

The Parish History Has Been Assembled In Three Sections:

Father William J. Cleary

St. Anne Parish

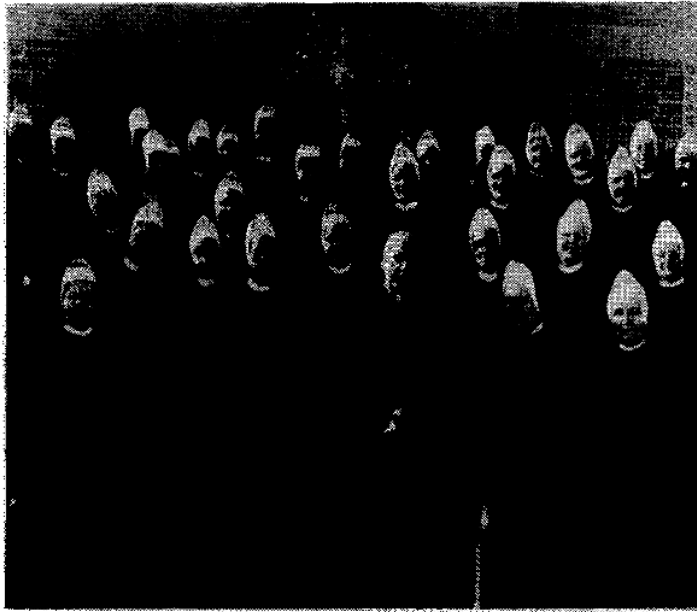
St. Anne School

This presentation was done to facilitate assembly of the information, to make easier the writing of the history itself, and to keep updated. Certain events or activities have been recorded in more than one section. Although complete in themselves, these three sections are still interrelated.

Not every event or activity that happened has been included in this history since it would have been impossible to do. Some information may seem somewhat trivial but it was recorded when found while searching for meaningful or important dates.

The information from the various parish organizations or societies is not detailed nor complete. Such information is intended to give an idea of what functions and activities the respective organization had and the role which it played in the history of the parish.

The information for the parish history was taken from several sources including newspaper files of the East Moline Herald, Moline Daily Dispatch, Catholic Post and stories and information from parishioners, former parishioners and the B.V.M. Sisters.



Rt. Reverend Monsignor William J. Cleary

1880



William J. Cleary was born November 1, 1880 in Momence, Illinois the second of five sons of Elizabeth Kirby and Patrick J. Cleary. He was baptized November 7, 1880 in St. Anne Parish, Kankakee County, Illinois.

William's father, Patrick, was born on August 27, 1851 in Westport, County Mayo, Ireland where his family farmed and maybe fished. In 1868, at the age of 17, Patrick came to the United States. He worked at farming and also taught school for awhile. Later, he was employed by W. P. Watson in Momence and became a partner after a few years with the firm known as Watson and Cleary. The partnership lasted about 45 years. After the death of Mr. Watson, James Cleary and Patrick formed a partnership in the firm of P. J. Cleary and Son. Patrick Cleary was elected mayor twice and served as President of the

Momence Board of Education for 16 years.

Since his ancestry was Irish, Father Cleary was asked if Gaelic was ever spoken in the home. He replied, "Oh, you mean the Irish!" But the answer was "No" since his father wanted the family to concentrate on being American and to speak English. Once in a while, however, Patrick would speak Gaelic with a cousin, but only briefly.

Elizabeth Kirby was born January 4, 1856 in Chicago where her father had come from Ireland. When an infant, she moved with her parents to Momence where her father was a blacksmith by trade and was killed at work.

Elizabeth Kirby and Patrick J. Cleary were married in 1877 in Momence.

1898 to 1906

William Cleary attended Momence schools and graduated with honors from Momence High School in 1898. That year, at the age of 18, he was encouraged by his parish priest to enter the priesthood. William entered St. Viator's College in Bourbonnais, near Kankakee, where his father had also attended.

From 1898 - 1901 William Cleary was in the "Collegiate Department", from 1901 - 1903 he was in the "Philosophy Department" and in the "Theology Department" from 1903 until he graduated in June, 1906.

In 1902 William Cleary received a Bachelor's Degree and in 1904 he received a Master of Arts Degree.

While he was a student at St. Viator College, William Cleary was active in many phases of college life:

1. He was a member of "St. Patrick's Literary and Debating Society" and served as president of that organization from 1900 - 1903.
2. From 1901 - 1904 he was a member of the "Thespian Club." As a member he took part in many dramatic plays and took the leading role in some productions.
3. Military training was also part of the education at St. Viator College. Father Cleary participated in this aspect of education from 1899 - 1903. He served as an officer and from 1901 - 1903 was faculty director of "Military Tactics."
4. Father Cleary also participated in sports. He was active in the Viatorian Athletic Association and the baseball league. He played both football and baseball. The latter he played with Bernard Shiel who later became Archbishop of Chicago.
5. He was a member of the college choir for eight years.
6. His literary talents were considerable. He wrote many poems and essays for the college magazine. He was one of the editors of the monthly magazine from 1900 - 1903.
7. He was frequently on the honor roll of the college and the recipient of a number of awards for academic excellence.
8. On the lighter side, it is said that Father recalled that some of the students secured a cow in the apartment of the President of the College. It is not known if Father was part of the group of students.

William Cleary's home parish, St. Patrick's of Momence, was in the Archdiocese of Chicago. The Archbishop was the person responsible for determining which candidates for the priesthood the Archdiocese would support. According to a statement by Father Cleary in an interview, it seems that he was not given that support. However, his parish priest, Rev. Armand L. Labrie, wrote a letter to Archbishop Spalding recommending William Cleary for the Diocese of Peoria. He elected to continue his seminary training at St. Viator.

1906

On June 6, 1906 William J. Cleary was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Peoria by Auxiliary Bishop Peter O'Reilly. Father Cleary sang his first Mass on Sunday, June 10, 1906, in St. Patrick's Church in Momence. The college choir sang at Father's first Mass and the entire seminary department and representatives of other departments were present to attest their genuine esteem of Father Cleary and to seek his first blessing.

Sunday, June 17, 1906 was selected as class day for the graduates. The recently ordained Father William Cleary, the universal class favorite, was celebrant of the graduates last Mass and of his own first Mass at the college.

Family tradition has it that Father always had in mind to be a priest. However, his uncle James J. Kirby, a state legislator and banker in Momence, wanted Father Cleary to go into the bank.

After his ordination in June 1906 Father Cleary was assigned as assistant pastor at St. Joseph Parish in Rock Island. While serving as an assistant at St. Joseph's, Father went to Silvis occasionally to say Mass at Crowder Hall on 10th Street.

1913

On Sunday June 14, 1913, Father J. J. Quinn announced to the parishioners of St. Joseph Parish, Rock Island, that Father Cleary was leaving to serve as pastor of St. Patrick's in Elmwood. The announcement was received with much regret and sorrow.

A meeting was held that afternoon in the new school building by the men of the parish to consider a testimonial for Father Cleary. More than 100 men gathered and pledged \$600 towards a testimonial.

At the same time a meeting of the Altar Society was held in the church and more than \$300 was pledged.

Following the last morning Mass, the young men belonging to the Western Catholic Union, with whom Father Cleary was closely associated, held a meeting. They voted to give Father the \$50 in their treasury plus \$100 from the members themselves.

These actions were truly a sign of admiration and love which the parishioners had for Father Cleary.

Father Mark Dempsey was pastor of St. Patrick's, Elmwood, prior to Father Cleary's coming.

Father Cleary also served the outmissions of Farmington, Yates City, Maquon and Williamsfield.

1915

After serving as pastor for two years at Elmwood, Father Cleary was appointed Chaplain to the National Soldiers' Home in Danville. The Home served soldiers who had served in the Civil War and Spanish-American War. There were about 2400-2500 soldiers there.

1917

On May 3, 1917 it was announced in Mendota that Father Cleary of Danville was appointed by Bishop Dunne as pastor of St. Mary's Church in Mendota and Sacred Heart Church in

Dimmick. He replaced the late Father Heaney who had died several weeks prior.

Father Cleary was described as a comparatively young man, a pleasant gentleman to meet and came highly recommended to the people. A hearty welcome awaited him when he arrived at both parishes.

In order to serve both parishes Father traveled by train.

1918

At some time Father Cleary applied for a commission as Chaplain in the Army. He was advised on November 6, 1918 that his application was forwarded to the Secretary of War and that he would be summoned for examination in due time. It is assumed that, because of the end of World War I in November 1918, Father Cleary was not summoned.

1919

Bishop Dunne asked Father Cleary to begin a new parish in East Moline in May 1919.

On Sunday May 11, 1919 Father Cleary told his congregations at St. Mary's Church in Mendota and Sacred Heart Church in Dimmick, that he was leaving the parish because the Bishop had assigned him to take charge of a new parish in East Moline.

When he first arrived in Mendota, Father Cleary was warmly and whole-heartedly received by the people. He possessed those qualifications for organization and building. His genial personality and frankness brought the people of his parish together and his parish grew.

Not only was he admired for ministering to the people but his sermons were such that people were glad to listen and benefited from his wisdom and teachings.

He was respected and loved by the old and the young, the rich and the poor.

The Bishop had noticed what the young and energetic Father Cleary had done in Mendota and realized that the new parish in East Moline would benefit greatly from the efforts of Father.

Upon learning of Father Cleary's leaving, the members of St. Mary's Church in Mendota collected a purse of \$250 which they presented to him before he left. It was a complete surprise to him and left him speechless.

The members of Sacred Heart parish, who were saddened by Father Cleary's leaving, took up a collection. A total of \$275 was raised and sent to him. Father Cleary was very appreciative of the gift and put it to work where it did the most good.

After Father Cleary's departure and until a new priest was assigned to the two parishes, St. Bede's College furnished a priest to say the Sunday Masses.

On May 8, 1919, Mr. E. M. Heider, President, wrote a letter on behalf of the East Moline Business and Professional Men's Association, to Father Cleary stating that the people of East Moline, both Catholics and Protestants, did not want him in East Moline. Mr. Heider further

stated that Father Barry had won the good will and cooperation of the people.

A petition was circulated to retain Father Barry. In fact, many parish members of the newly organized Holy Name Parish threatened to withdraw their subscriptions. They were told that the factories would do likewise. Financial success of the new parish depended upon the funds of the factories.

Father Cleary arrived in East Moline on May 15, 1919 to officially assume charge of his new duties.

The story has been told that when Father Cleary arrived in East Moline, the party or parties from the parish who were to meet him were not at the railway station. A delegation opposed to his coming met Father and advised him "to put his bag back on the train and return to Mendota."

Father Cleary replied, "My bag stays where it is and if you don't want me, take it up with my boss in Peoria, Bishop Dunne."

He said his first Mass as pastor of Holy Name Parish on Sunday May 18, 1919.

There was some hostility shown by the parish organization committee when Father Cleary first arrived. Most of the members wanted Father Barry made pastor. The first meeting Father Cleary had with the committee was in the Heider Brothers Shoe Store at 7th Street and 15th Avenue. Father told the committee that his sole reason for being in East Moline was because the Bishop had sent him and that he was required to proceed with the construction of a church and development of a parish.

But opposition ended quickly and cooperation was extended to Father. His rare qualities became very evident through association with him and he enjoyed the full confidence of all committee members.



Since there was no parish house when Father Cleary was first appointed pastor at Holy Name, quarters were set up in a camp on Campbell's Island. This setting also allowed Father to partake of one of his favorite sports--swimming.

Ground was broken for the construction of a brick and stone combina-

tion church-school in May 1919. Father continued to say Mass at the Lyric Theater until the church area was completed in the Spring of 1920.

Father Cleary announced that a house and lot at 606 17th Avenue was purchased to be used for a rectory. Since the house was standing on ground where the church-school was to be built, a lot was purchased at 722 17th Avenue and the house was moved to that location.

The contract for construction of the church was given on a cost-plus basis as money was hard to secure. The contractors, the Gumber Brothers, agreed to undertake the project on a week-to-week payment basis. Sunday offerings were their basis. The times were growing bad owing to post-war conditions and strikes in the factories in East Moline and Silvis were also a factor.

Since the banks did not finance any loans, Father Cleary secured loans from friends and priests of the diocese so that construction could continue.

During construction daily Mass was offered in the rectory and in the homes of parishioners.

In the Spring of 1919, Father Cleary made formal application with the Sisters of Charity, B.V.M. to staff the school which he expected to open by September 1920. He would need four sisters to staff the school; however, staffing was contingent upon any difficulties not contemplated during construction.

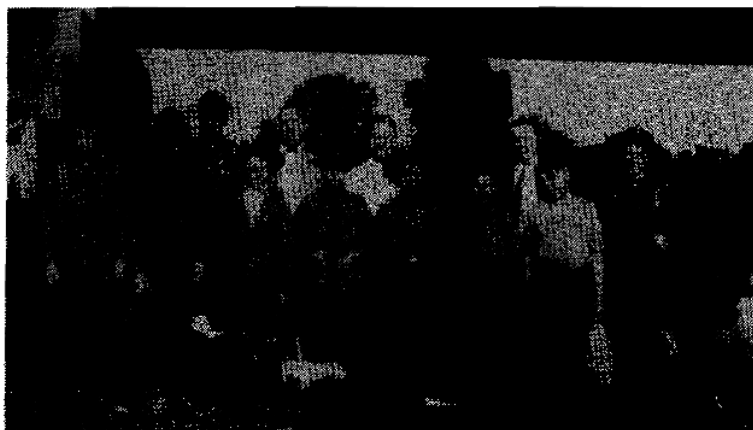
The parish was organized as Holy Name Parish but, for some reason or reasons which cannot be ascertained, the name of the parish was changed to St. Anne by Father Cleary.

1920

In May 1920, Father Cleary celebrated Mass for the first time in the new church. A solemn high Mass was celebrated at 10:45 A.M.

In the early days of the parish, Father installed the envelope system of Sunday collections which was a rare thing in Catholic churches in those days. In this way he did away with the pew rent system.

In April 1920, Father Cleary organized a Boy Scout Troop at St. Anne Parish and served as Scoutmaster until 1949. In 1970 he was awarded a diamond scout pin for 50



years of service to the Boy Scouts.

On October 12, 1920 Father attended a conference in Keokuk, Iowa for priests serving in Illinois and Iowa.

Some friends obtained a membership at Short Hills Country Club for Father Cleary in the early 1920's. He was a good golfer. There were many days when he could be seen practicing, while hitting a golf ball into an old rug hung on a clothesline in the back yard of the rectory. However, during the depression he gave up his membership at Short Hills because he could not, in good conscience, continue to play golf at a country club with so many of his parishioners unemployed.

1924

In a letter to Father Cleary dated June 5, 1924 Mother Mary Isabella, B.V.M. stated that "if the school is completed and you can secure a home for the Sisters, we will arrange to open St. Anne's in 1925."

1925

On February 26, 1925 the East Moline Rotary Club celebrated the 20th anniversary of the founding of the World-Wide Rotary organization. Among the speakers at the celebration was the Rev. W. J. Cleary. He discussed the meaning of world-wide fellowship to those outside of organizations. He stated that human nature is the element which must be contended with in all relationships but it is also the most uncertain of the elements.

In March 1925 the parish purchased the parsonage of the Lutheran Church on the northeast corner of 6th Street and 18th Avenue for use as a convent by the Sisters. The building was remodeled with the addition of a chapel and four bedrooms.

Father Cleary spoke before the Rotary Club on March 18, 1925. He spoke about St. Patrick's true place in history and the saint's influence on culture. He was a human being who had a definite aim, a singleness of purpose and an indomitable spirit to try until he succeeded.

On June 18, 1925 Father Cleary was one of four East Moline men elected to serve as a member of the official family of the Moline Council of Boy Scouts. Father Cleary served as a member of the governing board.

In December 1925, Father Cleary suggested to the Allouez Council of the Knights of Columbus, Rock Island, that they sponsor a Boy Scout movement in the parishes of Rock Island and Milan. This was not a new movement since troops had been organized several years ago in each of these parishes. However, the ranks were not kept filled as the boys grew out of the scout class.

1926

The first commencement exercises were held at St. Anne School on Tuesday, June 6, 1926. Nine pupils graduated from the eighth grade. Father Cleary expressed himself as well-satisfied with the first year of school work.

1927

On Saturday, March 5, 1927 Father Cleary's father, Patrick J. Cleary, died in Momenca. He was only ill ten days when he was stricken by a heavy cold which developed into other complications. His funeral was held on Monday, March 7 at 10:30 A. M. with a Solemn Requiem High Mass celebrated by the pastor of St. Patrick's Church. Father William Cleary celebrated Mass at St. Joseph's altar while his brother, Father Francis Cleary, celebrated Mass at the altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Patrick Cleary was 76 years old at the time of his death.

The annual banquet of the Boosters' Club of Silvis was held November 16, 1927 in the auditorium of the Silvis City Hall. Father W. J. Cleary, pastor of St. Anne Church in East Moline, was the principal speaker. His talk was a sound, sensible, cheerful message of community hopes and aspirations. They found clear expression in the words of Father Cleary.

1928

Father Cleary was instrumental in organizing the High "C" Club which held its first meeting on January 2, 1928. The club was formed for study and social recreation and was open to all who were enrolled in the high schools in East Moline, Moline and Rock Island.

1929

On February 5, 1929 Father Cleary announced that the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, who conducted St. Anthony's Hospital in Rock Island, had purchased about fourteen acres in the Pleasant View Addition to East Moline on which to build the first unit of a hospital.

For several months the Sisters had made a survey of the conditions in East Moline and Silvis and recognized the need for a first-class hospital for immediate service in urgent medical and surgical cases due to industrial accidents.

No immediate building plans were formulated. Development of the plans depended upon the backing of the general public and the local industries.

The tract of land was purchased from the State Bank of East Moline. It was located on the hill just back of St. Anne Church and reaching to 5th Street.

1920's

The St. Vincent de Paul Society was started in the late 1920's by Father Cleary to help parishioners in need. It was not affiliated with the national organization but followed its rules

and regulation.

Many parishioners were helped during the depression. Money was also used to help defray expenses of seminarians.

1930

Father William J. Cleary delivered a Father and Son address at the regular meeting of the Rotary Club on March 5, 1930. The message given was "that every father worthy of the name tries to give his boy a heritage of fine character that will sustain him as nothing else through the trials of life". Father also referred, in a praiseworthy manner, to many fathers whom he had known who had sent their sons into the world equipped with moral and physical strength far above the average. He then commented, in an amusing way, about the fathers and sons of history.

As of November 25, 1930 the Sisters of St. Francis were unable to secure a roadway from 6th Street Court to the hospital site. They had been negotiating for a roadway, but had little success. Plans for the hospital were abandoned as a result. The architect, however, had not prepared any plans pending approval of the roadway.

1932

Father Cleary was called to Mومence on February 24, 1932 by the accidental death of his brother James, who was 55 years old. James Cleary was a member of the Board of Supervisors of Mومence. He met an accidental death when his car plunged off the highway, overturned and pinned him beneath the wreckage.

Father Cleary told an interesting story of bird life in East Moline to the Rotarians at their noon luncheon at Short Hills Country Club on April 29, 1932. Father showed pictures of the various birds which frequented the area, named the location where they were found and described their habits.

He delighted the members with a running fire of comment about each kind of bird. Father Cleary paid particular attention to the birds of the finch and thrush families. He showed a deep knowledge of his subject and held the attention of his audience to the end.

1933

On April 1, 1933 Father Cleary's Ford automobile was transferred to the parish for \$400. This amount was based upon an appraisal by Reynolds Motor Company. This transaction was revised later in the month. Furniture owned by Father, except for a radio table, 2 chairs and pictures, was transferred instead of the car to ownership of the parish.

1935

Father Cleary received a letter from President Franklin D. Roosevelt dated September 23,

1935. Father was one of many representative clergymen in the U. S. to receive this letter. With Social Security legislation and the Works Program recently passed by Congress, the President was interested in learning about conditions in the local community where the government could better serve the people.

At certain times during the 1920's and 1930's the Sunday collections, pew rent and other parish income were not sufficient to cover the expenses of the parish. Sometimes the deficit was carried by Father Cleary and sometimes the deficit was paid by him. There were also some months when Father Cleary left his own personal funds in the parish account to keep a positive balance.

1937

On July 26, 1937, St. Anne Day, in a letter to the parishioners Father Cleary announced the start of a building fund for a new church. It was badly needed since the parish was growing out of its present quarters.

It was announced on December 17, 1937 that Father Cleary was appointed Consulter for the Peoria Diocese by Bishop J. H. Schlarman.

Through Father Cleary's astute financial management and the generosity of the parishioners, the parish paid off its debt in 1937. All property, buildings and furnishings had cost nearly \$90,000.

1938

During May 1938 the village of Hampton, Illinois celebrated its centennial. Father Cleary and his Boy Scout Troop were asked to re-enact the ceremony of Chief Blackhawk giving a carved spoon (a friendship gift) to Henry McNeal, founder of the village. Father depicted Chief Blackhawk while the Boy Scouts were fellow tribesmen.

1940

On September 17, 1940 eight altar boys of the parish, who had



completed their service, were given a farewell dinner by Father Cleary in Rapids City. Each boy received a wrist watch. The boys so honored were:

Robert Knobloch	Joe Braet
James Knobloch	Joe Mitchell
William Bollaert	Cyriel DeCoster
Don Naert	Joe Roels

Father Cleary envisioned a Credit Union as a means to promote and encourage thrift among parish members and also to enable them to borrow money at low interest rates. Based upon this premise, Father organized the St. Anne Credit Union in 1940.

1941

At the request of Father Cleary on July 17, 1941 the architects, who designed the plans for a new church, sent to Bishop Schlarman a number of drawings indicating the proposed layout for the new church and rectory. However, the plans were later shelved because of the outbreak of war for the U.S.

1943

Father Cleary gave the invocation at the East Moline High School graduation ceremonies on June 3, 1943.

1944

On July 23, 1944 the parish celebrated its 25th anniversary and Father Cleary's 25th year as pastor. Father received many accolades for his many achievements during his 25 years.

Rev. P. H. Durkin - "Even St. Paul never organized a church in a movie theater. St. Paul would have said St. Anne's has something there. Everything in the beginning was done with enthusiasm and quiet dignity -- like a congregation at prayer."

Frank Almquist - President of East Moline - Silvis Association of Commerce -- thanked Father Cleary in the name of the community for the contribution he made as a leader of Boy Scouts and "anything worthwhile".

Elmer Gullberg - Deere & Co. Executive -- "St. Anne's has been particularly fortunate in having a rare individual who is always thinking of others. St. Anne's is a story of collective achievement."

The parishioners presented Father Cleary with a gift of \$2,000 in war bonds. Despite the objection of the parishioners, Father turned over this gift into the building fund for the new church.

Father Cleary was a member of the Finance Committee of the East Moline Waste Paper Drive. The Finance Committee had to decide what to do with the proceeds received from the waste paper drives.

1946

At a meeting of the East Moline Community Chest in February 1946, Father Cleary was re-elected Vice President.

In February 1946, Elizabeth J. Cleary, mother of Father Cleary and Rt. Rev. Msgr. Frank Cleary of Danville, died at St. Anthony's hospital in Rock Island. She was 90 years old at the time of her death. She had been in the hospital little less than a week after incurring injuries suffered in a fall in her home. Mrs. Cleary incurred a fracture of the pelvic bone and shock. A Solemn High Mass was celebrated at her funeral by her two sons. The body was taken to Momence for burial and additional services.

St. Anne Social Club was organized through the efforts of Father Cleary and Father Wolvers to offer some social activity for young adults of the parish. At the time some of the young people of the parish were returning, or had returned from military service, and needed to be made a part of the parish life with the young adults of the parish.

1947

At a meeting of the East Moline Community Chest in February 1947, Father Cleary was re-elected Vice President.

St. Mary's grade and high school in Moline held graduation ceremonies at 8:00 P. M. on June 8, 1947. Father Cleary gave the commencement address.

1949-50

During the 1949-50 school year Father Cleary realized that the walls of the school would not stretch any farther. He was faced with a decision of providing new classrooms and starting the construction of a new church building.

The night after graduation in June 1950, Father had the men of the parish proceed to strip and uproot the altars and pews from the church preparatory to having the first floor converted into classrooms.

1950

On April 6, 1950 Father Cleary revealed plans for the construction of a new church at St. Anne's. The new building would be constructed on several lots on the northwest corner of 6th Street and 18th Avenue. At the same time, the present church building would be converted into an eight room school.

Father Cleary also revealed that the church premises would be vacated but arrangements

had been made to use the Strand Theater building for regular masses during the time of construction.

At the time of the announcement, Father Cleary was in St. Anthony's Hospital recuperating from an illness.

1951

On February 20, 1951 Father Cleary announced that St. Anne's would build a new church together with a rectory on a site located at the northwest corner of 18th Avenue and 6th Street.

Father Cleary turned the first shovel of dirt for the new church on Wednesday, March 28, 1951.

1952

The East Moline - Silvis Association of Commerce held its annual dinner October 9, 1952. One of the highlights of the meeting was the presentation of two honorary memberships to outstanding members in recognition of their service over the years. These members were the Rev. W. J. Cleary, pastor of St. Anne Church and James Ryan, East Moline postmaster.

They were commended for their many civic achievements and their untiring efforts to make East Moline a better city in which to live.

Father Cleary's presentation was made in absentia since he could not attend.

1954

Because of the expansion of the parish and the increased school enrollment, Father Cleary saw the pressing need of a school bus. In September 1954, a school bus was purchased.

1956

Because of the large crowds in attendance at the 1955 Quilt Display and Entertainment, Father Cleary was very concerned about the consequences in case a fire broke out.

At the Quilt Display in 1956, Father decided to have the event take place for two days instead of only one day. This would divide the crowd into two groups since the programs of the school children were offered both days. This plan did not work and Father spent many hours walking from floor to floor to see that no fire broke out. This was the last Quilt Display held at St. Anne's.

On Wednesday June 6, 1956, Father William J. Cleary celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination into the priesthood. Bishop Cousins advised Father Cleary that he owed his parishioners the privilege of holding a celebration in his honor and declared that the celebration would be held on Father's anniversary date. Father Cleary, with his usual humility, wanted no celebration. He even asked the Bishop for permission to go to South America but the Bishop refused the request.

The celebration was a token of appreciation for the congenial parish and community relations engendered by Father Cleary in his many years at St. Anne's. It also gave the parishioners an opportunity to express their admiration for the tremendous expansion accomplished since the date he originally organized the parish.

The celebration began with a Solemn High Mass in the morning. Immediately after the Mass the visiting clergy were entertained with a dinner at Short Hills Country Club. The visiting Sisters were served in the parish hall by the Altar Society.

Because Father Cleary's unbounded love and generosity to his parish throughout the many long years of earnest and constructive service, and the special fact that for years he applied his Christmas and Easter offerings to the parish debt rather than using them for his own special interest, the parishioners presented Father Cleary with a gift of \$6,500 with the stipulation that he retain it for his own use.

Father Cleary was honored by Pope Pius XII with the rank of Domestic Prelate, with the title of Right Reverend Monsignor.

Father Cleary was upset about being raised to the dignity of a Domestic Prelate. At the Masses on the following Sunday, he asked the people to please let him keep the beautiful title of Father which he had been to them for the past 37 years.

In June 1956, the B. V. M.'s asked the pastors of the schools to give up one sister for at least one year due to further study for the newly-professed sisters. This meant no sister would be beginning mission life and a teacher career for three years. Father Cleary offered to give up a Sister and hired a secular teacher.

1957

Father Cleary saw the need for social activity among the young married couples of the parish. In January 1957 the Mr. and Mrs. Club was organized.

1958

The tragic fire at our Lady of Angels School in Chicago in 1958 meant many changes and readjustments at St. Anne's. Father Cleary began at once to accomplish all the things that the Fire Marshall ordered.

1959

The fire also increased Father's determination to start building the new school at once. He had tried for some time to get permission because of the increase in class size. Finally, Bishop Cousins gave permission for an additional four classrooms. In May, 1959 ground was broken for a new building.

1960

Sometime around 1960 Ralph Edwards presented a "This is Your Life" television program on the life of Archbishop Bernard Sheil of Chicago. Both Father Cleary and his brother Monsignor Frank Cleary were classmates of the Archbishop at St. Viator's College and Seminary. They were transported to the program. In the course of the program, Father Cleary spoke out, "We were playing baseball...and from somewhere a .22 bullet came flying and struck you in the leg..." And Bishop Sheil said, "That has to be Bill Cleary". (The bullet was probably a stray hunter's bullet from the woods behind St. Viator's.)

1961

During May and June 1961, Friday evenings were devoted to meetings with the men of the parish who worked with the Development Drive for the B.V.M. Sisters. Father Cleary attended every meeting at St. Anne's, St. Joseph's, Sacred Heart in Rock Island and Alleman High School. It was the general opinion of everybody that Father Cleary was the "main spring" of the drive in this area.

In October 1961, Father Cleary's brother, Monsignor Francis Cleary, age 72, died. He was born September 9, 1888 in Momence. He graduated from St. Xavier College in Bourbonnais in 1911 and from St. Viator's Seminary in 1914. He celebrated his Silver Jubilee as a priest on June 11, 1939.

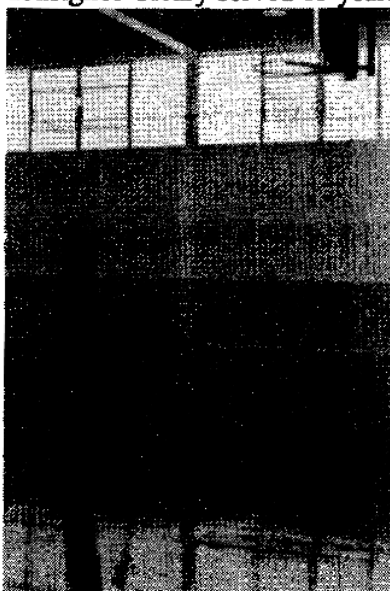
At the time of his death, Monsignor Cleary was pastor of St. Columbia Church in Ottawa, president of Marquette High School and dean of the Ottawa district for the diocese. He had served St. Columbia's for the past 13 years. Prior to that Monsignor Cleary served 13 years at St. Patrick's in Danville. He also served as assistant at St. Joseph's in Rock Island as did his brother.

1962

In July 1962, Father Cleary announced that construction would begin on a new recreation center for the parish. It would be located on the southwest corner of 6th Street and 17th Avenue just across the street from the parish grade school. When completed, the center would include a combination basketball court and recreation room, kitchen, storage and dressing rooms.

1964

In May 1964, Father Cleary requested permission of Bishop Franz to retire from St. Anne Parish. The Bishop, however, asked Father to reconsider his request since he had no misgivings about Father continuing as pastor of St.



Anne Parish.

On October 31, 1964 a surprise party was given for Father Cleary in Honor of his 85th birthday and the 45th anniversary of the parish. Sixty-five B.V.M. Sisters from surrounding cities and former teachers at the school attended.

On November 1, 1964 a reception was held in the school hall to celebrate the occasion. Many former parishioners and friends returned to share the day of jubilation with Father Cleary.

The school children were guests of Father Cleary at a luncheon as a concluding feature of the three-day celebration.

1965

On August 3, 1965 Father Cleary announced to the parish that a new convent would be built on the site of the present convent and bungalow next door. The announcement was made to the media in March 1966.

As a means of securing advice and help with certain parish matters, Father Cleary established a Parish Council in 1965.

1966

In January 1966, due to failing eyesight, Father Cleary requested and was given permission by the Bishop to say fifteen decades of the rosary as daily prayer instead of using the breviary.

1967

In March 1967, because of his physical condition, Father requested the Bishop to appoint a vicar or administrator to oversee the administration of the parish. In March 1967, Father John O'Connor was appointed Vicar Adjutor and Father Cleary was named Titular Pastor.

During May 1967, Father Cleary requested the Bishop about the possibility of burial in the churchyard. The Bishop indicated that this was a matter of civil law and should be thoroughly investigated. The matter was taken up with the proper authorities who came to the conclusion that there was no specific statute or ordinance which would prevent Father Cleary's wish from being carried out.

On June 6, 1967, Father William J. Cleary celebrated the 61st anniversary of his ordination. A Mass was celebrated in the morning followed by a luncheon at noon at Short Hills Country Club. Bishop Franz attended the Mass and luncheon.

A reception was held in the evening in Cleary Hall where more than 1,000 persons turned out to honor Father.

1968

In February 1968, Father Cleary established a Board of Education to evaluate and

coordinate all the educational programs of the parish.

1969

Father Cleary was on retreat at St. Ambrose College from August 18-21, 1969.

On September 21, 1969 St. Anne's celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the parish, the 50th Anniversary of the Rt. Rev. Msgr. William J. Cleary as pastor of St. Anne's and the 25th Anniversary of the ordination of the Rev. John O'Connor, Vicar Adjutor of the parish.

A Jubilee Mass was concelebrated at 12:15 P. M. on Sunday with eleven priests participating and a dinner was served following the Mass to about 60 priests and sisters.

Benediction services were held at 3:30 P. M. followed by a reception from 4 to 8 P. M. in Cleary Hall.

It was also at this time that the recreation center was formally named in honor of Father Cleary's dedication to the parish for 50 years.

1970

On April 19, 1970 the Rock Island and Moline councils of the Knights of Columbus presented an appreciation award to Father Cleary in appreciation of faithful and exceptional service to the church and the community.



On Saturday, May 16, 1970, St. Anne Boy Scouts celebrated 50 years of scouting activity in the parish. Father Cleary was presented with a 50 year pin.

Later in 1970, Bishop Franz gave permission to Father Cleary to offer Holy Mass in the rectory and sitting down with a priest present when he did so. He was also given permission to say Mass in the Rite most familiar to him -- Latin, English -- old Roman missal or whatever. Father had been given the privilege to use the blind man's missal -- Mass of the Trinity, Blessed Virgin Mary and Requiem Mass.

In July 1970, Father Cleary was admitted to St. Anthony's Hospital. Early in August 1970, he returned to the rectory and occupied the housekeeper's suite. Father stated, "I wish to express my appreciation for all the cards I received. I am most grateful to the people who decorated the rooms in the rectory where I am now making my home. Thanks to all of you. May God reward your generous offerings to me during my hospital visit."

1972

In July 1972 at the age of 92, Father Cleary joined the ranks of retired priests of the diocese and thus no longer served as Titular Pastor. He received permission from the Bishop to move out of the rectory and made his retirement home on the first floor of the house of Ann Tilton.

1975

In 1975 Father Cleary was hospitalized.

On July 21, 1975 Father sent a letter to Monsignor George Carton advising him that he had spoken to and requested the members of St. Anne Guild to act as pallbearers at his funeral.

The Bishop advised Father VanRaes, Pastor of St. Anne parish, that the Guild members could not have the part of pallbearers at Father Cleary's funeral. That was contrary to the tradition of the diocese.

Father Cleary also requested that the Guild serve a luncheon in Cleary Hall after his funeral Mass.

1977

Father Cleary was taken to the hospital following a fall in early July, 1977. On July 12, 1977 he was transferred to St. Anthony's Care Center.

On August 16, 1977 shortly before 7:30 A. M. the Rt. Rev. Monsignor William J. Cleary entered Eternal Life.

Upon learning of his death, Bishop Edward O'Rourke stated "Monsignor Cleary has been one of the truly devout, generous and effective pastors in our diocese. He was loved by all who knew him. The impact he has had on the Quad Cities was very great. I am confident his rewards will be very special in heaven."

Father Cleary's funeral was held on August 19, 1977 with Bishop Franz as the principal celebrant. Chaplains to the Bishop were Father Michael VanRaes and Father John O'Connor. Serving as acolytes were Father Cornelius Hollerich and Father Vincent Dietzen. Book Bearer was Father Denis Mackessy and Father Edward Bawiec served as miter bearer. Father Robert Gillis was censer bearer and Father John Niemeyer was cross bearer. The Master of Ceremonies was Father James Carr while Father Robert Livingston was in charge of music.

About 35 priests celebrated the Mass with Bishop Franz while another 25 or 30 priests remained seated with the congregation.

During the service, Father VanRaes told the congregation "there would be no sermon in accordance with Father Cleary's wishes. As long as there is a St. Anne's, Father Cleary will be part of it."

The faces of the congregation were both young and old. After the Mass, the congregation

spilled onto the lawn just south of the church near the rectory where a tent had been set up over the grave.

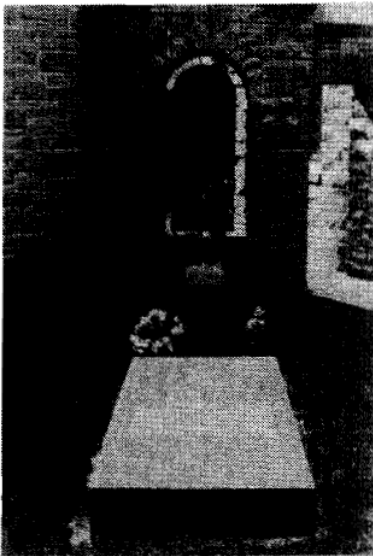
Some years earlier Father Cleary had made an unusual old world request to be buried on the grounds at St. Anne's. A search had been made of existing laws and no reason was found why he couldn't be buried at St. Anne's.

The rain had stopped by the time the burial rite began and the mood was that of old and good friends temporarily reunited by the common link of a man who had come to know many in his 96 years.

The traffic and noon whistles of the nearby factories interrupted the retired Bishop as he concluded the service but also seemed to explain why Father Cleary had requested to be buried at St. Anne's -- near the church and people he loved.

And then, as before, the mood was that of a city again.

One elderly woman was heard to say, "He would have liked this. It was just like he planned, except for the rain. He wouldn't have stood for that."



Father Cleary was laid to rest in a tomb fashioned with stones left over when the rectory was built. The headstone bears the hand prints of Father Cleary.

During his lifetime, Father Cleary received many tributes from people who knew him or were associated with him in some way. It is fitting that some of those tributes be related here:

From an editorial about Monsignor Cleary in the East Moline Herald of May 25, 1967:

"For years he drove a small convertible around the community. He was an ardent and excellent swimmer. His family home in Momence, Illinois having stood on the banks of the Kankakee River. He loved to canoe. His Boy Scout troop was famous in the area, capturing an endless succession of prizes. At times it seemed that every kid in town knew him and revered him.

"He enjoyed a great popularity in the community. He was always present for community affairs, attending Chamber of commerce dinners, holding a directorate on the East Moline Community Chest Board.

"St. Anne parish is now overly large, it seems at times, but in the early days and until the post war years, it was much smaller. It was, as we have already said, a reflection of the ability and kindness, the consideration and the exemplary Christianity of Father Cleary. He was recognized by Catholics and non-Catholics alike as a community leader, a God-fearing man, dedicated to the cause and the church he served. He was never accused of selfishness or pettiness. Even those who may have a violent dislike of the faith he represented, were generous in their praise of him as an individual.

"As generations in his parish have come and gone (we often wonder how many he baptized and buried), each has acquired a love for the man. His opinions were always considered with respect for everyone knew that whatever they might be, they were given with true sincerity."

On the occasion of the dedication of the new church in October 1952, Arnold Neihaus, East Moline City Clerk said:

"The good Lord said when he was among his people that a home built upon rock would stand the test of time. Certainly you have built on a rock when you built your first house of worship, for it has helped to make this a better place to live and inspired people to live the kind of life Our Lord Jesus taught us.

"Your parish has grown during all these years and we hope and pray that it will continue to grow and extend its good will in our community. No community can continue to grow without the teachings that God's way of life must come first in everyone's life and this can only happen when we have the kind of teaching that you have taught the members of your parish.

"We especially want to express our appreciation to you for the excellent work you have done all these years to make our city a better place to live."

But some of the best tributes and remembrances of Father Cleary were those enunciated by former students at St. Anne School. The following were submitted at the time of the celebration of St. Anne's 75th Anniversary as a parish.

"Loving, sweet-kind-generous ALL! Playing tennis with Fathers Cleary and Reidy of St. Mary's Moline. Father Cleary taking me for spins in new convertible autos. Also swimming in the Mississippi at a spot called 7 Oaks near Hampton, IL."

Joe Giovenazzo - 1929

"Winning ball games and each of us getting 10 cents from Father Cleary. With the 10 cents from Father Cleary we would all go to Mrs. Wilson's candy store and spend it."

Joseph McConoughey - 1931

"Father Cleary's kindness, support and helpfulness for my family during the difficult depression period of the 30's."

Mary Ann Giovenazzo - 1932

"I recall that Father Cleary used to umpire our ball games, which we played on the school grounds at noon. He was also our Scoutmaster (Troop 15) and I recall how we used to hike to Camp Mansur. He also used to take his Mass servers swimming at the canal. It was a real treat to get to ride in his Ford convertible with the top down."

Francis T. Kinney - 1932

"When our son was killed, Father Cleary came to our house as soon as he heard about his death. I was so pleased with his eulogy at Gary's funeral."

Leola Odendahl Rossmiller - 1932

"Father Cleary visited our home often. He would borrow my dad's post digger for what use I do not remember. Also remember his convertible. As we all know, a very generous and kind man."

Lucile Welling Campagna - 1933

"I can only describe him as a true man of God. He was very much beloved by all his parishioners (and even those not). I can see him playing on the old tennis court with the boys, and driving his convertible (in white cap and T-shirt) taking a lot of boys out to the canal to swim. I loved him dearly. He officiated at my baptism, my daughter's baptism, served at my Confirmation and married me to my first husband. To most of us who knew him well, he could have been God."

Dorothy Harper Fey - 1934

"Father used to go on a lot of picnics with us. My parents were charter members of St. Anne's. Father would drop in at our house quite often. I remember what a tennis

player Father was."

Ethel Odendahl Hulsbrink - 1934

"Father Cleary's kindness to all, especially his way of helping people during the depression without hurting their pride."

Dorothy Weintraut Sosnouski - 1934

"Father Cleary riding in his convertible."

Kathryn McLain Evans - 1937

"I remember Father Cleary even in mid-winter, driving his black Ford convertible with the top down."

George Odendahl - 1937

"Father Cleary's canoe. He would go to the Mississippi, get out of the canoe and swim behind it downstream. All you could see was an empty canoe with a bald head following it. Boy Scouts, serving Mass for him. Going with him to football games (St. Ambrose) and other short trips in his convertible, especially in the winter with the roof down. His occasional outbursts, etc. during his sermons when something bothered him. I remember especially a crying baby. He slammed the Bible shut in the middle of a sentence and bellowed, "I can't compete with that." And he went back to the altar."

William Bollaert - 1938

"As I look back now I realize the patience he had with the Boy Scouts as Scoutmaster of the troop and the boys choir as music director. I also remember how great it was to ride in his shiny Ford convertible and go swimming in the Mississippi River during summer vacation. I honestly believe that Father Cleary and the Sisters at St. Anne's installed in me a religious foundation that has carried me through the trials I've encountered in my life."

John Braet - 1938

"During the Depression in the 1930's, he came to our house to pick up several of us younger siblings and take us to Speybroeck's clothing store and outfit us in some warm winter clothing. Since there were 8 children in our family this Act of Love and Charity was never forgotten. Other recollections were his always shiny black new Ford convertibles and his reputation for powerful swimming. He would swim across the Mississippi River. His height -- he seemed so tall."

Bernard Steiner - 1938

"In the late 40's when I was out of college, I had a high school choir at (I think) 7:30 Mass. One year, on the first Sunday of Advent we sang a Christmas carol as the opening

song. Father turned around, looked back at us and said, "Well, I didn't realize it was Christmas already!!" That was way before we started celebrating Christmas right after Labor Day! I remember his convertibles and how I envied the boys when they were allowed to go with him on an errand. I corresponded with Father until he couldn't write any more. I was blessed to see him occasionally in those last few years."

Leota Kerres Anderson - 1939

"With Father Cleary I recall his weekly visits to conduct religion classes; his review, remarks and dispensing of report cards each quarter while seated at the teacher's desk; his interest in and help with the Scouts to earn the necessary merit badges and the help with the other requirements necessary for advancement in the Scout program.

Father heard confessions on Thursday nights before First Fridays in the church directly above the basement. Thursday nights were Boy Scout meeting nights in the basement. Whenever it became too noisy, Father would stamp his foot on the floor as a sign to diminish the noise."

Joe Roels - 1939

"Father Cleary retrieving our balls from the lady who owned the property where the church now stands. A true guiding light to all of us."

Tony Marchello - 1941

"Remember Father Cleary was a great swimmer and tennis player. Didn't realize until I was in my sixties that at the time we were there in the 8th grade, Father Cleary was already 60 or 61. All through the ruckus of the Scout meetings, Father would calmly be reading his breviary daily obligation. Boy Scouts would march in all parades and usher at the July 4th celebrations. Most of our parents couldn't afford uniforms, but Father had a big trunk in the sacristy in which shirts, pants, hats, etc. were all mixed up, all sizes, so when an event came up we were all invited to dig in and find a fit to take home for washing and ironing.

I worked for Father in the summer removing the wax from the schoolrooms. We then hand scrubbed those with stiff brushes. Father didn't want any streaks or colored spots.

Those floors were often scrubbed 2 to 3 times before we rewaxed them. Candle stubs were saved throughout the year and he had a formula in which we melted those candles, removed the wicks, mixed it with turpentine and then waxed the school floors and hallways with this concoction. After it dried, it was buffed and what a beautiful floor it was, and lasted through the school year."

Duane Billiet - 1942

"My memories of Father Cleary include his generosity since my folks couldn't pay

tuition due to being poor. When my dad lost his eyesight, Father spent many hours and money looking for a cure. Also, if the boys (who always sat in the rear of Church during Sunday Mass) were goofing off, Father would stop Mass and look at them. That's all it took!"

Margaret Gumber Moody - 1942

"I think my fondest memories of all are the faith and values Father Cleary and the Sisters showed us all to grow up and be who we are today. They cared for us in our young years."

Vivian Vyncke Verscheure - 1942

"Father Cleary treated everyone equal. He never had any favorites. He was also very good-hearted."

Eva Lulich Theunick - 1943

"I remember Father Cleary teaching us catechism every Monday morning."

Patricia Rose Dopler - 1943

"Being in Father Cleary's "Boys Choir" (grade school). Serving as Altar Boy, 5th grade thru high school. He wouldn't let the Altar boys quit."

William Vyncke - 1943

"Attended the ordination of my cousin in Perryville, MO. Drove there with Father Cleary and other classmates--1943 or 1944. I have strong memories of Father Cleary's wonderful sense of humor."

Don Bohnert - 1943

"Father Cleary was one of the nicest priests that I've known."

Mary Claus Raymond - 1944

"Father Cleary and the Sisters running St. Anne's School with very firm hands. I also remember Father Cleary swimming across the Mississippi River and back at Cosgrave's River Camp at Port Byron. Father Cleary was always very involved with old Troop 15 Boy Scouts and we had some good times with him."

David Garrett - 1944

"I always looked forward to Father Cleary coming in to hand out the report cards. Back then, we all tried hard and looked forward to his praise."

Beverly Ostrowski Hawkins - 1944

"Father Cleary was always an inspiration to me. He was way ahead of everyone else in his relationship with other churches. I remember his playing tennis with the local Methodist minister. I remember his great sense of humor and droll wit. His wants were

simple and his only frivolous possession was his new black Ford convertible. He was truly a great man."

Bill Cant - 1945

"My memories of St. Anne include many caring Sisters and the watchful eye of Father Cleary. We were all treated equally and fairly."

Joyce Ghesquire DeGrauwe - 1945

"His kind ways. His gruff voice. Serving as an Altar boy for him. The way he came into the classroom, asked the nun for a cardboard tablet back, drew some kid's foot print, cut it out--bought the kid some shoes and brought them back to the kid. He was a neat person."

Charles Leenknecht - 1945

"Sometime during 1942 or 1943, Father Cleary took the entire school choir to Davenport, Iowa for lunch at Bishop's Cafeteria and then to see the hit movie, Sergeant York. What a special treat for a kid in those days!! I've never forgotten it."

Alice Malfait O'Mallay - 1945

"While preparing for Confirmation, Father Cleary entered the classroom and started asking questions. He asked one question he presumed would be difficult to answer (I can't even remember the question) and stated he would give his rosary to the person who answered it correctly. I did!! That was quite a treasure."

Darlene Ballegeer Clark - 1946

Much patience with us but I'm glad he did. After my dad and uncle, he had more effect on my life than any other man. Father Cleary had names for many of us kids. He called me "The Expert". Why, I don't know or can't remember but was proud when he'd say, "Here comes the expert."

Jerry Braet - 1953

"I remember Father Cleary always passing out the report cards. He did that for every class and would shake our hands and tell us great job."

Sandra Lee Park Delles - 1953

"St. Anne's was a disciplined community. I can still see Father Cleary coming into the classroom to review our religion lessons or just visit with us. I was in awe of the man and very pleased that he cared enough to visit us. When I think back to that time, I'm still impressed with Father Cleary's visits. I know that his visits, more than words, tell each student--you are important; you are loveable; you are loved by me (Father Cleary) and by God, our Father."

"I especially loved the yearly St. Patrick's day celebrations. I can remember Father Cleary working very hard to make these celebrations successful. We practiced different dances and performances and we learned Irish songs; some standard ones and some that Father Cleary himself composed. These latter really impressed me (I do not remember the words or the tunes for Father's original tunes). Father Cleary and the Sisters were and still are part of me, part of the person I am."

Mary Katherine DeDoncker Bravard - 1954

"Father Cleary was my first real employer. I was hired to dry dishes for 10 cents a night for Father's housekeeper. I was surprised one day seeing Father Cleary playing that old organ in the Church choir loft."

"One day when I was walking over to the rectory, I heard the pounding noise in the garage. It was Father punching a bag like a boxer uses. He really could make it go."

"My Uncle DonDoxsee and his wife Katherine learned of wild birds from Father Cleary in school."

"My Dad also said that when Father first came here he once danced the soft shoe in the street and people threw coins while they enjoyed the dance."

"Looks like he was a man of many talents."

Patricia Doxsee Payne - 1956

"We were taught respect in a loving and caring manner. Father Cleary made a celebration out of many occasions. He was truly a special gift from God to us."

Theresa Larson Ricketts - 1956

"Father driving around in his black Ford convertible. His patience in teaching me to be a Altar boy. The rolls and cocoa after midnight Mass and Father giving us all new dollar bills for a Christmas present."

"Father Cleary passing out report cards."

Denny Polaschek - 1956

"Father Cleary always gave the Altar boys (myself included) that served the 6:00 A.M. Mass a big nickel (25 cents)."

Jim Winkelbauer - 1956

"Father Cleary always treated everyone equal and respect for him was automatic. He never told you he cared about you, you just knew by his actions that everyone was very important to him and he was proud to be there for them."

Verna Marie Rockwell May - 1957

"My fondest memories of Father Cleary happened the day I was married. At that time

he was not attending many of the ceremonies. That day I received one of the highest honors of my lifetime. He came out on the altar dressed in his red robes of which you all know he very rarely wore. Even Father Gillis was surprised. I'll always love him dearly."

Janice Anne Rossmiller Kron - 1957

"Father Cleary handing out report cards in every class every quarter and always having a word of encouragement. Giving the eighth grade choir the day off from school on the day he became a monsignor and the choir had sung the Mass."

Gabriel A. Verstraete - 1957

"Confession with Father Cleary. He always knew who you were so needless to say his line was very short."

Mary Lou Claeys Bennett - 1958

"Father Cleary - the way he said Mass a little different than the rest of the priests. The way he wanted a lot of wax on the candle holders on the Altar."

Thomas W. Courtney - 1958

"I used to play the organ for daily Mass and on Sundays and for devotions (Advent and Lent) and for funerals. Father Cleary loved the old pipe organ instead of the newer one. He also longed for a boys' choir and the choir was always so bad, but he sang right along with them and tried to find out which one was the "sinner among us" meaning the one off-key. Unfortunately, they all were! Also, Father Cleary would come to religion classes and quiz us on our catechism. If we didn't know the answer he would say, "Beautiful, but dumb." He demanded respect and got it."

Mary Ellen DeCastaker Norin - 1958

"Father Cleary dropping all the hosts while I was serving as an Altar boy. He would not let anyone get remotely close to them. He had to pick them all up by himself. Father Cleary would tip the Altar boys a "nickel" (quarter) after Mass. Father Cleary outfitting all the boys with helmets, shoulder pads, pants and everything out of the basement in the rectory for those out for football."

Patrick W. Dowsett - 1960

"Father Cleary - what a kind, gentle man. We all got in his line for confession because he was hard of hearing and gave everybody the same penance."

Diane Saelens DeBord - 1961

"Serving Mass for Father Cleary was an honor. He also taught servers quick reflexes. When he returned the paten after communion, either you were quick enough to grab it or he'd let it go. Those patens did make a loud clang when they hit the floor."

Jim Dowsett - 1962

"All the students in the hallway of the new section singing Happy Birthday to Father Cleary."

Michaela Quinn VanDierendonck - 1962

"I miss seeing Father Cleary walking around the church and school. I remember him passing out report cards and telling us if we did good or could do better."

Mary Jane Behrens Smith - 1963

"I remember Father Cleary delivering hams, Buddy-L trucks and toys at Christmas time to local families in need."

Maryellen Viren Neal - 1963

"Father Cleary used to come to my grandparents house. We used to have fish fries. He had a canoe parked at my grandparents. I used to be amazed that such an old man was so active and strong. One time Sister Mary Isabella had a song that we practiced for Father Cleary's birthday. We sang it to him in the hallway. I can still remember the song and the words. It was very touching to him."

Patricia Ryan Herath - 1964

"Father Cleary seemed to love all of us and we loved him."

Marilyn Kehoe VanAusdall - 1965

"I remember Father Cleary for his gentleness and kindness."

Sherry Ruby - 1965

"Father Cleary coming into our classroom and giving us a lesson in religion."

Lucia Veryzer Bertram - 1965

"Father coming to hand out report cards. It showed how he cared for all. The times he came to our Halloween parades and handed out candy to all the children."

Denise Roels Erps - 1966

"I always enjoyed serving Mass for Father Cleary."

Mark A. Hauser - 1969

"Father Cleary doing the Stations of the Cross and having to get up after Mass and say the prayers we were to learn."

Nancy Keith Gosa - 1969

"Father Cleary always greeting people in the gym foyer."

Mary Guise Brewer - 1975

"I can still remember being quite young and feeling what an honor it was just to have Father Cleary come in the room to say "Hi" and how I loved to hear the stories of him swimming the Mississippi."

Marie McNeany Hanson - 1976



Of course there are also a few stories that can be told about Father Cleary that give an insight to his character.

1. During his days as pastor of St. Anne's, Father was well known in the community and easily recognized for the Ford convertible which he drove. Regardless of the season, it seems that the top was always down. In the winter a special blanket was available for the person riding in the passenger seat. It was also well known that Father generally drove in 2nd gear! When Father quit driving he donated his Ford to a mission in China.

2. But a story has it that Father Cleary one time "inadvertently" drove away in the wrong car. One day Father had stopped to see Margaret Dunsmore and her grandmother when they lived on 17th Avenue between 5th and 6th Street. He parked his convertible on the south side of the street. Shortly thereafter Charles Dhooge, who lived across the street from Margaret, also parked his Ford on the avenue. When Father left Margaret Dunsmore's he mistakenly took Charles Dhooge's car since the key fit the ignition.

Later when Charles looked out of his window he saw that his car was gone and went next door to tell Dale Berger. He noticed that the car still parked belonged to Father Cleary so he went to the rectory. When he told Father what had taken place, Father was quite positive that the Ford in his garage belonged to him and took Dale to the garage to prove it. As it turned out, Father was mistaken and the necessary switch was made.



The following observations about Father Cleary were given in an interview with Bill Dowsett in October, 1994.

Our family was close to Father Cleary. His first assignment was at St. Joe's in Rock Island. My mother was in kindergarten at the time. When Father came to East Moline we moved here too. My two sisters were baptized in the Lyric Theater but I was baptized in Rock Island.

When we returned from Missouri I started to serve Mass. I liked to swing the incense burner high whenever we used it during a celebration. May Knobloch told my mother that when I swung the censer it made her nervous. The next time that I served when we used the censer, I swung it a little higher and thought about what Mrs. Knobloch had said. It made me nervous. Father had recently installed a new carpet on the altar. As I swung that censer, I hit the step of the altar and spilled burning charcoal on the new carpet. Father yelled, "Stop and get some water."

One day when I was in grade school I had to serve at a funeral Mass. Father and I were in the back of church waiting for the casket and funeral party to arrive. I think the funeral was for 9:00 A.M. Father looked at his watch and saw that it was 9:00. "Not here," he said. "Let's go. I wouldn't wait for the Pope." So we started Mass without the body.

Father liked to chew and always had a little tobacco under his lips. I remember him chewing tobacco at my First Communion.

My father operated a grocery store in a building just across 6th Street on 17th Avenue from the Church. He operated the store from 1920 to 1922. One day, during 1920 when the church was being built, Father Cleary came into the store and kidding me said, "Bill, remember you pounded a lot of nails but somebody came behind you and had to pull them all out."

In 1952 I had bought out my partner in the business operation. Business was poor and times were bad. I had built a shop on 13th Street and 9th Avenue. My mother's favorite saint was St. Therese of the Little Flower and she told me to pray to her. I dedicated the building to the Little Flower. When the cornerstone was laid Father came out and blessed the building.

I played tennis a lot with Father Cleary. He would stand in one place but had me running all over the court.

At the time we were building the new convent is when the Sisters quit wearing their habits and wore street clothes. Harold Odendahl was doing the plumbing work in the convent. He noted that Sister Isabella was a red head. During construction Sister was asking for lot of changes. Harold said, "I might have known that she was a red head. She was a damn nuisance." But because of Sister Isabella we got a much better convent. The convent should have been built with more spacious rooms and better living quarters.

I served Mass for Father for a number of years. When he was older I went to get the chalice

for him out of the bottom of the cabinet. As I stooped to get it, Father hollered, "No! No! No! Don't touch it!" That was at the time when only a priest could touch the chalice.

After serving Mass in the mornings for Father I would go downtown and get the mail on the way to work. One Friday morning the Peoria Register had come and when I looked at it, I saw that Father Cleary had been made a monsignor. I went back to the rectory to congratulate Father on being made a "Monsignor." He mumbled something and was the unhappiest person in the world. I was sorry I went back to see him.

When Father Cleary was at Anne Tilton's house I went there to Mass and helped Father. He knew the proper parts of the Mass by heart. I read the Epistle and Gospel, the latter being unusual for a layperson. We sat at the table during Mass.

When Father was up in age he planned on dying. He wanted to be buried on the lawn of the church. "Now listen, Bill," he said. "I want to be sure that I'm buried on the church lawn. You and Joe Ryan make sure it's done." Denny Jacobs was Mayor and said there was no problem. We needed permission from both the State and the Bishop. We got those permissions.

I visited Father at St. Anthony's a day or two before he died. He was ready and couldn't wait to die. The sooner it came the happier he would be.

When Father John O'Connor was here he ordered a statue of an old man from a sculptor in Chicago to be placed outside the parish hall. He asked me to get the statue when it was finished. So Carl Conover and I took an old 2 1/2 ton truck, which was practically riding on the springs, to pick up the statue. The statue, which was made of stone, weighed 3 ton and had to be loaded on the truck with a crane. During the handling of the statue the sculptor broke off the man's nose when he picked up his hammer and chisel. He had to do the face all over again.

The following observations about Father Cleary were given in an interview with Ann Tilton in August 1994.

Father came to live with me but before he came he wanted me to serve Mass. I said, "No. I'm no good at that." "Oh, but you will," he said.

On a Friday morning Father Cleary called me and asked, "What are you doing this afternoon?" I replied, "I watch General Hospital on television, but can skip that today." "No, no. Listen to that story. Do what you usually do."

Father came before he said he would. I didn't know what he wanted. I thought that I had done something really wrong in the parish. I asked him, "What's up?" "Nothing," he replied. "I want to live with you. That's what I'm really here for. Take me in. I asked my friends, but they refused me."

He wanted to live upstairs but I told him, "No." I didn't want any part of that. I also told Father that he couldn't live upstairs if he wanted to live with me.

Then came the first meal. I always served Jello because I liked it. Father sat down to eat and noticed the Jello but shoved it aside. "I don't want any of that stuff. That's for the birds," he said. So no more Jello on the table.

Father was a great one for pies. He wanted pie every day but no cream pie. It took a lot of work to do that every day but I got a variety for him. He was always pleased with the meals. The last day before he died he had strawberry pie for supper. Around 9:00 P.M. Father fell and I called Father VanRaes who made the arrangements to take him to the hospital.

There was a Mass in my house every day. I had to take everything down and reset it. Sometimes it was crowded. Once there were 17 people in the house. Father sometimes had me doing the reading. Usually Bill Dowsett was present and did the reading and the serving. I missed the Mass after Father died.

Many people from all over the world came to see Father. Sometimes priests and nuns would come as late as 10:00 P.M. When there was a knock on the door we would wonder who it could be.

Father was interested in football games. No matter what time of the night it was, he stayed with the game. He enjoyed himself very much. It related to his days of playing football.

When I tried to sew I needed a light but Father didn't want a light on. So I just put the light close to the machine so that he couldn't see it and that way I could sew.

Father was against the charismatic movement which I joined. He wanted me to quit but it was helping me. I didn't quit and Father wasn't happy. Father VanRaes and Father Cleary talked about the charismatics as 'Holy Rollers.' I had a good laugh about it myself.

Father Gillis and Father Dorsey came frequently to see Father. They had many good times

together. It was a joy to see them together. They were close friends despite the age difference.

Father told me that the Bishop had given permission to say three rosaries every day instead of reading from the breviary. We said the Stations of the Cross together every day.

Many times Father Cleary asked the Bishop for permission to be buried on the church grounds. He asked Tom Giovenazzo to write those letters for him. Many times the Bishop said, "No" but Father kept writing. Finally the Bishop said, "Yes." Father was then in his glory.

The alley from my house to the church was in bad shape. Father Cleary asked Clix Vyncke, City Clerk, to do something about the situation. After several letters and trips to City Hall we got the good news that the alley would be repaired.

Father walked many times in the alley. He walked every day with a walker when he was living with me.

Even though Father said that he was blind and could not read, he could detect colors. People got a big kick out of Father.

Sister Mary Isabella came often to see Father. They were good friends. Many times Sister brought oysters for Father. I always made oyster stew for Father which he enjoyed. Sister had a place spotted in Davenport that sold the oysters.

Sister Mary Isabella also wrote some letters for Father. It seems to me there was also another Sister but I don't remember her name.

When Father Cleary heard about the needy he always helped them. He went to the store and bought food and necessities for them and took the items to their home. He was very good-hearted.

The following observations about Father Cleary were given in an interview with Dr. DeBourcey in September, 1994.

When Father Cleary was an assistant at St. Joseph's in Rock Island he came to Silvis now and then to say Mass at Crowder Hall on 10th Street. The Mass schedule was sketchy. (Crowder Hall was at 1004 1/2 - 1st Avenue.)

My parents came to Silvis from Moline in 1907.

We went to church at St. Mary's in East Moline on the street car. The pressure to get an English speaking church in East Moline became greater. At St. Mary's the sermons were in Belgian and it didn't work out for some people. I think there was a Matt Moran, a foreman at the Silvis Yards, who pushed for a church to be built in Silvis as did other people.

When I was a boarding student at St. Ambrose, Father Cleary would come over to see the priests occasionally. If he saw me he always gave me a couple of bucks. I thought it was pretty big stuff.

Some of us parish members each gave a little donation so that Father Cleary could secure a membership at Short Hills Country Club. However, during the depression Father dropped his membership to set an example for his parishioners.

I attended a meeting about building a school. The plans of some parishioners in attendance were not to Father's liking for he stated, "Doing it that way, you do it without me."

When plans were made to erect a church in Silvis, Father Cleary was asked by the Bishop to find a place. I went with Father Cleary to look. Some land was purchased in Silvis in the Bowlesburg area. Ultimately it was sold at a good profit. It was never needed.

There was a chapel by the boxcars in Silvis. When the Bishop came there was always a big celebration. The Bishop was always interested in that area.

Father Cleary swam around Campbell's Island every day.

The following observations about Father Cleary were given in an interview with Genevieve Banaszek in October 1994.

The first thing that is outstanding in my mind about Father Cleary was his friendliness. When we first moved here from Chicago I asked Father to come and bless our home on 15th Avenue. He arrived about a week later and blessed each room as he went through the house. The basement was cluttered because of moving but that didn't bother him. He talked with us for a long time. He wanted to know how my husband got his job and transferred to East Moline.

Father never refused anybody. He was invited to First Communion parties and to our 50th Wedding Anniversary. The anniversary was hard for Father to attend but he sent a beautiful letter stating why he couldn't come.

One day one of my boys and three other students shoveled the snow around the school. After they had finished they went to the furnace room in the basement (this was also the janitor's room) to warm up. They started a card game. Father Cleary walked in and the boys didn't know what to do. "O.K. boys," said Father. "The game's over. It's time to go home."

My youngest son, Butch, was playing football in the school yard in the alley. He came home holding his nose. He had run into a telephone pole but didn't go to the nurse because it was time to go home. The next day when Butch went to school Father Cleary inspected Butch's sore nose and wanted to know what had happened. "What post did you hit?" he asked. "The one in the alley," said Butch. "Well, let's go see if it has moved." So to the alley they went. "Well, Butch," Father said. "You didn't move it at all. That's alright."



I enjoyed the Altar Society meetings each month. It was a chance to meet many people. With the Altar Society meeting and the card clubs, there was always something each week. I miss the Altar Society.

The following observations about Father Cleary were given in an interview with Vernon "Ollie" Bergstrand and Bud Ishmael in July 1994.

Neither of these gentlemen were members of St. Anne Parish but lived in the neighborhood as youngsters and knew Father Cleary very well. Ollie Bergstrand lived across the alley from the rectory. The family house stood on the site of the parking lot east of the convent.

Bud Ishmael lived on 17th Avenue two houses east of the rectory.

Ollie

The tennis court was a neighborhood park. We could roller skate on it but it was a little tricky because the court was made of squares with gaps between them. We had to jump over the grooves so as not to fall but had a lot of wonderful times.

The front of the convent had a screened in porch which was the full width of the convent. In the summer time the sisters sat on the porch in their wicker rockers. They would sit and talk and visit with the porch light on.

We had fun on May Day. We went up into the hill and picked flowers and put them in the baskets we made from wallpaper. We took the baskets around the neighborhood but especially liked to go to the Sisters. They always gave us candy or a cookie. Nobody else gave anything because they were poor.

The Sister's housekeeper, Mrs. Chalfont, fell and struck her head when leaving the convent to go to the store. My sister found her and was so frightened that she ran home to our mother.

I went to school at Lincoln School and came home for lunch. There was always a softball game on the tennis courts at St. Anne's. Connie Churchill and Art Gumber were power hitters. They could hit the ball on the school roof. They were the stars. Father Cleary umpired the games from behind the pitcher.

My first memory of Father Cleary was in January 1926. I remember it real well. My father died leaving 7 children in age of 6 months to 17 years. Father Cleary walked up 18th Avenue to our house to offer his condolences.

My mother died 50 years later. Father Cleary came to the mortuary to offer his condolences and sympathy. Bill Dowsett brought Father and led him because Father couldn't see too well. I felt proud to have Father come to see my mother.

Bud Ishmael

I saw Father Cleary in the grocery store one day. At the time he was an old man. He said to me, "Oh, yes you're Ishmael. You lived two doors down. How's your mom and dad?"

Ollie

Father was always interested in how my mother was doing. They were both about the same age. One day, after I was married, I visited Father Cleary outside the rectory on 18th Avenue.

Prior to visiting Father I had stopped to see my mother who was about 80 years old at the time. Father asked how my mother was and what she was doing. I told him that she was standing on a table hanging curtains. Father said, "You go tell your mother to quit doing that."

Father Cleary liked to play tennis. He and my two brothers and myself played lots of doubles. Father provided the rackets, balls and net. After dinner, as a routine, we hung around the alley. If the door to Father's garage was open he was home. In the garage there was a trunk with the equipment. We didn't go into the garage until Father came out and hinted about tennis. He would tell us to get the things and that he would be there in a little while. We would put the steel posts in the holders in the ground and string the net. We would play an hour or two and sometimes afterward we jumped in the Ford convertible and went to the canal to swim.

Ishmael

Father took us out to the canal at Flat Rock once to swim. I was sitting on a wet rock and slipped off. I couldn't swim. Father came over and took me out of the water. He said, "You have to learn to swim or you can't come with us anymore."

Ollie

Father would dive off Flat Rock. He would put on a yellow swim cap, dive and off he went. All you could see was a yellow hat moving along. He was really a swimmer.

One time Father told me that it was as easy for him to swim as it was to walk. He did the Australian crawl. Father tried to teach me but I couldn't learn how to do it.

A Mr. Richardson owned the building on the corner of 6th Street across from the school. He owned some other houses, one of which is where the church now stands. But he lived in a garage almost like a shack. One time Father Cleary was trimming the hedges which grew between the rectory and the church. I was watching and not doing any good but just wanted to be near Father. Mr. Richardson walked by, stopped for a minute and went over to Father Cleary and gave him 50 cents. Father said, "What's this for?" Mr. Richardson replied, "You're the first minister of the gospel that I ever saw working." Father Cleary laughed and gave the 50 cents back. I think that he should have kept it and given it to me.

At one time there was Applesinger Variety Store on the northwest corner of 6th Street and 17th Avenue where Deb's Restaurant is now. There was a store on the other corner.

Father Cleary had about a 10 foot high wall built between the Church and the rectory and towards the alley. The wall was used by scouts. They had to run to the wall and then climb over the wall.

Ishmael

The old rectory was moved to 9th Avenue between 17th and 19th Streets on the right hand side. A total of three houses were moved there. The house occupied by the Cabry's was moved

to 4th Street and the Ishmael house was moved to the 200 block on 3rd Street. (These houses were all part of the project involving the new church.)

Ollie

In the winter time Father rode with the top down on his convertible. There was a canvas type bag that the body would fit into and the bag kept in the heat.

When my mother died Father wrote a letter, which somebody typed for him because he couldn't see good, to my second oldest brother. It was a very personal letter which I treasure very highly.

One summer evening after I had finished dishes, I went outside about 9 or 9:30 P.M. to smoke a cigarette in the alley. I was close to being a teenager. Suddenly this car came around the corner into the alley from the west. I ran to hide so I wouldn't be seen. It was Father Cleary. He put his car in the garage and went into the rectory.

The next afternoon we had another episode of playing tennis. As I was walking with the net, Father lagged behind a little. He grabbed me by the neck and said, "Ollie, did I see you smoking out here last night?" "Yes, Father," I said. Well, he didn't say stop smoking but said, "Wait until you're a man." But I don't smoke to this day.

Father had a punching bag in the garage. If we had been someplace we would listen to see if we could hear it when we returned. When we heard it we went to watch. Father could crunch an elbow and give raps!

Father didn't care what your religion was. You were a friend.

You don't have that kind of role models anymore. He was a neighborhood role model. There was a black lady who lived in a house between 6th and 7th Streets on 18th Avenue. The house stood right next to the alley. In fact, it is still there. This lady did housework. Whenever she walked down the alley and Father was around he always tipped his cap and said, "Hello" or "Good Afternoon."

I had a car and tires were rationed during the war. One day Father offered to let me use his collar so I could get tires. (Clergy had no trouble securing tires.) In jest he said, "Borrow my collar and get tires."

When St. Anne's bought the Bergstrand property, Father stipulated that my mother could live in the house as long as she could.

I had a younger brother who was called "Fats" because he was fat. One summer my brother came from Michigan for a visit. We had stopped to see our mother and I said let's go see Father Cleary. We found Father sitting outside between the church and the rectory. Father was not able to see too well. I told Father that there was somebody here for him. My brother said, "Hello, Father." and Father recognizing him by his voice, said, "Hello, Fats." The two hugged

each other.

Father lived very modestly.

Father Cleary was not a stranger to the canoe. He owned a canoe which he kept in the ice house, a red building on the right hand side just over the bridge to Campbell's Island. Ice was cut from the river and stored here. Father and my older brother would canoe for quite a ride around the island. Sometimes he took me but didn't bring a paddle for me because he said I was only along for the ballast. He always put me in the front but I told him I should be in the back so I could watch him paddle rather than him watch me. It was a beautiful wooden canoe with a nicely varnished floor. Today's canoes are nothing compared to Father's canoe. When we went canoeing we would paddle for about an hour and then stop to visit parishioners who lived on the island.

Father Reidy used to come and play tennis with Father Cleary. One time we played doubles--Father Reidy and I were partners and Father Cleary and my brother Fats were partners. Fats must have been going through the change in life because his voice was a high pitch. Father Reidy said, "That kid on the other end has a high voice." "That's my brother," I said. Father replied, "He still has a high voice."

When the school was being readied on the second floor I helped but earned a nickname, "Chalk Eyes." But how or why I got the nickname I don't know. Bob Berger was in charge of fastening the desks to the runners. He had me help him put the screws in to hold the desks. He called me "Heavy" but I was little. It was also "go for this and go for that."

When I heard about Father Cleary's death, I stopped by when he was lying in state.

I also remember father practicing his golf swing. In some manner he strung a line with a rug hanging on it. He would hit the balls into the rug. He had a pretty good swing!

The following story comes from Sister Mary Isabella Toher, B.V.M., who was principal of St. Anne School from 1960-1967.

Father William Cleary was the most unique individual I have known. I loved him dearly.

There are many stories to be told about the "the old wreck" as he referred to himself.

Father was adamant, but just, about many things. One of these was the school uniform. It was to be worn the first day of school as well as the last. "The children will wear black or brown oxfords. There will be no tennis shoes worn with the uniform."

There was very little that Father didn't observe. Occasionally when a pair of "tennis or sneakers" walked past me, I would ignore it, presuming the "uniform shoes" were being repaired. But if Father saw them he came to the office to ask if I had seen them. He didn't approach the child. After all, I was the one responsible for their adherence to school policy!

A family with five children enrolled. It was evident they had "hit on hard times." As usual, Father took them in and the faculty saw to it that the five children were "uniformed" and fed.

One Spring day the office phone rang. Father wanted to see all five children. No reason was asked. The children were sent to the rectory. Sister Margaret Mary, she was Sister Mary Clea then, had the youngest child in her first grade class. After about an hour the little first grader appeared at my door with a note from Sister Clea. The note read: "I thought you might like to see where they have been." A strange note! The child, a tiny little girl was beaming. As I glanced at her I saw she was wearing a beautiful new pair of BRIGHT RED LEATHER SLIPPERS. I thanked her for the note and bid her farewell-and then called the rectory. The conversation went something like this:

Father?

Yup.

I see the children are back.

Yup, Sister.

The youngest was just in my office.

Oh?

Those are beautiful red slippers.

(Long pause) Aw gee Sister, what else could I do. She wanted them so badly and I knew she'd never get the opportunity again.

I can still see that child. I can still hear the guilt in Father's voice! But it all tells a wonderfully kind and caring man he was.

Father Cleary delivered the following speech about "Fathers and Sons" at the regular meeting of the Rotary Club on March 5, 1930.

(The speech has been copied from the original given by Father Cleary. It has been copied as he originally typed it and edited it. The punctuation, spelling and capitalization has been left as he wrote it, minus his hand written changes. We can only guess that he used punctuation and capitalization for his own emphasis as he delivered the speech.)

"I have been asked to speak on a subject which is very largely historical-Father and Sons. The pages of history abound with the experiences of many famous Fathers and many illustrious Sons. but unfortunately the bare statements of history are from Dead books-and the doings of you Fathers and Sons are very much alive. Then too the stories from history are quite bare of human interest. For instance it would be interesting, if we might find out, to hear Ananias, the champion lying son of history might tell us today, if he were to speak, on the subject of what I got for my old car. Aesop is another famous son. You have often seen his funnies in the movies. How many know that his father was a slave. There are of course, many modern fathers who tell us that they are practically slaves.

Then there was Epimanondas-the Greeks believed in using the alphabet. Epimanondas tells us that he owed everything to his Father. You remember, of course, that the Spartans were the champion fighters in those days. We use to have the two cylinder in line car-then the four-later the six and eight. Spartans were the inventors of the twelve in line-twelve human cylinders in their battle line. Epimanondas, who was Public Scavenger in Thebes, thought if twelve in line was good, fifty in line was better. So he met the Spartans and afterwards sent out his scavenger wagons to pick up the carcasses.

Philip of Macedonia, having won a great battle against the Assyrians, and also won the Olympic derby with his chariot team the same day, begged the gods send him just a bit of ill luck to balance it. He was given a son-Alexander-Alexander the Great, probably almost as wonderful a character as Shires, the great, in our own day.

Hanilcar, a worthy man of Carthage became father of a noted son. The boy was Hannibal. You have heard of Hannibal's Cannibals Hannibal's Cannibals ziss boom bah. At the age of nine Hannibal began to swear and to fight. He swore to annihilate the Romans. As he grew to be a fine upstanding youth and a man of vision, he gathered his cannibals about him and dropped down upon the Romans out of the Alps like an avalanche. His inspiration was his Father, who fought beside him in the field.

Then there was Scipio Africanus, who meeting up with Hannibal at Ticinus, was forced to carry his Father, the elder Scipio, mortally wounded from the field. Later Scipio met Hannibal's Cannibals at Zama and the Zipp Boom Bah was ended with a Zama, when Scipio wiped Hannibal's Cannibals completely out of the picture.

Pulaski, the famous General of the American Revolution owed his love for freedom and

bravery to his Father who had fought and bled for Poland. The elder Pulaski died on the battle field-the younger renowned for having organized the first corps which ever took up arms for the United States.

Horace Greely saved 120 dollars from his first wages of 135 dollars to bring home to his Father who was trying to make a living on a farm in Western Pennsylvania. Then, as now, a farmer needed relief.

John Jacob Astor was the son of a butcher. I suppose the boys called him Butch. Instead of becoming a prize fighter John became a trader in hides and so on. He soon became a millionaire. Of course that was before the day of trading in second hand cars.

Wellington, the hero of Waterloo was called by his Father-a dunce. It is not is not usual for Fathers to be so honest. Of course his Father was no Dunce though it is quite possible that his good wife often called him a big Boob, or word to that effect.

Seward, President Lincoln's Secy. of State, had a father who agreed to finance his son, William's college career. He gave William a \$1000 to finance this item but William had used it all up before the end of the first year. In those days they were not listening to Scotch jokes, they were drinking them. So William had to turn to Scotch and finance his own college career. He didn't owe everything to his dad.

There are just as rugged men in our own times. I might tell you of a Professor at the Univ. of Illinois whose Father, a widower, by his own efforts raised a family all of whom became distinguished educators.

I might tell you of a man who is a Section Foreman on the I.C. who, left alone with two small children, has reared these two boys to be splendid examples of what character and education can do for youth. One of these boys lives in this town.

I might tell you of an executive whose son, at the age of twelve, was a confirmed thief. The father lived to make a man out of his boy and to see him fill positions of Public trust in four large cities of this state.

I received a letter last week from a young man in New Orleans who has just contributed fifteen thousand dollars to a church as a memorial of his father. At the age of seventeen this young man was a bum, but his father succeeded in making him an outstanding citizen.

So history has not all the heros. No doubt the world has plenty of Fathers whose sons are just worm eaten riff raff from human garbage cans. But the story of most men I am sure would be worth the telling for the nobility, the honor, the wholesomeness and the inspiration which so many men bring as a normal heritage to their sons.

It is the broken home which leaves the Son alone out on the cross roads of life-where the hi-jackers may give him a hitch hike into hell.

Someone has said that God's masterpiece is also a woman. Someone else has maintained that the Devils masterpiece is also a woman. If woman be the masterpiece, man is the Master-

work. Woman is but a piece of man according to the account of the Holy Scriptures-Man is the Master and the Master's son is Father to the man.

It may seem strange, when you come to think about it that Dr. Fowler, who arranged for this program, selected one to speak upon the subject of Father and Son who really knows absolutely nothing about the subject-except theoretically. It has been many years since I was called Son. I have been called Father for many years. This too, is but theoretical. However before entering upon the duties of the vocation which I try to fill, one requirement was 240 hours of the Psychology of the tribes of men. This has been since supplemented by some 3600 hours of field or case work. I am able to say, therefore, from the background of experience that I know nothing about it. However, I tackle the subject just the same as a high school boy did in football practice. The boy was told by his Captain to go over and tackle the Dummy. He went over and tackled the Coach. Fools rush in where wise men fear to tread.

By observaton, however, any man is able to study this vast subject in some of its phases. I go to the State Bank now and then. There I see a Father seated comfortable at his mahogany desk, but where does he keep his Son--in a cage--surrounded with filthy lucre with nothing to keep his fingers from getting itchy except a sponge filled with water.

Occasionally I visit the City Hall, where another Son sits in his cubby hole the helpless victim of big burly citizens who come in on purpose to abuse him, heckle him and denounce him. Meanwhile the Father, if he is there, stands idly by, doing nothing, inwardly chuckling perhaps because his boy is compelled to take his medicine.

I sit by the ringside of an evening, in the Coliseum at Davenport, and behold a Father reach out and intercept his son, as the boy comes down the Aisle. What does he say to the boy. "You needn't come back home if you can't get in there and kill that big bum."

I make a flying call at Short Hills only to see a well known Father enjoying the afternoon on the course whilst his Son is compelled to spend the afternoon pushing a heavy lawn mower around the family yard.

I overhear a well-to-do Father deny his Son a paltry ten dollars to invest in a ten dollar flivver-a Father whom I have seen squandering a hundred dollars on a set of matched golf sticks.

I know a Father who usually departs for four weeks at Miami, leaving his lonely child to drag out his long evenings down town shooting pool. I have seen another father spend four dollars for a box of stogies whilst his only son is forced to resort to the alley to sneak an occasional cigarette.

I have heard of a Father putting up margins for five hundred shares of Cities Service whilst his son is denied the ordinary privilege of a five cent ante.

I have heard of a business executive who gave a dinner to his associates at an expensive bar. His son was granted the privilege of sitting in for the spread. When the time for the

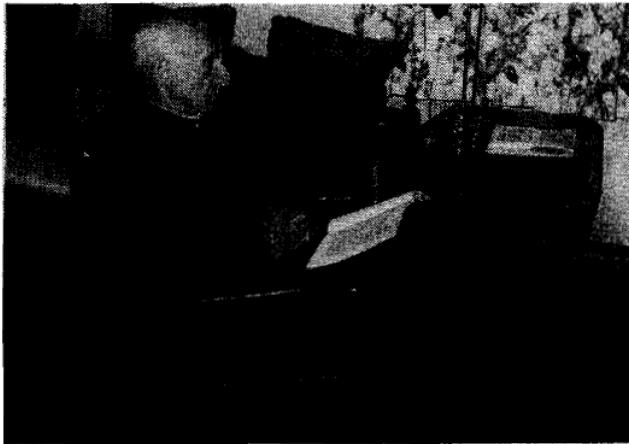
beverages came he Father called a waiter and ordered him to bring a glass of milk for the boy. Before allowing the milk to reach the lad, however, one of the guests stealthily poured into it a dose of something, from a concealed bottle. The unsuspecting lad drained the entire glass before he seemed to realize that something terrible had happened. It was then that he turned to his Father and cried out-Dad that was some cow.

CONCLUSION--- To me a fine upstanding Son is as wonderful and as mysterious as the sky. On a fine day there is apparently **NOTHING** in the sky. Apparently, it is empty. Apparently, in reality it is teeming with strange mysterious forces filled with **LIGHT**, with pure and glorious light. So is youth-a world in itself-filled with light, teeming with mysterious forces. Perhaps again the sky is draped with clouds. And what are clouds? They tell us that the sky is overflowing with **POWER**, mysterious forces, tremendous electrical potencies, dynamic energy waiting only to be properly harnessed. Now like the power which is latent in the Sons of men.

Then there is beauty in the clouds-light and shade, color and movement. So are the sons of men, filled with beauty and activity.

Then there is **PROMISE**, in a cloud. Promise of that refreshing moisture which renews the earth bringing growth and fruit. How like the Sons of men whose mission is to renew the face of the earth-to bring forth fruit in good season.

Youth, I think, is pictured in the sky. We must look up to it--and they have even told us to consider that heaven must be found in that direction. The Sons of Men--their fathers have given them the boon of life, in the words of Addison: The stars shall fade away, the heavenly orbs themselves grow dim with age, and nature sink in years but thou shalt flourish in immortal youth."



The following speech was delivered by Father Cleary at the Alleman sports banquet on April 4, 1956.

(This speech has been copied from the original given by Father Cleary. It has been copied as he originally typed it and edited it. The punctuation, spelling and capitalization has been left as he wrote it, minus his hand written changes. The original speech was typed double spaced. We can only guess that he used punctuation and capitalization for his own emphasis as he delivered the speech.)

Greetings etc- Fr. O'Connor asked me-at the Smorgasbord if I would help him out of a desperate situation and sub for some notable who could not show up to speak at this splendid dinner. If there be anything the old man loves: it is a desperate situation. He has been in them for a lifetime. Anyhow-when you call on one of the subs-you expect him to get in there and try. Our old family doctor told my mother-God be good to her-that it takes at least two years for one of us to learn to speak-and he added-it takes seventy more for us to learn to keep our big mouths closed. Truer words never were spoken.

The subject of these meandering remarks is: the value of athletics.

Some years back my good neighboring pastor called one morning and asked me to drive him down to talk to the Bishop. I am unable-he said-to get to sleep at night. I am a nervous wreck. Well, I said, I would gladly drive you down but the Bishop is in Washington, D.C. Why not come out with me this afternoon to Short Hills. Try a bit of golf. "Father" he replied-"I never in my whole life even tried to hit a ball." Its time, I replied. that you were making a try. So he came over and we went to Short Hills. He got some clubs from the Pro and we battered our way about the course, took a shower and drove home. Next A.M. Father called me quite early and said: Are you going to Short Hills today? I hadn't planned to do so-Father but at thy command I will let down my hair. "I had" he said, "the first night's sleep in several months." So my good neighbor had found a solution for the sleep problem. Some find it in the church, others in some sort of athletic endeavor. Grantland Rice tells us that the good athlete combines an unbeatable combination: Beauty-Brains and Brawn. Beauty-which is developed in poise and co-ordination. Brains-which the Good Lord supplies-and Brawn-which may be developed. To these 3 B's I think the school board would add BULL--Bullion-which is found in cold cash.

This is my opportunity to congratulate the men of Alleman- the teams and the high type of coaching. They have proved worthy of a great name- "All a man"-men who are all that a man should be. I salute the splendid men of the teams- and the extraordinary-incomparable-inimitable coaches. I can estimate the coaches fairly well since, believe it or not I was once one of them-in charge of football in a public high school. Last night a Miss O'Donnell, a public school teacher appeared on the 64 thousand dollar question. She was asked how long she had

been engaged in teaching and replied- 100 years she felt- actually, however, only 3. I can appreciate what she felt. This background of my high school football as a boy was rugged. We had a bevy of coaches- two men from Northwestern, one from Purdue and one from Illinois. A coach in those days was supposed to get into the game whenever the going got a bit rough. The man from Illinois who played four years at Illinois was a scat back and a good one. He played on Saturdays with a high school team in Michigan, and picked up a few extra bucks. Players wore, in those days- the face covering nose mask- which was even better than the masks affected by bank bandits. The only eligibility requirement was that you could take it- and a coach was something more than a chaperone. I remember that the suits used in the public high, where I was working, were labeled-GYM. I has an idea. I asked the property man to stencil GYM on the rump of the boy's football pants. The boys had to look at those letters and those letters stood for everything which a player needed most. If he had those things in mind, the rest didn't matter too much, and if he went home and told pa he had been kicked- he would have to admit that he had only been kicked in the GYM. Reading forwards the GYM meant only one thing- Get your man. That was a required subject. Reading backwards the symbol meant just the other requirement- MYG- manifest your guts. If the boy couldn't manifest he quickly learned that the examination was not in spelling.--but in SPIRIT. Boys didn't ride buses in those days. Anyhow they would not have been able to sit down comfortably after a series of kicks in the GYM. With these two required subjects, we developed quite a capable ball club. But like the dame in the 64000 dollars question, my first hundred years was enough and I had fully decided to cover up my charlie horses with a cassock. One of the great problems, it seemed to me, was not the team but the DAMES. The only solution for that was to work the sox off the boys in the afternoons. Then the only way in which a dame could date one of those tired specimens was to bring along an ambulance.

I realized-in time- that the Dames had their own versions of GYM- get your man- and my little career as a coach and a chance at the 64 thousand ended. I exchanged my sack of favorable clippings for a bag of cigar clippings- I don't know what happened to the newspaper clippings. I still carry the cigar clippings. Your clippings- young men- would tell me that you have had a glorious year thus far in athletics. You have blazoned the name of Alleman creditably on the sport pages. Now comes up what to my mind is the very crest of all athletic endeavor for any individual. It has no illegal procedures. This sport awakens, I think- the finest that is in a man. As a man- as God made him- the sport for the most thrilling accomplishment and the keenest personal- not grand stand triumph for the athlete- the finest in physical joy that individual achievement can bring. I have participated, as you have, in a galaxy of athletic sports. But my great ambition in life, as a youth, was to be a good quarter miler. A crippling fall from a college toboggan sent that ambition down the drain. Track is MY true love- but even a nobody

can be unwavering in his true love.

I wish to conclude with a bit of historical inspiration for all the boys who are really "the salt of the earth." To quote Tug Wilson, all the fellows who give their all and still are left to occupy the bench, that too, sit on the bench-has a glory of it's own. To prove this, recall the glorious story of last Sunday: the young man whom the visitors to the Tomb found sitting there had come at the directive of the Great Mentor. He must have been an astounding athlete. He had rolled aside the stone, for it was very great. He had rolled aside the great stone, and then he had sat down upon it. That was the thrilling moment of his wondrous career-just to sit and wait while the Great Mentor went out to call His eleven -His eleven men around Him-to outline for them the strategy which would bring them victory--and they would give their all in carrying through that strategy. For this is the victory which overcome the world--our Faith.

It would be quite appropriate to end this history about Father Cleary with some of his literary works and his sport activities. His literary works were published in the St. Viator College magazine "The Viatorian." Father was a frequent contributor to the magazine.

Father was one of the magazines editors for 1900-01, 1901-02 and 1902-03. He was frequently on the College Honor Roll and the recipient of a number of awards for academic excellence. During 1899-1900, for example, Father received the following awards:

- English Composition Medal
- French-English Medal
- Moral Science Medal
- Christian Doctrine Medal
- Good Conduct Medal
- Gold Medal for Excellence in the
Classical Courses of Studies.

THE SHEPHERD KING

King of the Shepherds lowly born,
Fair Child of Heavenly love;
We greet thee on the Christmas morn
With angel choirs above.

Enthroned within rude stable walls,
Upon thy mother's breast,
Thou didst not seek in stately halls
The temple of thy rest.

Yet bright, celestial spirits sing
Thy advent on this earth;
And kings their richest treasures bring;
All nations hail thy birth.

Thou art the star of hope divine,
For whom the Fathers sighed;
May thy mild light forever shine,
Men's faltering steps to guide.

W. J. Cleary

THE NEW YEAR

From out the unexplored Time brings to me
An uncarved jewel; I'm to fashion it-
A unit in the crown of years 'twill be,
There placed for aye, to grace or ill befit.
Then I'll select the chiseling of love
And labor as becomes the worthy task,
With joy or tears, I'll trust in Him above-
My duty alone, is all that he doth ask.

W.J.C.

AT VALLEY FORGE

Chill was the blast, hurling sleet and snow
Across the valley waste
Where walked a sentry, halting and slow.
Crimson the path he traced.
Winter besieging the camping ground,
Massed her proud forces the country 'round.

Yet glad his heart, his pulses moved
To throbs of love within;
Love sorely tried and enduring proved,
Where but the brave might win,
He suffered in peace for liberty's cause,
Nor sought the phantom of vain applause.

His valiant comrades reposing here,
Wasted by hunger and cold,
Dreamed then of freedom hovering near,
Blessing her trusted fold.
The restive storm without leash swept down
On Valley Forge, with its icy frown.

E'en whilst the winds, and the hail so keen
Raced like a troubled sea,
Came there a man of majestic mien
And spoke full cheerfully:-
"Brave son of liberty, stand thou forth!
Surely for shelter thou seemeth loth."

"Take thou my mantle and seek thy tent,
Rest for the morrow's trials,
Surely the Lord of Battles has sent
Angels to guard our files.
Yet shall I watch till the morning guns
Awake the proud remnants of freedoms sons."

Painfully the sentinel groped his way
To where his comrades lie.
Yet paused forsooth in his joy to pray
And lift his voice on high;
To thank his God whom alone he knew
Could inspire a hero, so noble, so true.

Nor dreamed he of the beloved name.
This mighty hero bare,
Nor that his deeds by enduring fame
were sung the whole world o're
Such was the victory of "Eighty One,"
Washington, liberty's noblest son.

W.J. Cleary

CHRIST'S MISSION OF LOVE

The gloom of error closed upon mankind
Enshrouding truth within its sable fold.
And tyrants stalked abroad: in bondage blind.
Men grasped about, the pulse of love grew cold.

Thus was despair on Earth until that night
When through the mists the beacon star bright shone.
To lead men by its radiant, heavenly light
Unto the crib of Christ. His humble throne.

And from the Infant's face, eternal beamed
The rays of truth, dispelling error's gloom:
There grace and sanctity refulgent gleamed.
To win men's souls from everlasting doom.

The Infants arms were open to receive
The mighty king, or e'en the lowly slave.
He came mankind's redemption to achieve.
To shed His blood, repentent souls to save.

The Infant's heart was fraught with wealth of love.
A love which called for worldly sacrifice.
Yet 'round affliction heavenly garlands wove,
And won for men the joys of Paradise.

Thus to the crib came Magi, Shepherds, Kings,
Adoring Him. So wisdom, love and power,
Bow at His throne. Yea, more, to man He brings
The keys of heaven, as His Christmas dower.

W.J. Cleary, '03.

During his years at St. Viator College, Father Cleary was active in sports both on and off the field. He was mentioned quite frequently in resumes of football and baseball games from 1909 through 1903. In football, Father played right end. Off the field he served as:

Treasurer of the Viatorian Athletic Association-1900-1901
Treasurer of the Baseball League-1900-1901, 1901-1902
Vice-President of the Viatorian Athletic Association-1901-1902
President of the Viatorian Athletic Association-1902-1903
Scorer of the Baseball League-1902-1903

The following article is from the "The Viatorian." It is a resume of the football game played in 1901 between St. Viator and Momence in which Father Cleary played.

ST. VIATEUR 17, MOMENCE 6.

Those who were present when the college eleven lined up against their oldtime rivals, Momence, witnessed one of the fiercest games ever played on the local gridiron. Both teams played with a dash and vigor that kept the excitement of the spectators at fever heat throughout the entire game. Momence, though full of fight and determination to the very end, was unable to stop the irresistible line plunges of the college backs, or to solve the mass on tackle play which the home team used with great effect against her, frequently gaining from ten to thirty yards.

Capt. Morris won the toss for Momence and decided to defend the north goal from which a slight wind was blowing. It was about the three-thirty when Capt. Martin sent the pigskin whirling to Momence ten yard line where it was caught by Capt. Morris, who succeeded in advancing eight yards before being brought to earth by Cleary, the fleet college end. Here Van Inwegen was given a try at center which netted Momence four yards. Chipman gained three more through right tackle. E. Metcalf circled right end for five more going under Cosgrove. By a series of line plunges Momence succeeded in bringing the ball to her forty yard line where St. Viateur braced up and held her for downs.

Here Capt. Martin plunged through left tackle for ten yards,

Sullivan went through the same place for five more and Jones stole around right end for an additional five. Capt. Martin again perforated Momence's line for three yards. Sullivan did likewise for five yards while Jones went through right tackle for three more. Cleary circumnavigated left end for four yards. Capt. Martin found a hole good for five yards through right tackle. Lamarre glided around right guard for three yards, Jones acquired two through right guard, Cleary circled left end for five yards while Capt. Martin was pushed over for the touch down a minute later. He failed to kick goal. Score, St. Viateur's 5, Momence 0.

Momence again kicked off, the ball landing on St. Viateur's twenty yard line, where it was caught by Cleary, who brought it back five yards, being tackled by Chipman. Capt. Martin hit left tackle for four yards, Lamarre circled right end for six yards, Sullivan went through left tackle for five more. At this point St. Viateur lost the ball on a fumble, E. Metcalf dropping the ball.

Chipman got past left end for ten yards, Capt. Morris bored through left tackle for four more, Van Inwegen did the same for three, E. Metcalf skirted right end for five yards, and Van Inwegen gained seven more through tackle. By continual line backing, Momence worked her way down to St. Viateur's five yard line, from which Capt. Morris was pushed over the goal line in the next scrimmage. Van Inwegen kicked an easy goal. Score, Momence 6, St. Viateur 5.

In the second half St. Viateur played with a vim and energy that fairly took Momence off her feet. Van Inwegen kicked off to Cosgrove, who ran the oval back ten yards. Capt. Martin punctured the line for five yards, Sullivan reduplicated Capt. Martin's feat, and Jones went around right end for four more. Cleary and Lamarre each gained five yards on end plays. It was at this junction that St. Viateur began that impetuous attack on Momence's line which resulted in her second touchdown. The mass on tackle formation was brought into play. Time and again it tore great holes in the visitor's line, and finally, carried them broken and crushed to their three yard line, where Capt. Martin was sent over for a touch-down. Cosgrove kicked a difficult goal. Score, St. Viateur's 11, Momence 6.

Momence again kicked off. Lamarre captured the ball and brought it back ten yards. Capt. Martin, Jones and Sullivan hurled themselves repeatedly upon Momence's line and always with big game. Cosgrove again brought the mass on tackle into action and with the same effect as before. Momence, battered and bruised, lined up for a last stand on her five yard line. Sullivan smashed through left tackle for a third touchdown, Cosgrove kicked goal. Score, St. Viateur's 17, Momence 6.

With three minutes to play, Momence kicked off to St. Viateur's twenty-five yard line, where the ball was caught by Jordan who advanced it eight yards, Cleary skirted left end for twelve yards, Lamarre went around the other side for ten more, Capt. Martin plunged through right tackle for an additional ten, when time was called.

THE LINE UP

MOMENCE		ST. VIATEUR'S
E. Metcalf	l.e.	Lamarre
G. Metcalf	l.t.	Smith
Sharkey	l.g.	Carey
Cantaway	c.	Armstrong
Clark	r.g.	Leonard
Gibson	r.t.	Jordan
Pifer	r.e.	Cleary
Marshall	q.b.	Cosgrove
Chipman	l.h.b.	Jones
Morris, Capt.	r.h.b.	Sullivan
Van Inwegen	f.b.	Martin, Capt.

Length of halves, twenty minutes.
Umpire-Halpin; Referee-Kearney

Military training was a part of the education at St. Viator College. Father Cleary was interested in this area of education and participated with deep vigor. He held numerous positions as an officer. In 1901-1902 and 1902-1903, Father was on the faculty as director of "Military Tactics."

The following excerpt from "The Viatorian" reflects Father's defense of the military program.

MILITARY NOTES

The battalion was organized on September 14, by Colonel Cleary and prospects for a successful year are very flattering owing to the manifest enthusiasm in the ranks and the large number of recruits who are being initiated into the ranks of army life.

Adjutant W. Hayden has succeeded Major Maher and Capt. A. Burke, of last year's victorious Co. B., has taken the post left vacant by Major Hayden's promotion.

The Marsile Light guards are in charge of Capt. Burke, who hopes to see the pennant float over the ranks, where, in former years, it has so often been borne, whilst former aide Decamp Sheil will guide the erstwhile victors, the Rivard Light Guards.

A new departure in having senior captains, R. Mudd and W. McKenna, over the Junior companies, insures a race for honors which already begins to grow exciting, and every effort is being put forth, especially in these early drills, when the rudiments upon which to build perfection are being acquired.

The Ford exhibition squad will bid for honors on St. Viateur's Day. Although composed almost entirely of new men, the organization promises to uphold in an able manner its high standing among leaders in Western college squads.

Military exercises are becoming very popular amongst the young men of today, and justly so, since the beneficial effects of such training cannot but result in men of strong physique and systematic habits. The discipline of drilling has a threefold advantage when combined with college life. Beside emphasizing the necessity of order, it renders a young man physically attractive, whilst in sustaining needed balance between mind and body it accomplishes a result which it too often offset by the elaborate athletic systems of the modern college.



190-1902 BY Victor Soder's designs (left) and from
William O'Shea (right) (see page 101)
The original designs were a military band of the Valley's pro-
fessors of the pipe, the uniforms in the picture are replicas
of the Valley uniforms.

Banquet.

Given in honor of

William J. Cleary,

BY THE

Theological Class St. Viator's College

Wednesday, May 9th, 1906,

6 p.m.

Menu

**

Soup a la Tebnkubl.

Olives, Radishes, Green Onions,
Filet of Beef a la Gury, Mashed Potatoes,
Roman Punch a la Scabini,
Spring Chicken a la Berardi, Saratoga Chips,
Asparagus,
Strawberries and Cream, Cake,
Cheese Sabetti,
Coffee Tang,
Cigars a la Bill.

Toastmaster -- M. H. Joyce.

1	Bill, The Boy and Athlete,	J.P. Munday.
2	College Life With Bill	A.J. Martin.
3	Bill, The Student	W.J. Clifford.
4	Bill, The Roughouser,	E.J. Schuetz.
5	Bill, The Poet,	M.J. Breen.
6	Bill, Our Dean,	W.G. Irish.
7	Our Wishes to Bill,	W.J. Suprenant.