

The Sunday announcements' book indicates a conscientious pastor deeply concerned with the spiritual and temporal welfare of his Parish. In May of 1931 he was made Pastor of St. Barnabas Church in Bellmore where he died in 1955.

Fr. David O'Donovan succeeded Father Ratigan, but he did not take charge of the Parish until July. Father Richard J. Gladney filled in for the time being and remained until August. Fr. O'Donovan was not a well man when he came to the Parish and served during the worst years of the depression. His frequent references to the Poor Box contributions in the Sunday announcements indicates his anxiety for the poor of the Parish which must have been numerous. In the early part of 1933, Fr. O'Donovan was absent from the Parish until after Easter of that year. Fr. Brian Murphy, a Passionist Father, was in charge. The last entry in the announcement book in Fr. O'Donovan's handwriting is dated Jan. 28, 1934, and his last appeal was for the poor.

Fr. O'Donovan's administration was in hard times. Parish income was very low, and expenses high. Judging from his appeals, parish support was a serious problem, and yet as much as he needed help, he never forgot others in need. Among announcements of late 1933, we read "We must not forget the poor at Christmas".

Fr. Donovan was made Pastor of St. Anne's Parish, Flushing, in January 1934. Ill health prevented him from carrying out all his plans. He had to entrust Parish administration to others. As we write these lines (1955) we have on our desk the announcement that Fr. O'Donovan passed away last Sunday, March 13, 1955. He died among the sons of the great Saint of the Poor, St. Francis of Assisi at Graymoor, N.Y. This seems most fitting for one who was so solicitous for the poor while he was pastor of St. Agnes.

We find Father O'Donovan as early as August 1931, planning to build a parochial school, but the hard times that had suddenly and unexpectedly fallen upon the nation prevented him from carrying out his plans. Let us not forget that such were his intentions when conditions were not quite so bad as later and when he was still in fairly good health.

It was not a very encouraging situation that the new Pastor, Father John King, faced when he took charge of St. Agnes Parish in February, 1935. The worst of the depression was over but it would yet be many years before the country would fully recover its former prosperity.

As we look over his accounts, we find Christmas and Easter collections less than half of what they had been before 1931. However, he calmly faced the changed circumstances and carefully guided and managed Parish matters until conditions became more normal. This came about very slowly. The Sunday announcements of that time best illustrate what conditions still were by the almost continual appeals for offerings for the poor box.

The spiritual side of the Parish, however, continued to be the service of the priests and a faithful response of the people. A mission was given

by a Passionist Father in April, 1938.

After a pastorate next longest to Father Connelly, seven years, Father King was sent to a city Parish. Perhaps we can best evaluate Father King's stay at St. Agnes by the fact that all during the seven years he was here his name is only twice absent from the Baptismal Register. Sunday after Sunday he was here to look after the spiritual needs of the people of St. Agnes'; surely continued fidelity of this sort is the mark of a good pastor

In February 1941, Fr. Vincent Short became Pastor. A few months later, World War II broke out for the U.S. While conditions were not financially as bad as amid the depression, the war did prevent any real expansion or extensive improvement of parish buildings. Neither men nor material were available.

The same diligent spiritual and material service, provided by former pastors, was supplied by Father Short. After a Pastorate of three and a half years, Fr. Short was made Pastor of St. Dominic's Parish in Oyster Bay (July 1944) (where there was a young handsome curate named Fr. James Casey). His Pastorate at St. Agnes was a quiet and steady build up of the Parish. He was able to add to the reserve fund of the Parish by the purchase of Government Bonds which matured in value to \$5,000 each.

In June 1943 Fr. Edward Kelle became Pastor of St. Agnes' Parish. Through suffering from the effects of a serious accident, Fr. Kelle zealously took up his work at Greenport, However the strain of attending to the Parish and the newly expanding hospital of the community was too much for him alone, and in October 1945, the first regular assistant was appointed to the Parish. This was Fr. Joseph Glueckert. Fr. Glueckert, indeed, proved an assistant to Fr. Kelle. His work in attending to the sick in the hospital alone was an apostolate in itself. We have been told that the hospital authorities even considered calling a new wing of the hospital after him as a mark of their appreciation for his faithful service. The Parish registers find Fr. Glueckert's name occurring more and more often as Fr. Kelle's health continue to deteriorate. This service continued under Fr. Keele's successor.

Christmas and Easter collections at this time (1945) indicate that the Parish became more prosperous. However, if we may judge from the many Sunday announcements during this period, the Parish intensified its spiritual life also. Everything was done to develop our traditional Catholic Devotions. Processions in honor of the Most Blessed Sacrament, the May Crowning of Our Lady's statue, devotions to the Sacred Heart, the Precious Blood, the Scapulars, the Souls in Purgatory; all these were earnestly preached and practiced.

It was during Fr. Kelle's pastorate that the outdoor shrine in honor of Our Lady was erected by the Catholic War Veterans. It was dedicated on September 8, 1946 in memory of the members of the parish who had fallen in both major wars. Outdoor statues were also erected in honor of St. Anthony and St. Theresa. Someone has well said that Our Blessed Lady stands at the entrance of town to bless and protect all who enter Greenport, and let us pray that she will protect those who leave it.

After a zealous pastorate of a little over three years, Father Kelle was made Pastor of St. Phillip's Church in Northport. The new Pastor was Fr. Edward O'Sullivan. Fr. Glueckert remained until the following February and since Fr. O'Sullivan was not well either, this was fortunate.

In February, 1949, Fr. John Carmody succeeded Fr. Glueckert as assistant and he succeeded with the same zealous dedication to Parish duties: administering the Sacraments, visiting the sick, etc. All now increasingly heavy because of the pastor's ill health. After less than 2 years, Fr. O'Sullivan was made pastor of St. Patrick's Church in Glen Cove. At the present writing (1954) he is still in poor health.