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NORWICH SUN

October 31, 1923

FATHER SINNOTT STAYS IN NORWICH APPOINTED BY BISHOP CURLEY AS PASTOR OF CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW

Bishop Curley has revoked his appointment of the Rev. Walter A. Sinnott of this city as an assistant at the Church of St. John the Baptist at Syracuse and instead has appointed him pastor of St. Bartholomew's chapel in this city.

Announcement of Bishop Curley's change in the appointment is made public in the following communication from the bishop to Father Sinnott which says:

"My appointment made in letter directed to you October 25 is hereby revoked, and it affords me the great pleasure to inform you that you are hereby appointed pastor of the Church of St. Bartholomew at Norwich"

News that Father Sinnott is to remain in Norwich will be received with delight by all who are familiar with his work in this city., especially by those who worship at St. Bartholomew. Father Sinnott has served the people at this chapel recently and they have grown to love and respect him. that he is to continue his residence in Norwich will be a source of much gratification to all concerned.

Father Sinnott took possession of the parish Wednesday.

NORWICH SUN

BISHOP CURLEY DEFINES DUTIES OF FATHER SINNOTT

To Editor of the Sun;

In order that there may be no misunderstanding in regard to the new Italian parish established in the city of Norwich the following letter from the Rev. Bishop Curley of Syracuse will explain.

October 30, 1923

The Rev. Joseph S. Tiernan,
St. Paul's Rectory
Norwich, N. Y.

Dear Father Tiernan;

I write to advise you that I have this day appointed Rev. Walter Sinnott pastor of St. Bartholomew's Church, Norwich, with the understanding that it is to be a distinctly Italian Church and parish, which means that only Italians are to worship there, unless under stress of extraordinary circumstances, for example, when the weather would be so stormy as to make it a very great hardship for some to reach St. Paul's. Even these, however, should be pewholders in St. Paul's and, in time of illness, should receive the spiritual ministrations of yourself or your Reverend Assistant.

Praying God's blessing upon you all I am

Faith fully yours in Christ,
Daniel J Curley,
Bishop of Syracuse

[Father Sinnott's Crucifix Gift to St. Bartholomew](#)

FATHER SINNOTT

The name of Father Sinnott is synonymous with St. Bartholomew. He was like the star over Bethlehem, a beacon, a light for his people. He was truly venerated as a patriarch, who led his people out of the desert into the promised land. It was through him, by him and in him that the church of St. Bartholomew was born. He enjoyed the complete confidence of his



REV. WALTER A. SINNOTT
First Pastor and Founder of St. Bartholomew

people. He was the full man, the alter Christus, the ingenious man, the generous heart that engineered this house of God. He was the extension of God's hand. Over St. Bartholomew, his image will always shine as the effulgent rays of the noon day sun. Like his Master he too suffered a Gethsemane. Those who were short in faith, bitterly criticized for overbuilding, too expensive, an impossible luxury. Time proved him right.

The spirit of God moved him in the right direction. At the ingress of the depression, he suffered and shed tears alone in the face of the interest and principal of the church's mortgage. For a short time, it was like a black cloud but soon is dissipated in the bright sun of living faith. The people never let him down. They were like Him, children of the faith who made heroic sacrifices for God's house. While other churches struggled or failed, St. Bartholomew not only paid the interest due, but also reduced the church's debt.

Father Sinnott was born in Utica, New York, the eleventh child in a family of sixteen. After graduating from Assumption Academy, he matriculated at St. Charles College in Maryland. In the fall of 1912 he began his seminary course at St. Bernard's, Rochester, where he remained for one year and then was sent by Bishop Grimes to the North American College in Rome, Italy. On July 15, 1917 he was ordained to the priesthood by Cardinal Pompili and celebrated his first Mass in the church of St. Andrea at the altar of the Miraculous Medal, where the first miracle attributed to the medal took place, the conversion of the Jew Ratisbonne 1842. In June 1918, Father Sinnott

returned to America and immediately enlisted as an Army Chaplain. After receiving his discharge, he was sent by Bishop Grimes to the church of St. Cyril and Methodius in Binghamton with the added office of being chaplain of St. Mary's Home. In February 1920, he came to Norwich as assistant at St. Paul's parish where he remained until the end of October 1923 when he was appointed pastor of the newly formed parish of St. Bartholomew.

September, 1942, Father Sinnott was transferred to one of the oldest and largest parishes of the diocese, St. Paul's Church in Oswego.

We can truthfully say that Father Sinnott consecrated and dedicated the best years of his priestly life to St. Bartholomew. Of him, we can say in the words of the great Lacordaire: "To live in the midst of the world without wishing its pleasures; to be a member of every family, yet belonging to none; to share all sufferings; to penetrate all secrets; to heal all wounds; to go from men to God and offer Him their sacrifice and prayers; to return from God to man and to bring pardon and hope; to have a heart of fire for charity and a heart of bronze for chastity; always to reach and pardon, always to console and bless ... My God what a life! And it has been yours, O priest of Jesus Christ."



On humble knees, the people of St. Bartholomew thank God for sending Father Sinnott to Norwich. We feel certain that a permanent niche has been created by Father Sinnott in the heart of his first pastoral children, viz, St. Bartholomew. God bless and love him forever! On July 8, 1965, he went to heaven.