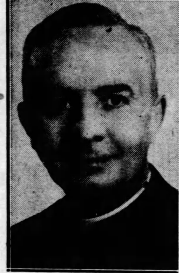


**Sermons Straight
From the Shoulder**

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Charles E. Bermingham, newly-appointed pastor of St. Aidan's Church, Williston Park, is no stranger to the church's 8,200 parishioners—and they couldn't be more delighted at the choice.

Msgr. Bermingham, who is also executive director of Catholic Charities in the Rockville Centre Diocese, has been in residence at



Monsignor Bermingham

St. Aidan's since 1952 and has endeared himself to one and all. He is a man of direct-action, whose sermons are straight from the shoulder and readily understandable. He is particularly popular with the 1,600 youngsters who attend St. Aidan's school—and no wonder.

Much of his Catholic charities work has dealt with youths and he was one of the prime movers in the founding of the Catholic Youth Organization in the Brooklyn Diocese in 1940.

'Twas Small Town Then

Msgr. Bermingham was born in Brooklyn in 1907 and brought up in Syosset, when it was a town of "two stores, two saloons and a railroad station." His family traveled four miles to Mass at St. Dominic's in Oyster Bay, "first by buggy, and then by Model-T."

He has a brother, Henry, a Long Island Lighting Co. executive, and two sisters. One, Adelaide, is married to Albert Wilbur of Syosset, a lawyer. The other, Madeline, is married to a North Hollywood lawyer, John E. McHugh.

Msgr. Bermingham attended Brooklyn Prep, Cathedral College and the Theological Seminary of Catholic University in Washington. He also received a master's degree at CU. He was ordained in 1932 and served as a curate at St. Gertrude's in Edgemere, St. Vincent Ferrer's and St. Mary Star of the Sea, both Brooklyn prior to his first assignment to Catholic Charities in 1936.

National Youth Director

In 1940, he became the first Brooklyn Diocesan CYO director and later spent 27 months in Washington as national youth director for the National Catholic Welfare Conference, helping to establish CYO and similar youth programs across the nation.

He got the idea for the formation of a youth program while serving as chaplain of the Youth and Adolescent Courts in Brooklyn.

"I saw so much sickness that I said to myself, 'Why just treat it? Why not try to prevent it?'" he said. "I suggested it to the church authorities and they decided to organize a Brooklyn CYO."

Clipped By:



mckiernan1

Sun, May 2, 2021