



THE HISTORY OF MAINE IN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

RON SABOURIN : STATE HISTORIAN rrsabourin@aol.com

Chapter THIRTY NINE : Anthony Cevasco- Rockland- 1969 - 1971

Our 36th State Deputy was born on March 19, 1906 in Manhattan, N.Y. Anthony A. Cevasco is the son of Domenick Cevasco and Emelie Picasso. He was married on June 28, 1931, to Margaret Anne Wilson at St James Church in Manhattan. They were not blessed with children.

During his 4 ½ years of war service, he received 5 Battle Stars, Croix de Guerre, Silver Star, Bronze Star Cluster, Soldiers Medal, Commendation Medal, N.Y. State Distinguished Service Cross and Victory Medal. He served in Africa, Sicily, Italy, France, Germany and England. Some war record to recognize.

He joined the Knights of Columbus and received his first degree on November 3, 1937. His second and third degrees were taken on November 12, 1937 at council No. 126 in Brooklyn, N.Y. He transferred to the Limrock Council #136 in Rockland, Maine on January 25, 1954. He was elected Grand Knight in 1957 and served two years. He was a charter member of the Major Sayward N. Hall Assembly #340 also in Rockland. He was elected to the office of Faithful Navigator in 1959 and served two terms to 1961. He was the owner and operator of Newberts Restaurant. He retired in 1972 and moved to Boynton Beach, Florida.

He was a very strong and good member of the order, both in his council as well as the State Council. He was a good Catholic man and a very charitable personality. He was appointed a District Deputy for 3 years from 1960 to 62. Next, he was elected to the office of State Treasurer for one year, State Secretary for 2 years, and finally State Deputy for 2 years from 1969 to 1971.

Brother Cevasco was a past President of the Kiwanis Club in Rockland and Director Kiwanis International. He was also a Veteran of Foreign Wars and the American Legion.

During his terms as State Deputy there were no new councils formed.

FOURTH DEGREE MASTER #10: Robert Ouellette 1955-84 Brunswick

Following his three terms as State Deputy from 1952 to 1955, Robert J. Ouellette was appointed as District Master and served in that office from 1955 to 1984. This was a total of 29 years as District Master of Maine.

STATE CHAPLAIN 1967 TO 1987: Rev. Antonio A. Gosselin

Father Antonio A. Gosselin was born of Alphee Gosselin and Angelina Moreau in Lewiston, Maine on October 19, 1916 and was baptized on the same day in St. Mary's Church. His elementary schooling was done at St. Mary's school under the direction of the Good Ursuline Sisters of Waterville. From September 1930 to June 1938 he attended St. Hyacinth's College near Montreal where he completed his classical studies with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Montreal. In September 1938, Bishop McCarthy assigned him to St. Augustine's Seminary in Toronto where, for four years, he pursued his theological studies. Father was ordained a priest by Bishop McCarthy on May 30, 1942 in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Portland, Maine.

His first assignment was as assistant pastor at Most Holy Trinity Church in Saco and served for 9 years. His later assignments were at Notre Dame in Waterville for 9 years, as pastor of St. Theresa in Stockholm for 7 years, St. Theresa Church in Oakland for 16 months and finally to St. Hyacinth in Westbrook.

In the early 1940's Father Gosselin joined the Knights of Columbus in the Bishop Fenwick Council #2239 in Saco, Maine. In July 1967, Bishop Gerety appointed him as the twelfth State Chaplain for the Maine State Council. Fr. Gosselin served faithfully for twenty years and resigned in 1987.

Bishop of the Portland Diocese: Most Rev. Bishop Peter Leo Gerety, D.D.

1969 to 1974. Born on July 19, 1912, Peter Leo Gerety, who had been acting as apostolic administrator for the diocese since February 1967, was named the eighth Bishop of the Diocese of Portland on September 15, 1969. Before being named coadjutor bishop of the Diocese of Portland in 1966, Peter Leo Gerety worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture prior to starting his studies for the priesthood. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1939 and then served in various capacities at parishes in Connecticut. During his tenure as Bishop of the Diocese of Portland, Bishop Gerety founded a number of new parishes in the suburbs and metropolitan areas; the first capital campaign was held to construct the Newman Center in Orono; the Diocesan Human Relations Services (DHRS), which was the precursor to Catholic Charities Maine, became a state-wide agency; and the diocese also opened the first units of low-income elderly housing in Portland and Waterville. Bishop Gerety oversaw the modernization of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and led a campaign to defend the rights conscientious objectors during the Vietnam War. In 1974, Bishop Gerety was appointed Archbishop of Newark, where he served from 1974 to 1986 before resigning. At age 100, Bishop Gerety is currently the oldest living Catholic bishop in the United States.

State Convention for 1969 was held in Brewer (Twin City Motel) May 23 - 24 - 25, 1969

State Convention for 1970 was held in Kennebunkport, (Shawmut Inn) June 5 – 6 – 7, 1970

State Convention for 1971 was held in Kennebunkport, (Shawmut Inn) June 4 – 5 - 6, 1971