

# The Bulletin

Issued Monthly by  
ST. AGNES  
HOLY NAME SOCIETY

Vol. XX, No. 1 a



ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
NEW YORK

January 23, 1959

## Requiescat In Pace



Rt. Rev. Monsignor Peter Quealy, V.F.  
Ordained June 25, 1891

February 21, 1867

January 20, 1959

# St. Agnes Mourns The Passing of Monsignor Quealy

## All Parish Societies Participate

From the early hours of Tuesday morning, when the sad news of Monsignor Quealy's death descended like a pall on St. Agnes' Cathedral, its parishioners have rallied together around their beloved Bishop and priests and have used the weapon with which they are most familiar when a crisis comes, namely, Prayer.

Following is a chronological listing of the activities and services:

### Tuesday

2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.—Visitation by Parishioners in Rectory.

### Wednesday

a.m.—Remembrance at all Masses celebrated in Cathedral.

2:30 p.m.—Elementary School CYO Rosary in Cathedral. Visitation in Rectory.

3:00 p.m.—Boys and Girls High School Sodality Rosary in Cathedral. Visitation in Rectory.

4:00 p.m.—Solemn Procession escorted body from Rectory to Cathedral through Holy Name Honor Guard. Vespers of the Dead presided over by His Excellency Bishop Kellenberg.

5:00 p.m.—Cub Pack 163 Rosary and Visitation.

7:00 p.m.—Nocturnal Adoration Society Vigil until 10:00 p.m. Knights of Columbus Guard of Honor until 10 p.m.

### Thursday

a.m.—Remembrance at all Masses celebrated in Cathedral.

2:00 to 3:00 p.m.—Mothers Club Rosary and Visitation.

3:00 to 4:00 p.m.—Daughters of the Faith Rosary and Visitation.

4:30 p.m.—Block Rosary Groups. Rosary and Visitation.

5:00 p.m.—Cub Pack 333 — Rosary and Visitation; Don Bosco Club — Rosary and Visitation.

6:00 p.m.—Boy Scout Troop 163, Rosary and Visitation.

7:00 p.m.—Nocturnal Adoration Vigil until 10:00 p.m.

8:30 p.m.—Holy Name Society — Rosary and Visitation.

### Friday

10:30 a.m.—Divine Office of the Dead chanted by the Clergy. Most Reverend Walter P. Kellenberg presiding.

11:00 a.m.—Pontifical Mass of Requiem: celebrant, Most Reverend Walter P. Kellenberg; assistant priest, Very Reverend Monsignor Vincent J. Baldwin, V.G.; deacon, Rev. Virgil Power; sub-deacon, Rev. Celestine Murray; deacons of honor, Rev. Patrick J. McGrath and Rev. Michael J. O'Farrell; Masters of ceremonies, Rev. John R. McGann and Rev. Andrew P. Connolly.

The preacher of the eulogy will be Rt. Rev. William J. McKenna, P.A.

Interment in Holy Rood Cemetery.

Mass for the school children will be offered during the week of January 25th.

*Bishop's Residence*



*Rockville Centre, N. Y.*

January 20, 1959

BY the death of Msgr. Quealy the Diocese of Rockville Centre and more particularly the Cathedral Parish of St. Agnes has lost a truly exceptional and remarkable priest and pastor. During his 53 years as your Father in Christ he has earned and won the affectionate regard, respect, admiration and love of all the people of St. Agnes and of Rockville Centre. Not only has he seen the envious growth of this parish and village but he has been actively responsible for this growth of which we are justly proud.

In my lifetime I have met but few great men such as Msgr. Quealy. If true greatness lies in noble accomplishment that greatness was his outstanding attribute and characteristic. Msgr. Quealy should not be forgotten soon; he should live long in your memory and your prayers—in the memory and prayers of your children. As it is true that "by their fruits you should know them" so by his fruits you shall remember him. The great works which he was instrumental in starting, fostering and directing will, please God, endure and continue to bear fruit for the honor and glory of God, the salvation of souls and the perfection and prosperity of Holy Mother Church.

May his Divine Master reward him abundantly and grant him peaceful rest and eternal happiness.

Msgr. Quealy was a great man! Msgr. Quealy was a great priest of great faith, of great zeal, of great vision, of great courage. It was this faith, zeal, vision and courage that built the Cathedral of our new Diocese of Rockville Centre, our Schools, our Convent and Rectory—all of which will stand as living, vibrant, monuments to the memory of a great priest of God, a great man among men, a great shepherd of souls!

+ *Walter P. Kellenberg*

## Father Williams Writes . . .

*"Behold, a great priest, who, in his day, pleased God."*

**T**UESDAY, January 20, was for priests and people of Saint Agnes, the saddest day of the year. At 1:15 a.m., the Eternal High Priest took to Himself the soul of a great priest, Peter Quealy, devoted pastor, spiritual father and exemplary priest. After sixty-eight years of fruitful, priestly ministry, as priest, builder, and educator, his temporal life is at an end and he has entered into the Heavenly Mansion to receive the reward which Our Lord has promised to His faithful servants.

Faithful he was to the ideal of the Holy Priesthood and Priest he was to the innermost depths of his great heart. Saint Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, was also the great theologian of the Priesthood. He has this to say of the priestly character, "In every High Priest, in that he is taken from among men, is appointed as a representative of Men in the things that have to do with God, that he may offer gifts and sacrifices for sins as one who can be duly gentle with the ignorant and the erring since he, himself, is clothed with frailty for which reason, he must make offerings for sin not merely on behalf of the people but also for himself and none taketh to himself the honor but on who has been called by God as Aaron was."

First, a priest to be a priest, must be taken from among men, that is he must be separated, he must be consecrated, he must be invested somehow with the character of God. Himself, for he must approach the altar and represent God before the people. Such is his honor so lofty that no man may dare take it to himself. He must be called to it by God.

Secondly, a priest to be a priest, must be taken from among men, that is, he must not be different from other men: he must not be a stranger to them, but be identified with them, for it is on behalf of mankind that he climbs to the altar to represent mankind before God. Such is the lowliness of the priesthood. It is a lowliness so profound that no man would wish it for himself. To it also, he must be called by God.

The two qualities, then, that make the priest are loftiness and lowliness and they make him a man of contradiction. He has, in fact, two conflicting ideals to achieve—perfect divinity; he must identify himself with God in His holiness and perfect humanity; he must identify himself with man in his sinfulness. Set apart for the altar, he must plunge himself into the world; feel the weakness of the people, yet be their unfaltering strength; descend to the sinfulness that lurks in the human heart, yet ascend to the altar of God with unclouded mind and clean heart; live in Heaven and on Earth; belong to God and to men.

His whole life is lived "in between" because he is a mediator, that is, he must stand between two extremes and unite them to each other by uniting them in himself.

The priest, besides being a mediator, is an apostle. Christ never conferred any honor upon mankind comparable to the honor of carrying on His work. God, the Son, came down from Heaven for two great purposes—to honor His Father and to save souls. He did His work so splendidly that He could say, "Father, I have finished the work Thou gavest Me to do." Yet, as He went about that work, He paid men the astonishing compliment of associating them with Himself in His task. He gathered apostles; shared with them His power to forgive sins, to teach mankind the essential Truths of Faith, to repeat the Sacrifice of Calvary in the Sacrifice of the Mass, to bring the grace from Heaven upon a thirsting earth. This association of mankind in His Work, He made permanent through the establishment of His Church so that until the end of time, man will be permitted to work with Christ, in His Own special task.

Pre-eminently qualified as an Apostle of Christ was Monsignor Quealy. Monsignor was born in Carrigbarahane, County Waterford, Ireland, in 1867. He would have been ninety-two years of age next month. He attended the local primary school at Stradbally and Rockwell College in County Tipperary. His college and seminary training were received at Saint John's College in Waterford and completed at Mount Saint Mary's, Emmitsburg, where he was ordained in 1891. He would have been ordained sixty-eight years this year. His first assignment was to Saint John's Chapel in Brooklyn with Bishop Loughlin. He then served at Transfiguration, at Saint Charles Borromeo and at Saint Agnes in Greenport. In 1905, he came to this parish. His accomplishments as priest, as educator, and as builder have been monumental. These accomplishments are richly deserving of the rewards which Our Lord has promised to those who do His work.

What will be the reward of the great priest whom we bury today? Can we forget that he gave up everything that is held dear by the world to consecrate his life to the good of others? Through Baptism, he has created children of God and heirs of heaven, giving deed and title to all that God possesses. Can we forget the early catechism classes when his great stature predominated every room that he entered to question the little ones in preparation for First Holy Communion and how he asked God to keep them always pure and good, honest, and sincere. His priestly heart wept within him on that day of happiness because he knew from sad experience that some of his beloved children would drift away from the loving Jesus Whom they had received for the first time.

Thousands of hours he sat in that confessional up until his 80th year, listening to stories of ingratitude to God. How clever you thought to disguise your voice until at the end, to your consternation, he would say, "Anthony, will you bring the evening paper into the house on your way home?" Was it not because of his devotion to the confessional that the number of communicants here in the Cathedral numbered one hundred fifty thousand last last year.

He rejoiced with you on your wedding day and begged Almighty God to bless you abundantly, that your young happiness might last unto death and beyond. He fervently wished and prayed that you might be preserved from all the evil temptations and worldly notions that have wrecked so many homes. He felt like a proud father himself when your little ones were brought to him for Baptism.

When sadness and sorrow entered your hearts and homes you felt his kind and understanding sympathy and when misfortune came your way, his reassuring words and firm hand gave new strength and hope.

The thousands of children he baptized and provided a Catholic education and whose children are now enjoying the same benefits; the old priests and the homeless priests who always found a welcome and who were cared for by this great priest who was so conscious of the dignity of an "Alter Christus"; the children from so many poor families who were educated through the generosity, hidden as it was, of Monsignor; the widows and orphans who were cared for and sheltered through his sincere kindness and untiring efforts.

These are his monuments which shall carry his name and memory into legend. To the Divine Master Whom he served so well and to the tender care of Our Lady and the gentle St. Agnes we commend the great soul of Monsignor Peter Quealy, scholar, visionary and, first and foremost, priest of God.

# Expressions From Parish Societies and Schools

## Holy Name Society

Our Monsignor has left us! With joy singing in our hearts, we chant this refrain, for to a reward befitting such a leader has he gone.

Our Monsignor has left us! With thanksgiving in our hearts, we chant this refrain, thanksgiving to God for His Goodness in having permitted our leader to be with us for so many sanctifying and fruitful years.

Our Monsignor has left us! With sorrow in our hearts, we chant this refrain, sorrow only at our personal loss of a saintly priest of God and a great and gracious man.

Now, more than ever, will we know and feel and appreciate his leadership. For now his intercession for us can be direct, his guidance of us continuous. Now we have but to ask.

The Holy Name Society of St. Agnes Cathedral Parish, born of his sanctity, nurtured by his leadership, joins in the joyous and thankful and sorrowful refrain—our Monsignor has left us! May his soul rest in peace!

## High School

We, the faculty and student body of St. Agnes Cathedral High School grieve to-day at the loss of our beloved Monsignor. Unfortunately, many of us have not had the privilege and happiness of knowing Monsignor personally, since during the past years Monsignor's failing health prevented this intimate contact. However, his influence and interest were in evidence at all times. Surely we are the fortunate recipients of the benefits derived from the keen foresight of our dear Monsignor's brilliant mind. We now occupy this beautiful edifice in which boys and girls may receive the benefits of a Catholic secondary education.

Our High School has grown from a small register of 12 in 1919 to the present enrollment of 800 students from Rockville Centre and neighboring parishes.

Through the years of its growth from limited quarters in the elementary school building to the magnificent independent plant of today Monsignor's frequent visits to classrooms and his participation in school activities were an inspiration to both faculty and student body.

Those who knew Monsignor Quealy when he was enjoying good health express only the highest praise, admiration and affection for him. But countless others will know him in his works and will bless him for the fruit of the seed he planted and nurtured in this parish.

We, therefore, shall keep his memory ever before us in the only way he would now wish, that is in prayerful remembrance before God's altar.

May the soul of dear Monsignor Quealy rest in peace.

## Elementary School

Monsignor Peter Quealy, V.F., was a man thoroughly and vitally interested in the education of the children of St. Agnes Elementary School. He saw that school grow from a tiny spark of a dream to a multi-building structure, housing souls dear to his heart. In his active years he visited the classrooms and encouraged the children to study. Report card day was often like Judgment Day for those who failed to come up to the mark in religion, spelling and deportment. Honor students were given special congratulatory remarks and an incentive to high scholarship. How he exulted in the honors accorded to St. Agnes children when awarded scholarships!

School assemblies were his favorite ground for bringing out the best in children and for earning their reverence and respect when at times he quoted poetry learned in his own childhood. His visits to the classrooms were looked forward to with anticipation; for, it was not below his dignity to take part in language games in the lower grades. He impressed the older boys and girls with their obligation to give good example by exemplary Catholic conduct. "You carry St. Agnes on your shoulder," was his admonition.

First Communion Day was for Monsignor Quealy a day of deep joy and exultation; for he always felt it a privilege to feed the young members of his flock with the Body and Blood of Christ for the first time.

May the numerous souls he has guided through the hallowed halls of St. Agnes Elementary School join with him now in praising the God he has loved and served so well.

## Fathers Club

The Fathers Club is because Monsignor was. His foresight in providing the high school, his vision in building a gymnasium to attract the boys, and his generosity in providing for their welfare gave us the reason to form a Fathers Club. Its founder's purpose was to help St. Agnes Academic High School in the education of our sons. Had Monsignor not been here there would have been no need for our organization.

He was kindly in his attitude toward the first suggestions of the founders, for he seemed anxious to bring our young men back to St. Agnes. He believed in the benefits of an athletic program, because he had been an athlete in his younger days.

It was unfortunate that this young organization did not have the benefit of his wisdom for very long, as God saw fit to rest him from his many years of labor.

## Daughters of the Faith

The Daughters of the Faith express their tribute to Monsignor Quealy through a medium that he loved—poetry.

We humbly hope that our verse will help to express the deep feeling we have for this wonderful man of God—

### MONSIGNOR QUEALY

*"He has fallen asleep through Jesus"  
This priest from the "dear old sod."  
He followed in the steps of his Maker  
And offered his life for God.  
\* Isn't it a strange coincidence that  
Two who work straight from the heart,  
Would be reunited in heaven  
Three years, but for a day, apart?  
His mind was that of a scholar,  
His manner gentle and kind  
His first interest was his parishioners  
Always bear that in mind!  
His patroness, St. Agnes, watched over  
him,  
He was in her special care.  
He came from one of her parishes,  
To our village, her dear name to share.  
That he further enhanced her glory,  
Will go down to his lasting fame.  
He joined her in time for her feast day.  
What a welcome he'll get, what  
acclaim!  
He had such foresight and vision!  
And lived to achieve his goal.  
Our parish is his monument!  
May we always remember his soul!*

\* Our beloved Father Thomas Shoeran died on January 19, 1956.

## Mothers Club

The Mothers Club of St. Agnes has lost a truly great friend—one who gave the first stimulus to our organization.

As a great exponent of Catholic education the St. Agnes Schools are a symbol of Monsignor Quealy's tremendous foresight and love of children.

Monsignor Quealy served God faithfully with no reward except the reward that comes to one who gives rather than receives.

There was a simplicity and integrity about everything Monsignor did, which gave an incandescence all its own. This gleam will serve as an inspiring beacon to those of us who follow.

## Knights of Columbus

The loss of our beloved pastor, Rt. Rev. Peter Quealy, V. F. takes from our midst a very holy man whose life here in Rockville Centre was a remarkable example to the hierarchy, fellow priests and his parishioners of what can be done by a man with foresight and courage; qualities God gave him abundantly.

St. Agnes Council, Knights of Columbus, like other parish societies, benefited often by the wisdom of his decisions. Seldom in this country or anywhere else has a devoted priest left his parishioners and those in generations to come, such a

(Continued on Page 7)

## The Legend of Msgr. Quealy

YESTERDAY, an important part of St. Agnes Parish went to Heaven, and the legend of Peter Quealy—priest, parish-founder, builder, wise pastor, beloved monsignor—became a part of our history.

Quietly, almost in total reverent silence, this great and princely soul laid down his burden of 92 fruitful years in his Master's service, and, with typical, dignified step, crossed the last fragile threshold from the Church militant which he had served so long and so well, to the Church triumphant, and the welcoming arms of Christ.

Amid the sorrow and the tears, the significance of his passing can really only be evaluated by his grieving flock in proportion to their individual experiences as their lives met his.

Bereft of contemporaries—keen mind dimmed by age—once eloquent voice now a whisper—confined to the loving care of others during these last heavy years of life—what, indeed, was the influence of this saintly character on the generations he left behind?

To the children in the grade school and to the high school boys and girls, all of whom he loved so much and for whom he had provided so much, he could have been little more than a legend—the central figure in the glorious story of this, their parish, as told to them by their parents and grandparents. Certainly, very few of them had ever seen him, but, taught by the good sisters of St. Agnes, who *did* know him, they prayed for him constantly as the father and benefactor of the parish, and the closest living link to Heaven they could claim.

To the next generation, the young fathers and mothers, comes a keener sense of loss, because they knew that he was, in a very real sense, the spiritual father and provider of the religious food and lodging that was necessary to see their children through the dependent and formative years. They, with their problems of building for the future, could in some measure now see the strength and singleness of purpose that once were his as he built, brick by careful brick, the wondrous edifices of St. Agnes.

To the older residents of the Village of Rockville Centre, and these of all faiths, the burden of sorrow and sense of loss must be greatest, because here are the people who knew Monsignor Quealy best. They knew him in his strength; they knew him in his prime. They knew him as a neighbor, as a counsellor, and as a staunch friend. They can now recall the countless times they greeted him, a tall athletic, handsome figure, who walked with brisk stride, the streets of this village for the past five decades, carrying with gracious ease not only the spiritual responsibility of his own precious flock, but standing as a towering beacon of religious strength and integrity for all who lived here.

Finally, for his brother priests, for the good sisters and for Bishop Kellenberg, there now exists the void they knew was coming, and were preparing for with their prayers. No longer the somehow secure feeling that, no matter the weight of the years, or the number of infirmities, he was *there*, in that room, behind that window, as much a part of St. Agnes as its main altar. For them, certainly a part of their religious lives has gone to Heaven ahead of them to intercede for them. Heavy of heart today must be Bishop Kellenberg, his Ordinary, who a few short months ago greeted him with a blessing and in turn was blessed, and who, in God's good plan, has been charged with the great task of leading, providing for, and sanctifying the souls in his care, as he bows his head in prayer for this great fellow priest who labored long years ago to provide the strong foundation for this great Diocese of Rockville Centre.

As long as the spires of St. Agnes send their graceful fingers towards Heaven, as long as there are people in the Village of Rockville Centre to relate to their children the

## Father Brown Writes . . .

MONSIGNOR QUEALY is dead. God has called him home. To try and write of him is extremely difficult for me because I never knew the real Monsignor Quealy. For the past year and a half I have known only an aged and sickly priest who was no longer able to take an active role in the ministry to which God had called him over 65 years before.

What can I say of Monsignor that has not been said time and time again? The knowledge I have of him comes from the results of his long, tireless work for souls in Rockville Centre. Who could possibly gaze on our parish facilities, a Cathedral church in fact as well as in name, a high school, two elementary schools, a beautiful rectory and convent and not realize the planning, the mental anguish that went into the placing of each stone. It took a man of great talent, of great ability, to plan and build and then by careful financing to support such a plant. With each new building Monsignor gave something more of his strength and of himself for the formation of better men and women educated with a deep love of God and country. These were but a few of his material accomplishments that marked him as a man of worldly talent but he rises to his true greatness when we consider the spiritual growth that has taken place during his pastorate in Rockville Centre. It is with great humility that the priests of the Cathedral staff watch as week after week long lines of men, women and children flock to the Communion rail to feed on the body and blood of their Savior, as we see weekday Masses crowded by those whose faith is not a mere symbol but a reality that is deeply imbedded in their souls, as we watch our youth urged on by the example of their parents draw ever closer to God, as we see our people, men and women on their way to work, children and mothers on the way to school stop for a few minutes to visit with their God. Where does such faith come from? From those who have gone before us. It was the preaching, the pleading, the example of the pastor, that shepherd of souls at St. Agnes for so many years, Monsignor Quealy who not only planted the seeds of faith and love of God in the souls of the young but through his constant and vigilant care over the years nursed and strengthened that faith until it is the wonderful thing that it is today.

As a new priest coming to this parish one of the things that has continually amazed me is the genuine love that our people have for their priests. The cooperation and help that is given us at all times shows the deep respect that the people of St. Agnes have for the priesthood. Why? Because they always had before them the example of a truly Christ-like priest.

Monsignor Quealy in his life and in his death left an example for us all. As priests we can strive to live *that description*—the virtues he gave us, zeal, dedication and love for our people, striving always not for our own popularity or glory but only for the good of our people. As parents we have the example of a true father who gave himself for his Children in Christ, seeking particularly to prepare them for their future place in the world by a thorough education. For youth he stands out as one who by steady and constant work was able to reach the height of success before both God and man.

We have lost a shepherd on earth but gained a protector in Heaven. Let us prayerfully and lovingly always cherish his memory. May God grant him eternal rest.

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legend of Peter Quealy, his memory will remain ever fresh and green. And after reciting all the spiritual qualities that made him a great priest and a great pastor, perhaps the simple words of Hamlet, talking about his own father, best sum up the feelings of those who knew him:

*"He was a man, take him for all in all,  
I shall not look upon his like again."*

## Msgr. Quealy—Rockville Resident

IN the soft snow of a January Tuesday, the villagers of Rockville Centre began their accustomed tasks, some in the home, some to early Mass, some to schools, shops, offices. Soon the word was spread and a village knew it had lost a venerable man of God.

To the very young and those who had but recently come to Rockville Centre, Monsignor was not well-known. The ravages of the years had taken their toll and the once stately figure was seen infrequently. It was for the older citizens to share the grief of personal loss. Catholic, Protestant, Jew, or whatever religious persuasion, they marked the passing of a friend, a counselor, a priest who meant much to them and their village in the more than half-century he labored here.

Characterized by all who knew him as dignified yet kindly, modest yet friendly, it is from those who knew him well, rather than the printed record, that the story of the influence of Monsignor on the village must come. Space permits but a sketching on a canvas that might be filled, for Catholic and non-Catholic alike have recounted their association with him.

The climate of the early nineteen-hundreds was far different from today's. Rockville Centre, then a village of some 3,000 souls, had about 100 Catholic families. Communicants from other areas attended Mass here when they could. Slowly, but surely the parish grew to a point where a resident Pastor was justified and a church was built. To this modest parish came a tall, fine-looking priest who was to make his career here. Then Father Quealy, he soon became known beyond the circle of his parishioners as he walked the boundaries of his pastoral jurisdiction, now ten flourishing parishes. All received his kindly greeting and soon those who had other notions about priests began to melt a bit. This man was a friend to all. It was early in his ministry that the problem of Catholics in a predominantly non-Catholic area first occurred. From Major Andrew MacElroy comes this story. The Major, then Superintendent of Schools, had a vacancy on the Board. Some antagonism to a Catholic member existed. The Major, who had come to know Father Quealy, though himself a non-Catholic, determined to erase this attitude. A rising young lawyer, Francis Hooley, was selected to run for the office. When the ballots were counted in the old Clinton School, Mr. Hooley had won. Unable because of pressure of business, Mr. Hooley resigned the office and another Catholic gentleman was appointed. In this, our Pastor took no active part, but the very force of his personality was such that liberal-minded people were soon won to him.

Always maintaining the best relations with village officials, Father Quealy soon had another problem, of great importance to all Catholics in the area. There was no consecrated ground in which to bury their dead. At the request of the Bishop, Father Quealy investigated an area in what is now Westbury. There in desolate ground, Catholics endeavored to create a decent cemetery. To buy land, Father had to face a ruling that no public property could be set aside without six months' notice and a public hearing. This, in the light of the climate of the times was tantamount to prevention of sale. Ed Wallace, once Mayor of Rockville Centre, and at that time Assemblyman, became aware of the problem through Mr. Hooley. Authoring an enabling act, Mr. Wallace, a Protestant, strode down the aisle of the Legislature announcing; "In this matter I represent the Diocese of Brooklyn." Opposition required a hearing. Travelling to Albany with Mr. Hooley, Father Quealy attended the hearing and heard Governor Roosevelt approve the legislation for what is now the beautiful Holy Rood Cemetery. (There he will rest.)

Quietly but surely, Father Quealy was making new friendships and cementing old despite incidents such as

"the men with the hoods". Recognizing well the sides of the coin, never antagonizing but by his example slaying the old dragons, he bent his every effort to his church and its members. Other pages of this memorial Bulletin chronicle the success with which God crowned his efforts.

Our village grew and prospered and St. Agnes' grew with it. Monsignor was now a familiar figure to all, men, women and the little tikes who tugged at his coat. Possessed of a keen appreciation of the future growth of Long Island, he planned for it and advised others in the religious life to do likewise. Would that we had room to tell of this.

When America found itself in World War I, and the boys of that day went off to war, the citizens of the village did everything possible to assist. A great rally was arranged at the Masonic Hall and to it came the Monsignor and the village officials. Its purpose was to begin the Victory Gardens. Monsignor was asked to speak and the message he gave is still remembered today: "A beet is better than a bullet."

The years sped by in activity and wondrous growth. St. Agnes now had its High School. The parish, despite repeated divisions, continued to grow, and Monsignor became known in ever widening circles. In 1942 he was asked to give the Benediction at the dedication of the Village Honor Roll to the Rockville Centre men in service. In 1943, the New York Journal made a survey of the excellent school system of the Village. Mr. Floyd B. Watson, Superintendent, commending the strong, progressive parochial school system, with its high and elementary branches, stated: "Monsignor Quealy of St. Agnes' and other clergymen cooperate wonderfully in public education and civic development. Their cooperation is of the highest type. The Catholic schools are splendid not only in their buildings but in their work. I am not of the Catholic faith but, as an educator and as a citizen, I can testify to that."

Rockville Centre had become a magnet for families desiring Catholic education for their children, and the Village found its population rapidly increasing with fine respectable families dedicated to their Church and the good of the Village. In 1955, on the occasion of Monsignor's golden jubilee as Pastor of St. Agnes', Mayor Lister and the members of the Board of Trustees, the late Milton Cash; John Anderson, Ray Williams and Robert Stewart, visited Monsignor to present, on behalf of the Village, a scroll of honor. Typical of the Village, the Mayor and the Trustees represented all three major denominations. In 1957, he was further honored when College Place was renamed Quealy Place.

His own humility would ever prevent the full realization of the respectful affection in which he was held by all who knew him or his good works. Now he has left this scene of his fruitful labors to receive the legacy for which his whole life was a preparation. To the people of Rockville Centre he has left another legacy which will remain long after their grief has mellowed, for to them he has given a brighter understanding of themselves and their proper relationships with others. He has made them see so clearly that separation of Church and State is not cleavage between Man and God. He has shown them how patience and good example crush bigotry and misunderstanding. He has provided for them a Catholic parochial system of education which today houses 2,000 boys and girls without cost to the Village, while still fully upholding and supporting public systems.

Today the citizens of Rockville Centre are united in a common sadness. Together they join in prayerful petition that, as he walked in peace and goodness among them, so may he walk in the glory of Paradise, his true Country, forever more.

(We are indebted to those who provided these little touches in the life of Monsignor Quealy, particularly Major Andrew MacElroy and Judge and Mrs. Francis Hooley.)

# Peter Quealy

## A Biography

THE passing of the Rt. Rev. Monsignor Peter Quealy, V.F. the oldest priest in both dioceses on Long Island, marks the end of an era in that he was the last surviving priest to have served under the first Bishop of Brooklyn. Ordained six months before Bishop John Loughlin died, he served as the Bishop's assistant and was present at his deathbed. Subsequently, he performed God's holy work under the leadership of Bishop Charles E. McDonnell, Archbishop Thomas E. Molloy and finally under Bishop Walter P. Kellenberg, the first Bishop of Rockville Centre.

Monsignor Quealy was born in Stradbally, County Waterford, Ireland, on February 21, 1867, the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Quealy. Out of the six boys and six girls in the family, two brothers and four sisters entered the religious life.

He attended the National (Eire) Catholic High School and matriculated at Rockwell College at Waterford where he remained four years. His easy grasp of English and Greek, and his profound knowledge of Latin, was attributed to the fact that his father, a fluent linguist, drilled him in the fundamentals of these languages.

Following further study at St. John's College in Waterford, he emigrated to the United States in 1888. His older sister, who was a Sister of St. Joseph, had preceded him to America. She later became a superior in Philadelphia and was known as Mother Angela.

Monsignor studied for the priesthood at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland, and taught Latin in the college at the same time. After his ordination on June 25, 1891, he received his first assignment to St. John's Chapel under Bishop Loughlin. He moved to Transfiguration Church in Williamsburg in 1893 and, in 1894, was appointed to St. Charles Borromeo parish in the Borough Hall section of Brooklyn. In 1902, he became pastor of St. Agnes Church in Greenport and, three years later, was assigned pastor of St. Agnes in Rockville Centre.

When he came to this parish in 1905, it included, in addition to Rockville Centre, the communities of Island Park, Oceanside, Long Beach (which consisted of a small hotel and three cottages), Malverne, Baldwin and Lynbrook. Then 18 years old, the parish had a small church, a debt of \$28,000 and 400 communicants.

Parishioners recall time and again the familiar stately figure who walked mile after mile throughout his parish, visiting the sick and bringing comfort to some lonely and deserted soul. Thousands of hours, he sat in the confessional until his 82nd year, listening to stories of ingratitude to God. Because of the illness which confined him to the rectory for such a long time, there are many people in the parish who never were fortunate enough to meet him. His mere name, however, and the reputation of the wonderful parish which he administered so ably led

family after family to seek residence in the village of Rockville Centre, now designated by The Holy Father as an Episcopal City. For here, they saw the results of the labors of this incredibly far-sighted priest in the complete primary and secondary school system, the perfect example of architectural beauty which is the present Cathedral of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, the impressive convent to house the devoted Sisters of Saint Dominic to whom, over forty years ago, under Mother Petra, Monsignor committed the education of the little ones of his parish.

This tremendous physical tribute to Monsignor's inspired zeal and vitality was referred to by "Church Administration" magazine as probably the outstanding parish plant ever built in a community of such size.

They saw too Mercy Hospital, erected by the Sisters of the Infant Jesus on property obtained by Monsignor years ago, envisioning as he did the need for a Catholic hospital in this portion of the county. They saw too Molloy College, named after the beloved Archbishop, beginnings which eventually terminated in the first Catholic College on Long Island, erected on land obtained by Monsignor twenty-five odd years ago for this purpose.

These graceful and artistic buildings are monuments to Monsignor Quealy but more important is the memorial of love, respect, admiration and appreciation to Monsignor left in the hearts of those with whom he came in contact.

On June 25, 1941, Monsignor Quealy celebrated his golden jubilee in the priesthood and requested that no parish observance be held. He spent the day in contemplation in Philadelphia where he had offered his first Mass.

Monsignor Quealy had traveled to every continent on the globe except the Antarctic. He had visited China, Japan, India, the Philippines, Australia, Egypt, and all of Europe. In 1924 he traveled to Rome with his friends, Bishop Patrick Hayes of New York and Auxiliary Bishop George Mundelein of Brooklyn and was present at their elevation to the cardinalate.

Honored now in death, Monsignor was accorded singular and well deserved honors during his lifetime; by the Church when, in 1924, he was elevated to the rank of Domestic Prelate by Pope Pius XI; by his superiors when he was named Dean of Southern Nassau County, first by Archbishop Molloy and later by Bishop Kellenberg; by his fellow religious when his name was given to the first building, Quealy Hall, built by the Sisters of St. Dominic at Molloy College; by his community when the Village of Rockville Centre, in 1957, named the street on which the Cathedral stands in his honor.

His loss will be felt immeasurably. He will never be replaced in the hearts and affections of those who were fortunate enough to know him. May he rest in peace.

## Father O'Farrell Writes . . . . .

Rockville Centre is mourning the death of Monsignor Quealy. Many kind and gracious words will be said and written of his accomplishments. By his example and zeal he was an inspiration to all of us. In his humility, he never wished to take any honors to himself. He followed his vocation as he thought God would wish it, and we trust that he is now reaping the reward in heaven of a life well spent on earth.

It is fourteen years since I came to live with Monsignor at Saint Agnes. For most of those years, his health was poor, but under his guiding hand and kind command, I soon found that I was learning from a man of exceptional greatness.

I listened to him with pleasure when he recounted incidents of his early life in Ireland, that were facts in my history books of a later era. He spoke with affection and feeling of the hills and the valleys and the ocean of his native Waterford.

When he spoke of his Seminary days in St. Mary's, Baltimore, his early priesthood in Brooklyn and in Greenport, we all listened and were amazed at his knowledge concerning the growth of Catholicism.

I do not have to relate the progress of St. Agnes parish under the leadership of Monsignor, because to me every building is a sermon. It is the work of a priest who realized that his vocation in life was to bring himself and his flock to eternal life.

With Monsignor's death, I feel that I have lost a friend. God rest him.

### EXPRESSIONS FROM PARISH SOCIETIES AND SCHOOLS

#### Knights of Columbus

(Continued from Page 4)

fine spiritual and material legacy with which to carry on God's work in religion, education and fraternity.

In our prayers for his future happiness, let us be thankful that the Lord spared him long enough to behold the Diocese of Rockville Centre established in the Cathedral he built as a church, and the other enduring monuments to the memory of a dedicated life.

#### Nocturnal Adoration Society

We who spend the vigil hours before Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament and have prayed for the well-being of our beloved Monsignor, now join with the other Societies of the parish in praying for his immortal soul. He has given us a glorious Temple of the Lord in which to participate in our Nocturnal Adorations. May we always be grateful.



Prayer for a Deceased Priest

*Grant we beseech Thee, O Lord, that the soul of Thy servant Peter, Thy Priest, which Thou didst adorn with the graces proper to the sacred ministry while he was in this world, may always rejoice in the glory of heaven. Through our Lord Jesus Christ Who livest and reignest with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God world without end. AMEN.*



Prayer from the Mass of Saint Agnes

*O almighty and everlasting God, Who chooseth the weak things of this world to confound the strong, mercifully grant that we, who keep the solemn feast of Blessed Agnes, Thy Virgin and Martyr, may experience the benefit of her patronage with Thee. Through our Lord Jesus Christ Who livest and reignest with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God world without end. AMEN.*

