

## FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

By Photographer Fred Powers  
And Historian Arch Merrill

## St. Joseph's, Rush

A HISTORY-making century has gone by since the first Mass was said in Rush. The anniversary of that event will be observed Sept. 20 at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in the pleasant Monroe County village.

The history of St. Joseph's is interwoven with those of several other parishes in the area.

In 1864 the parish was founded by the Rev. Joseph O'Donoghue of Scottsville, who had charge of several churches. The first St. Joseph's Church was built and dedicated by Bishop John Timon of Buffalo in that Civil War year.

Until 1875 it was a branch of St. Agnes parish of Avon. From 1875 to 1936 it was a dual pastorate with the St. Paul of the Cross Church of Honeoye Falls.

Now St. Joseph's mothers the mission Church of the Good Shepherd in Henrietta.

The original small Rush church was replaced in 1881 by the present spacious white edifice of modified Gothic architecture, a frame structure with aluminum siding.

SINCE 1946 the pastor of St. Joseph's has been the Rev. George C. Vogt, one of three brothers in the priesthood. The others are Msgr. Joseph Vogt of Holy Redeemer Church and the Rev. Francis Vogt of St. Bridget's, both in Rochester.

The three brothers were brought up in the Holy Redeemer parish, of which their mother, Mrs. Clara Vogt, is a communicant.

The Rev. George Vogt, who also serves the Henrietta mission church, is a graduate of St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's Seminaries, with a post-graduate

degree from St. Bonaventure University.

He was an assistant pastor at Rochester's Holy Family Church (1927-30) and a Latin teacher at St. Andrew's Seminary (1930-39).

His predecessor at Rush was the Rev. Raymond Lynd (1936-46). The 46-year pastorate of the Rev. Martin J. Cluney (1890-1936) stands as the longest in parish annals.

The edifice was remodeled in 1903 and the bell was placed in the white tower.

The 1903 rededication rites, at which Bishop Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid officiated, exemplified the village's spirit of brotherhood. That Sunday the Protestant congregation gave up its services to join with that of St. Joseph's in the ceremony.

At the service two Sundays hence, marking the centennial of the 150-family parish, Bishop James E. Kearney will officiate. The church ceremony will be followed by a dinner.

A feature of that dinner will be the presentation of a historical playlet. And a well-known area musician, Ray Fagan, now in his 90's, will take part—as he did in a church celebration in 1914, a half century ago.



Rev. George C. Vogt

