

## Rev James Thomas Dougherty

Find a Grave:

Birth: Apr. 23, 1863

Fayette

Seneca County

New York, USA

Death: Feb. 7, 1921

Canandaigua

Ontario County

New York, USA

Ordained 1887

ONTARIO COUNTY JOURNAL Friday February 11, 1921

BELOVED PASTOR OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH PASSED AWAY ON  
MONDAY MORNING

Rev. James Thomas Dougherty, for 20 years Pastor of St. Mary's Church, is Claimed by Death at Phoenix Arizona, Where He Had Gone to Regain His Health Funeral on Tuesday

Father Dougherty, affectionately known to all Canandaigua, has passed away. He died early on Monday morning at a hospital at Phoenix, Ariz., where he had gone for treatment only a short time before. The grief in the passing of this distinguished townsman is so wide that the broad limitation of his parish does not confine it., and it is so deep that for years, if ever, will his great work be forgotten or the memory of his influence, his benevolences,

his social, religious and civic intercourse be effaced from the memory of those who knew his genial face that expressed goodness, in his daily walks of life. Father Dougherty's illness dated back for a couple of years, although he

was especially happy in his devotion to his parishioners. The announcement on October 28, the 32nd anniversary of his entry into the priesthood, that he was soon to leave for

Albuquerque, NM, in search of health carried a heavy weight of sorrow. With him went the prayers of his parishioners and the community at large for a speedy recovery. There were

many that did not know of the ailments that were gradually debilitating his heart and which stilled its pulsations three months later. The end was, in a way typical of the beloved priest. He was as ready for the final accounting as he had been for the summons of his followers. His busy life, even before his sudden departure, was not so crowded but that he found time to give the last full measure of his strength to the needs of others. He loved life for the pleasure it gave in doing for them.

James Thomas Dougherty was born in Fayette, on April 23, 1863, a son of Patrick and Mary Bannon Dougherty. He was educated in the Millet district school, town of Romulus, and at the Ovid Union School, after which he taught for a year in the Ayers district, town of Varick. He then entered St. Andrew's preparatory seminary at Rochester, and later St. Joseph's seminary at Troy, NY. He was ordained to the priesthood on October 28, 1887, placed in a temporary charge at Honeoye Falls and East Rush during the summer of 1888, sent as pastor to Stanley and Rushville September 1890, promoted to the pastorate of St. Patrick's Church at Dansville and Holy Name at Groveland, May 1893, appointed to St. Agnes church at Avon June 1901, and upon the death of Rev. Dennis English in September of that year, became the

pastor of St. Mary's Church. After rounding out 19 years in Canandaigua he leaves as a mighty monument St. Mary's church and rectory, which were built under his jurisdiction. St. Mary's school stands for educational and religious betterment and the home for its sisters remains to shed its beneficent light amid the darkness of the city.

Calvary cemetery, his last resting place, has been greatly enhanced under his personal solicitation. Our Lady of Lebanon chapel West Lake Shore, with its statue Christ The Redeemer, overlooking the lake, also stands as a monument of his energy and zeal. Father Dougherty, whose interest in matters historical is well known, perpetuated the memory of brave and sacrificing Jesuit priests who labored to teach Christianity to Seneca Indians, by the erection of a memorial on an attractive site on Boughton Hill, where came the first white man who ever visited Western New York. The memorial was dedicated on Labor Day, 1909. It is the rare and wonderful combination of executive ability with the contemplative that aroused the admiration and gratitude of the community, which has been greatly benefited by his noble work.

Always a student, Father Dougherty had enriched his gifted mind wealth of learning, gleaned from multiple sources. His personality was such that it impressed young and old as the finished gentleman, whose urbanity was at its best when dealing with a refractory pupil or meeting with a disagreeable encounter. But perhaps he was most admired by his students for his manly stand upon debatable matters, his willingness to hear the other side of a mooted case, and his just ruling. Cut off in the prime of his life and zenith of his career, his death also entails a great loss upon the Catholic youth entrusted to his direction. From the schoolyard from a pole with its

significant cross, hangs a large American flag at half mast, proclaiming a period of mourning for the loved one. Father Dougherty has filled offices of trust and responsibility, always winning commendation for his fidelity to the high ideals. His influence in the Canandaigua Health Association of which he was president, and as a member of the board of managers of Oak Mount Sanatorium will be long felt. The Rotary Club is grieved at the first, severance of its ties since organization. Great sorrow is also felt in the Scientific Association in consequences of his death. He bestowed grace and help upon paroled patients from Willard State hospital in this section. His persevering faithfulness in the Knights of Columbus has encouraged others to follow their callings. Many will come to utter words of divine praise, but God alone Who promises to reward most generously every act of charity to the helpless child, to the neglected poor, the aged, the sick, He alone can repay for those sacrifices, those meritorious works, that religious life. To reward the devout priest fittingly, will therefore be God's work, Well done, good and faithful servant, thy reward shall be exceedingly great in heaven.

Surviving relatives are a sister, Mrs. Anna Hamilton, of Kendaia, who left Canandaigua with him and remained to the end, and two brothers, Patrick Dougherty, of Ovid, and Bernard Dougherty, of Waterloo. It is expected that 150 priests from the Rochester Diocese will attend the funeral. The curtains of business places will be drawn during the funeral. It is expected that Bishop Thomas F. Hickey, of Rochester, who went to Florida last Saturday, will return to pontificate at the funeral. Members of the Fourth Degree Assembly of the Knights of Columbus are to serve as ushers. They are Peter P. Turner, John J. Costello, John Gartland, Charles S. Eighmey, T. W. Lynch, John E. Doyle, Cornelius Breen, and James F. Brooker. Rev. M. B. Groden and Cornelius Breen are in charge of the church drapings, which will be placed by Warder of Geneva. A large tent will be erected

at the cemetery under which the committal service will be held. It is possible that the church service will last about ninety minutes. Arrangements will be made to seat about 1500 persons in the church for the funeral service. Most of the parish are asked to remain standing until others have been accommodated with seats. From the hour that the body is placed in the church until the funeral there will be a guard of honor on duty. A delegation of parishioners composed of John Gartland, Peter P. Turner, M. D. Dugan, J. E. Doyle, J. C. Mary, T. P. Murray, John H. Kelly, and John J. Costello will go to Buffalo today to meet the train bearing Father Dougherty's remains and will act as official escort. Children of the parochial school will meet the train in the New York Central station tomorrow morning, and will escort the remains to the rectory. In this escort also will be Wendell Toomey, James F. Hobbins, John L. Kelly, Clifford Murphy, and Cletus Doyle.

Family links:

Parents:

Patrick Dougherty (1813 - 1904)

Mary K. Bannon Dougherty (1823 - 1889)

Sibling:

Anna Dougherty Hamilton (1860 - 1947)\*

James Thomas Dougherty (1863 - 1921)

\*Calculated relationship

Burial:

Calvary Cemetery

Canandaigua

Ontario County

New York, USA