



# THE HISTORY OF MAINE IN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

RON SABOURIN : STATE HISTORIAN rrsabourin@aol.com

## **Chapter FORTY-THREE: George A. Riddle 1977-1978 Sanford**

Our 40'th State Deputy was born in Bradford, Rhode Island on August 11, 1918. George A. Riddle is the son of James and Mary Priestly Riddle. They moved to Sanford, Maine when George was 5. He attended Sanford Public School and graduated from Sanford High School in the class of 1936. He attended engineering school and graduated in Gulfport, Mississippi. He then Diesel School and graduated in Richmond, Virginia. He then entered the U.S. Navy in January, 1942 and received an Honorable discharge in January, 1946. Following the Navy George was a steeplejack and decorator for 3 years, shipping clerk in a local factory for 5 years and a police officer from 1954 to 1969. Mr. Riddle also owned and operated Riddle's Shell Station in Sanford.

George joined the Knights of Columbus in 1964 and held most of the council offices and was finally elected Grand Knight. He held most of the offices of his Fourth Degree Assembly and was ultimately elected Faithful Navigator. He was a District Deputy for two years, State Chairman of the Charity Balls, State Chairman for the Bowling Tournament and State Commemorative Service Chairman for 8 years. He was the recipient of 6 Knight of the Month Awards, 5 Knight of the year award and in 1971 was chosen the Fourth Degree Patriot Award. He served in every office on the State Level until he was elected State Deputy in 1977. Due to illness, he did not seek a second year as State Deputy. During his one year term as State Deputy a new council, The Fr. John Bapst council #7013 in Hampden was formed.

Besides his many years of service to the Knights Of Columbus, George served as Chairman of Highway Commission for Sanford, Planning Board member for 9 years, serving as Chairman of the Planning Board for two years. He was also the Director of the Chamber of Commerce.

George A. Riddle died at his home at 274 Main Street in Sanford on Saturday, July 21'st after a long illness. He was survived by his wife, the former Pauline Poisson and two sons, Gerald A. and Thomas A.

## **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 Edward**

**Cornelius O'Leary D.D. 1974 to 1988.** Born on August 21, 1920, Edward Cornelius O'Leary was named the ninth bishop on December 18, 1974. He was a native of Bangor and attended a seminary in Ottawa. Bishop O'Leary was ordained to the priesthood in 1946 and was a much appreciated pastor and chancellor, serving at parishes around Maine through his appointment as auxiliary bishop in 1970. During Bishop O'Leary's tenure, the Church in Maine experienced both an increase in population and a decline in the number of priests, leading to the first planning process to manage those trends. Bishop O'Leary appointed women for the first time to positions of leadership in the Office of Catholic Schools, the Diocesan Tribunal and the Chancellor's Office. Like Bishops Healy, Walsh, and Feeney before him, Bishop O'Leary took frequent stands on a number of social issues of importance to the Church. He retired for reasons of health in 1988 and received the title of Bishop Emeritus of Portland. In that role, he continued to assist the new Bishop until his death on April 2, 2002.

**State Convention** for 1977 was held Rockport (The Treadway Samoset Hotel) May 27-28-29,

1977.