German descent, i.e. for the most part. The original church was a temporary wooden structure seating about 500. The construction was begun on September 17, 1928 and the church was completed on October 6, 1928. Mr. Daniel J. Meagher was the contractor. The formal opening of the church was on October 7, 1928 when the Most Rev. Thomas F. Hickey celebrated a Pontifical High Mass and preached the sermon.
9. Location of the church property: Corner of Genesee Park Blvd. and Brooks Avenue.  
Original cost of the church property: \$62,500  
Construction on the new church was begun on September 17, 1928, and was completed on October 6, 1928. The church is a temporary wooden structure seating about 500. The church cost \$25,000. Mr. Daniel J. Meagher was the contractor. The church was built under the pastorate of Rev. Edward T. Meagher. The church was repaired, decorated, and improved on April 6, 1949 under the pastorate of Rev. Leo V. Smith, the contractor being Mr. Daniel J. Meagher, and the architect, Mr. Edward Lorscheider.

10. (?)
11. The rectory, 75 Ernestine Street, is a wooden frame building acquired by Rev. Edward T. Meagher on April 6, 1928 at a cost of \$20,000. The rectory was enlarged under Rev. Leo V. Smith, Pastor, Mr. Daniel J. Meagher, contractor, and Mr. Edward Lorscheider, architect,
12. N o comment.

#### IV. CATHOLIC POPULATION

13. Number of Catholics in the parish: about 3,000 which is about 40% of the total parish population.
14. The original population was about 1800. Growth was due to larger families and Catholics buying homes in the area.
15. N o comment.
16. No comment.
17. For outstanding parishioners we list the Trustees and Auditors:  
Trustees:  
James H. Ryan, Elmer Biesenbach, Joseph J. Statt, Charles S. Langworthy, Charles H. Rohrer, T. Arthur Connor, Edwin L. Kress, Frank T. Curtin.  
Auditors:  
George F. McCleary, Fred La Palm, G. Raymond Ringwood, James A. Sullivan, George R. Powers, Lawrence S. McDonald.

#### V. PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS AND CATECHETICAL CENTERS

19. No comment.
20. The first classes were held in a brick farmhouse on the property, beginning November 10, 1928, under the direction of Sisters Assunta and Josina. (This farmhouse was also used as a community house for parish affairs.)
21. New Brick School: The excavation of the new collegiate Gothic School began on March 1, 1930 and Bishop O'Hern laid the corner stone July 20, 1930. The school was completed on September 15, 1930 at a cost of \$180,000. The first enrollment was about 300 pupils. Architect was Gordon and Kaelber and the contractor, Daniel J. Meagher, the pastor, Rev. Edward T. Meagher. An additional floor was added to this school by the pastor, Rev. Leo V. Smith on November 1, 1957. The contractor was Cooper and Craib and the architect, Edward Lorscheider. The cost of this new addition was \$250,000.
22. No.
23. School population when the school first opened: 300

The present enrollment: 560

24. Convent:

The property for the convent consisted of a large frame house which cost \$20,000. It was purchased in May, 1930. The sisters of the Order of St. Francis occupied the convent for the first time on September 3, 1930. The convent was enlarged in July and August 1931 by contractor Daniel J. Meagher and architect Gordon and Kaelber at a cost of \$11,700, under the pastorate of Rev. Edward T. Meagher.

VI. PARISH CEMETERY

25. through 30. - No comment.

VII. HISTORICAL RECORDS

31. Number of Baptisms: 2762

Number of First Communions: 1956

Number of Confirmations: 2034

Number of marriages: 826

Number of deaths: 801

32. Other sources of parish history:

Announcement books

Sunday bulletins

Circular with parish data which was used for the drive for the new addition to the school (1957).

33. Pictorial Records:

Graduation class pictures.

Circular for new addition to the school (1957).

Portraits of the pastors in the school.

34. Circular for the new addition to the school has information concerning the parish history.

35. None.

VIII. PERSONNEL

36. Pastors:

1) Rev. Edward T. Meagher - August 1, 1928 to November 25, 1946 (Day on which he died). He was a professor of Philosophy at St. Bernard's Seminary.

2) Rev. Leo V. Smith - December 13, 1946 to (He is still the resident pastor). He was pastor of St. Patrick's, Dansville, N.Y. from 1932 to 1935. He was Spiritual director of St. Bernard's Seminary from 1935 to 1946.

37. Assistants:

1) Rev. Hubert A. Bisky - 1930 to 1935. Pastor at Pen Yan, New York and St. Peter & Paul, Elmira, New York.

*OL of Good Counsel Parish*

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JULY 31, 1959

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The incorporating trustees were:  
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4. The parish was canonically erected July 26, 1928.

II. TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

5. The parish was originally cut off from St. Monica's Parish and St. Augustine's Parish.
6. (?) *any missions ever attached*
7. There are no missions at this time.

III. CHURCH PROPERTY

8. Father Edward T. Meagher took over as the first pastor of the parish on August 1, 1928. Originally the parish consisted of people of Irish and German descent, i.e. for the most part. The original church was a temporary wooden structure seating about 500. The construction was begun on September 17, 1928 and the church was completed on October 6, 1928. Mr. Daniel J. Meagher was the contractor. The formal opening of the church was on October 7, 1928 when the Most Rev. Thomas F. Hickey celebrated a Pontifical High Mass and preached the sermon.
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10. (?) *Important work*

11. The rectory, 75 Ernestine Street, is a wooden frame building acquired by Rev. Edward T. Meagher on April 6, 1928 at a cost of \$20,000. The rectory was enlarged under Rev. Leo V. Smith, Pastor, Mr. Daniel J. Meagher, contractor, and Mr. Edward Lorscheider, architect.

12. No comment. *[Am. property]*

#### IV. CATHOLIC POPULATION

13. Number of Catholics in the parish: about 3,000 which is about 40% of the total parish population.

14. The original population was about 1800. Growth was due to larger families and Catholics buying homes in the area.

15. No comment. *[Decreasing new natural growth]*

16. No comment. *[non-white]*

17. For outstanding parishioners we list the Trustees and Auditors:  
Trustees:  
James H. Ryan, Elmer Biesenbach, Joseph J. Statt, Charles S. Langworthy, Charles H. Rohrer, T. Arthur Connor, Edwin L. Kress, Frank T. Curtin.  
Auditors:  
George F. McCleary, Fred La Palm, G. Raymond Ringwood, James A. Sullivan, George R. Powers, Lawrence S. McDonald.

#### V. PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS AND CATECHETICAL CENTERS

19. No comment. *[Provs. Catech. School?]*

20. The first classes were held in a brick farmhouse on the property, beginning November 10, 1928, under the direction of Sisters Assunta and Josina. (This farmhouse was also used as a community house for parish affairs.)

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22. No. *[9 to grade + HS dept]*

23. School population when the school first opened: 300

The present enrollment: 560

24. Convent:

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VI. PARISH CEMETERY *[none]*

25. through 30. - No comment.

VII. HISTORICAL RECORDS

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33. Pictorial Records:

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Portraits of the pastors in the school.

34. Circular for the new addition to the school has information concerning the parish history.

35. None. *[the survey report paper]*

VIII. PERSONNEL

36. Pastors:

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2) Rev. Leo V. Smith - December 13, 1946 to (He is still the resident pastor). He was pastor of St. Patrick's, Dansville, N.Y. from 1932 to 1935. He was Spiritual director of St. Bernard's Seminary from 1935 to 1946.

37. Assistants:

1) Rev. Hubert A. Bisky - 1930 to 1935. Pastor at Pen Yan, New York and St. Peter & Paul, Elmira, New York.

- 2) Rev. William J. Ayers - 1934 - 1935. Pastor of Aurora and Churchville.
- 3) Rev. J. Beecher Sullivan - 1935 to 1940. Pastor of St. Helen's - 1940 to present.
- 4) Rev. Gerald G. Kelly - 1938 to 1943. U.S. Navy Chaplain - 1944 to 1946. At present he is chaplain at the Veteran 's Hospital, Canandaigua, New York.
- 5) Rev. William F. Nolan - 1940 to 1944. U.S. Navy chaplain from 1944 to 1946 and during the Korean War. Chaplain presently at Bath Veterans' Hospital.
- 6) Rev. Raymond G. Heisel - 1943 to 1944. Chaplain in U.S. Army from 1944 to 1946 and again for one year (?). Pastor at Naples and at present pastor at St. John's, Elmira, New York.
- 7) Rev. Vincent P. Collins - 1944 to (?)
- 8) Rev. Clarence W. Gardner - 1944 to 1946. At present he is chaplain of Auburn prison.
- 9) Rev. Charles V. Boyle - 1944 to 1946. He has been Assistant Superintendent of Schools and Superintendent of Schools. He is a Rt. Rev. Msgr. and at present is pastor of St. John's, Rochester.
- 10) Rev. Edward J. Waters - 1946 to 1954. U.S. Army Chaplain from 1940 to 1946. Pastor of St. Aloysius, Auburn, New York from 1955 to 1958. He was pastor of St. Patrick's, Elmira, New York in August 1958 where he died August 24, 1958.
- 11) Rev. Joseph F. McCarthy - 1954 to 1957. Died March 21, 1957
- 12) Rev. Leo J. Matuszewski - 1946 to present. U.S. Army chaplain 1943 to 1946.
- 13) Rev. James A. Williams - 1957 to present.

38. Principals in the parish school:

- 1) Mother Winifred Cuff 1930-1936
- 2) Mother Solanus O'Donnell 1936-1942 and 1944-1950
- 3) Mother Teresita Quinn 1942-1944
- 4) Mother Carmel O'Neil 1950-1952
- 5) Mother Marie Concepta 1952-1958 (CONROY)
- 6) Mother Vincent Marie Lavery 1958 to present

39. Priests from Parish:

- 1) Rev. William Butler, T.O.R. 1953
- 2) Rev. Paul Cronin 1957
- 3) Rev. William Kraft 1951
- 4) Rev. Charles Langworthy 1945
- 5) Rev. Paul McCarthy, S.J. 1957
- 6) Rev. Robert Nelson, S.J. 1955
- 7) Rev. Raymond Ringwood 1957
- 8) Rev. Joseph Smith 1956

SISTERS from Parish: (Shirley)	Entered
1) Sirley Aumock, Order of St. Francis	1948
2) Carol Buchanan, " " " "	1959
3) Helen Carlin, Srs. of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul	1923 (prof. 1930)
4) Joan Dawson, Order of St. Francis	1959
5) Elizabeth Frascino, " " " "	1957
6) Carol Hoppe, " " " "	1957
7) Kathryn Judge, St. Joseph	1955
8) Mildred McCabe, " "	1924 (prof. 1929)
9) Gene Ringwood, Sisters of Mercy,	1941
10) Eunice Ringwood, " " "	1944
11) Mary Ann Ringwood, " " "	1948
12) Catherine Ryan, Order of St. Francis	1929
13) Joan Sullivan, " " " "	1954
14) Mary Catherine Sullivan, St. Joseph	1931
15) Marlene Weidenborner, O. of St. Francis	1955
16) Ann Zaenglein, St. Joseph	1955
17) Mary Margaret Zaenglein, IHM	1956

40. NO COMMENT [wir records]