

MANLEY CHURCH AN EARLY MISSION

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About 1881, land was secured at College Hill and a frame church erected, dedicated to St. Patrick by the Rev. Patrick S. Lynch of Plattsburgh. Two acres of land were secured for cemetery purposes.

The first resident priest was the Rev. F. J. Nugent, who came in September, 1894. He boarded with the Schlater family until a small frame residence was built. In July, 1902, the church was struck by lightning and destroyed.

On the return of the pastor, the Rev. John Hennessy, from a trip to Ireland, steps were taken to erect a new brick church in town. Five lots were bought, and the cornerstone was laid by Bishop Bonacum June 28, 1903. He dedicated the church, which cost about \$20,000, May 29, 1904, and confirmed 21 persons the same day. A two-story frame residence was erected adjacent to the church.

Before the church was built, Mass was celebrated at the home of Patrick Blessington and Frank Stander and in the section house at Louisville and a school house a mile west of the present cemetery.

Priests who attended the church or were pastors of it were Fathers Bobal, Lynch, Nugent, John Lawless, John Hennessy, William Higgins, Wattelle, Harte and J. J. Kaczmarek. The Rev. James Hennessy is the present pastor, with Elmwood as a mission.

The original Stander home is still standing. Mass was celebrated in it over sixty years ago.

Farmers predominate in the parish, although there are some workers from the Louisville cement plant and Weeping Water quarries. There are 48 families.

ANNIVERSARY DONATIONS

The following were contributors to the special collection for the 80th anniversary observance:

Contributed \$3.00—Dr. W. V. Ryan.
 Contributed \$2.00—Mrs. E. J. Richey, Francis Hetherington, John Bergman.
 Contributed \$1.00—Philip Horn, Mrs. C. Bintner, Mrs. Peter Claus, E. Fitzgerald, Frank Neugebauer, L. W. Lorenz, A. R. Case, George Jaeger, John Bajock, Mrs. E. J. Doody, Edward Stava, Dr. L. S. Pucelik, Frank Smith, William Halmes, Dan Reichstadt, M. Hausladen, Mrs. Anna Pittman, Mrs. Frank Molak, Mrs. Thrall, Francis Toman, Edward Kelly, Joseph Schlater, Frank Libershal, John M. Meisinger, John Libershal, John Cloidt, W. M. Woolcott, Frank Mullen, Edwin Schulhof, Mrs. J. C. Petersen, Miss Alice Rohren, W. M. Brink, E. A. Lorenz, Carl Ulrich, Richard Otterstein, Miss Nora Kennedy, F. I. Rea, Mrs. Penny, Mrs. E. Ulrich, Mrs. L. Freeman, Miss Margaret Scotten, Miss Genevieve Whelan, Mrs. M. D. Brown, Mrs. Elmer Webb, Mrs. Edgar Creamer.
 Contributed 50c—Mrs. Julius Pitz, Mrs. Phillip Born, Mrs. John Gochenour, Mrs. Helen Toman, John Tomas, J. Bierl, Kenneth McCarthy, Mrs. Lester Gaylord, Mrs.

Raymond Haith, Miss Eleanor O'Brien, Thomas Stava, O. M. Kintz, Mrs. Baltz Meisinger.

RT. REV. AGIUS CLASSMATE OF POPE

The Rt. Rev. George Agius was born in the island of Malta, Europe on January 10, 1873. He studied in the Seminary of Victoria, where he was ordained to the priesthood in 1905. He went to Rome in 1896 and frequented the Pope's University, when he became Doctor of Divinity and Doctor in Canon Law. It was at that time when he met the present Pope Plus XII with whom he was a classmate for four years.

Father Agius came to America in 1902 at the invitation of Bishop Bonacum, whose Secretary and Chancellor he was for ten years. He was in charge of Seward from 1912 to 1916, of Geneva from 1916 to 1927, and of Plattsburgh from 1927 to the present time. He was made Domestic Prelate of His Holiness in 1936 and Dean of the Plattsburgh Deanery in 1937.

HEALTHY CATHOLIC GROWTH IN DIOCESE

Monsignor George Agius, pastor of St. John's church in Plattsburgh, who wrote the history of the diocese under Bishop Bonacum, and who is familiar with the development of the diocese throughout the fifty years of its existence, was recently asked by Monsignor Helmann, editor of "The Register," Catholic publication, to write the concluding paragraph of an article by Monsignor Helmann tracing Catholic growth in the diocese under Bishop Kucera. Monsignor Agius wrote as follows:

"In these fifty years of its existence, the Diocese of Lincoln has reason to rejoice for God's having sent to it, according to the times, the right man to lead the people. First, he gave us Bishop Bonacum, who for almost a quarter of a century laid the diocese's foundations on a solid basis and traced, as it were, its future course of life. Other bishops followed him—Bishop Tihen, Bishop O'Reilly and Bishop Beckman—and continued his work. And then, when other times came—times not of prosperity but of depression and discouragement—God sent us another man according to Bishop Bonacum's own heart. This man is Bishop Kucera. Like Bishop Bonacum, he has put new life in the Diocese of Lincoln. Not unlike his first predecessor, he is a fearless leader, and he always has in view the best interests of religion.

"For that reason, he has used herculean efforts to keep what others had built, and it seems now possible that he will save what only a short time ago, because of the hard times, seemed almost irreparably lost. No wonder that today then the priests of the diocese are, as never before, united with their bishop. 'Dominus conservet eum et vivificet eum et beatum faciat eum in terra.'"

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