

OUR CHURCHES.

ROCHESTER HAS NOW SEVENTEEN IN ALL.

Short History of the Foundation of Our Places of Devotion.

About the site, upon which the great cathedral stands, is clustered an interesting religious history, dating back almost to the War of 1812. The cathedral is the third house of worship to be constructed on that spot, which has been in possession of the church as far back as the religious records of Rochester extend. The most authentic history traces to the Rev. F. Kelly, who emigrated from New York early in the seventeenth century, the founding of the first Catholic community in Rochester. This community was wont to worship the first seven years wherever opportunity offered, and it was not until 1819 that a permanent place for them to congregate as established. By that time the community had rapidly increased, and it was necessary that a church be built. Rev. P. McCormack, who had arrived from New York in 1818, assisted Rev. Kelly in administering to the wants of the Catholic people, and it was through the combined efforts of the two that the first church was built upon the site where now stands the cathedral.

Rev. Michael McNamara was established as the first resident pastor in 1823, his mission at that time including all of Western New York from Syracuse to Lockport. Previous to his being made pastor the Reverends Kelly and McCormack had administered the faith to the people until 1823, though from then until 1825, when the Rev. McNamara was made pastor, there were no priests in Rochester.

Shortly after the completion of the second church, in 1832, its builder, Rev. McNamara, died and was buried under the high altar, his remains later being removed to the new Holy Sepulchre cemetery.

In 1832 Rev. J. J. McGerry was made pastor, remaining until 1833, when the Rev. Bernard O'Reilly succeeded him until 1834. Then the Rev. McGerry returned, remaining another year, after which the Rev. O'Reilly was again installed, retaining the pastorate until 1849, when he was appointed vicar-general of the diocese of Buffalo. During the administration of Rev. O'Reilly the Pinnacle cemetery, which was consecrated by Right Rev. Hughes of New York, was established. In the same year the girls' asylum was founded, which for some time was conducted under the supervision of the pastor, and which was later placed in the hands of Sisters of Charity from Emmetsburg. It was also during the pastorate of the

During the second pastorate of the Rev. William O'Brien, now the esteemed permanent rector of St. Patrick's, Lowell, Mass., the work on the present cathedral was inaugurated, and in 1861 a trench was dug about the old stone church and the work of erecting the great edifice commenced; but it was later postponed for some reason until 1864.

When the construction of the church was resumed in 1864 a temporary building was put up on the school lot at Frank and Brown streets. It was while the congregation was worshipping in this temporary church that Rochester was created a diocese, and Rev. B. J. McQuaid appointed bishop in 1868.

In 1898 the cathedral was yet in an incomplete condition and the bishop, desirous that the finishing touches be put on as rapidly as possible, called together the prominent members of the diocese and laid the matter before them. A unanimous vote to complete the building was

passed, the contracts were let and the work of extending the sanctuary and erecting the 180-foot spire and the chapel and large sacristies commenced.

Included in the cathedral property, but owned by the diocese, at large is the handsome episcopal palace on Frank street and St. Andrew's preparatory seminary for theological students. The cathedral also owns a fine parochial school building and a well-equipped parish hall.

1) St. Mary's church on South street was organized in 1834. Its present rector is V. Rev. James P. Kiernan, M. R. St. Mary's is one of the 'irremovable rectories' of the diocese—that is, its rector, when once appointed, cannot be removed except after trial before an ecclesiastical court. St. Mary's has a handsome property, including the church, parochial residence, parochial school and the convent of the Sisters of Mercy.

2) St. Joseph's church on Franklin street was organized by the Redemptorist fathers in 1835, and the present congregation was formed in 1841. The first school was opened in 1837 and the present parochial school building and parochial hall built in 1889.

3) SS. Peter and Paul's church on King street was organized in 1843. Its present rector is Rev. Francis H. Sinclair, D. D., who is also one of the diocesan consultors. The parish owns a handsome church, convent, parochial hall and other valuable property. It is one of the most thriving congregations in the city.

4) The French church of our Lady of Victory on pleasant street was organized in 1848. Its pastors have included Rt. Rev. H. DeRegge, present chancellor of the diocese and Very Rev. J. F. O'Hare, D. D., deceased. Its present rector is Rev. A. A. Notebaert, who

St. Boniface church on Grand street was organized in 1861 and is now one of the largest parishes in the city. The present church edifice was completed a few years ago and is one of the prettiest in the city. The present rector is Rev. Frederick R. Rauber.

The Church of the Holy Family on Jay street, was organized in 1864, and its first church edifice was erected on the site of the present one in August of that year. Rev. Nicholas Sorg was its first pastor, and under his direction the present church was built and dedicated by Bishop McQuaid soon after he assumed the episcopate. Rev. D. Laurenzia has been pastor since 1884. Under his charge the congregation has grown from 200 to 800 families, a debt of \$25,000 on the church has been paid off, a second school building has been erected at a cost of \$18,000, a convent at \$15,000, and residence for the sexton that cost \$20,000.

The Church of the Holy Redeemer was organized in 1867 and is one of the largest parishes in Rochester. Its present rector is Rev. F. C. Oberholzer, M. R.

St. Michael's parish was organized in 1874 but it is to-day the largest German Catholic parish in the city and owns the handsomest Catholic church in the city. It is located on North Clinton street and was dedicated in 1890 by Bishop McQuaid, assisted by Archbishop Zardetti, of Bucharest, and Bishop Wigger of Newark. Rev. M. J. Hargather is rector.

Rev. T. C. Murphy was the first pastor of the Church of the Holy Apostles on Lyell avenue. He is still rector. The congregation was organized in 1884 and the first church edifice dedicated by Bishop McQuaid in 1884. So rapidly has the parish grown that a new church was found necessary and Bishop McQuaid dedicated the edifice March 20th, 1897.

5) The parish of St. Francis Xavier on Bay street was organized in 1888 by Rev. M. J. Hargarter, now rector

of St. Michael's church. It has thriven and is now one of the most prosperous German Catholic churches in the city. Rev. Jos. Netzel is the present rector.

In 1888 Bishop McQuaid decided to divide St. Mary's parish and the parish of Corpus Christi was created. Rev. J. J. Leary was appointed its first rector and under his direction the present pretty church edifice on East Main street was built. Father Leary is still rector.

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In 1849 Rev. William O'Reilly was made pastor, succeeding Rev. Bernard O'Reilly. Rev. Michael O'Brien took possession in 1854, remaining until 1859, when the Rev. Martin Cavanaugh was made pastor in the place of Rev. O'Brien, who returned again in 1860, and continued as pastor until 1865.

Rev. James M. Early was installed as pastor in 1865, remaining to 1876, when the Very Rev. James F. O'Hare attained the pastorate, holding it until 1886, when Rev. J. P. Kiernan was appointed and acted until Jan., 1898, when he was sent to St. Mary's church to assume the permanent rectorship made vacant by the death of Rev. J. P. Stewart. Rev. Thomas Hickey is the present rector.

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The church of the Immaculate Conception on Edinburg street is one of the prettiest Catholic churches in Rochester. It was organized in 1848 and is one of the largest parishes in Rochester. Its parochial school is one of the largest in the city and its parish hall one of the best equipped. Rev. Augustine M. O'Neill is the rector and the assistant priests are Rev. Wm. Gleason and Rev. B. W. Gommeuginger.

St. Bridget's church on Gorham street is one of the old parishes. It was organized in 1854 and its present rector is Rev. Thomas A. Hendrick, so well known in connection with Humane society work. St. Bridget's has a

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When the bishop was in Europe on his decennial visit to the Pope, he arranged for two Polish students to come to the diocese of Rochester when they had completed their theological studies. Rev. Theophilus Szadinski was the first to finish and in 1888 the bishop assigned him to the task of organizing St. Stanislaus parish.

Holy Rosary parish was opened in 1888 as a mission to the Cathedral parish and was attended from that church. Rev. John G. VanNess is the first rector and he is building up the parish rapidly.

St. Monica's is the seventeenth Catholic church in Rochester. The corner stone was laid by Bishop McQuaid Sept. 18th. The parish was taken from the Immaculate Conception and SS. Peter and Paul's parishes and consists of a 150 families. The new church when finished will be of red brick, trimmed with Medina stone. The building is 96 x 45 feet and cost about \$12,000. A school will be attached to the church, containing four large airy rooms, properly ventilated. Rev. J. P. Brophy is the pastor.