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Transforming St. Mary's Church Interior Nearing Completion in Auburn

Dr. Cowen, Pastor Directs Improvements in Auburn Edifice

AUBURN — With artists and workmen busy each day performing their various tasks, work of remodeling and refurbishing the interior of St. Mary's Church in Auburn, begun several months ago, is being rushed to completion.

When scaffolding has been removed, the last brush applied and the last nail driven, the interior of this beautiful grey-stone Gothic edifice on Clark Street in Auburn will be a source of pride to priests and parishioners of St. Mary's and every other Catholic in the diocese. Time of the completion of the work could not be determined this week, as the work went forward transforming and enhancing the interior structure and appearance of the church.

The edifice was built in 1870 and dedicated in 1877.

Dr. Cowen Directs

Supervising details of the remodeling is the Rev. Dr. William E. Cowen, St. Mary's pastor, who was formerly a professor at St. Bernard's Seminary, Rochester.

Doctor Cowen's days are busy ones as the work progresses. In addition to his parish duties he is kept in constant demand for conferences with the Lusk Studio representatives, with Herman J. Butler, artist-designer of the work and with others handling the various details necessary to completing the work.

Given a "pre-view" of the extensive activity necessary to completion of such a large task, for St. Mary's Church is an imposing one, a representative of the CATHOLIC COURIER this week gained some idea of the magnitude of the remodeling process and an inkling of what the church will be like when entirely finished.

Improvements Made

A detailed account of the completed process will not be available until another issue. Plans are underway for a fitting, religious observance of the completion.

Devotional enhancement as well as artistic beauty and bodily comfort are all being considered in the work now under way.

Several needed improvements have been made. These include the laying of new floors in the nave and sanctuary. New steps to the altar rail have been erected. A tile floor has been laid in the vestibule. New carpets will be laid in



Resplendent in its new dress, the interior of St. Mary's Church in Auburn, located on Clark Street, will soon be formally opened for the admiration of all when the various improvements and decorations, well designed to make this Church attractive and devotion-impelling, have been completed. St. Mary's parish from the time of its foundation by the Rev. Thomas A. Meagher in 1868 under direction of Bishop McQuaid down to the present with the Rev. Dr. William E. Cowen, now pastor, has ever been in the forefront in advancing the Church in Auburn and in the diocese. Completion of the interior renovation of the Church will mark another milestone in the forward progress of the parish.

Church To Have Striking Mural Painting; Other Improvements

the sanctuary and the aisles. Stations will be redecorated.

Pews have been remodeled and changes are to be made in the design of decoration of the altar.

The church will be heated by a new heating system of modern manufacture, with new radiators to be installed.

New Mural Painting

A large mural painting of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is being executed in a large recess back of the high altar—this is to bring back the original mural, the painting having been recently in back of a wooden screen in that space.

The large painting has been done to accord to requests that the original Assumption subject be restored.

Cathedral Windows

All of the windows throughout the church are being removed and reroled. Worth noting when the church is completed will be that in some of the window openings in the vestibule, glass and sash have been taken from Oshalle windows formerly in the old St. Patrick's Cathedral, Rochester.

New sanctuary furniture is being made and includes a sedilla and prie-dieu. New vestment cases of the latest design will be installed. High above the main altar there will be suspended from the sanctuary arch a crucifix of life-size dimensions.

New Lighting System

Walls and ceilings are receiving applications of wall-treated artist brushes. When the work has been finished the church interior will be as if the whole church had been recently built.

Modern lighting fixtures will direct the proper amount of light for various services being held in the church and for providing the proper devotional atmosphere.

New voice stalls made of wrought-iron and in keeping with the general design of the church decoration will be set in place. The pulpit and altar railings are being gone over and will appear as new.

Most of the workmen engaged on the job are residents of Auburn. Because of the time necessary to finish various phases of the redecoration, it could not be definitely stated this week when the services noting the occasion will take place.

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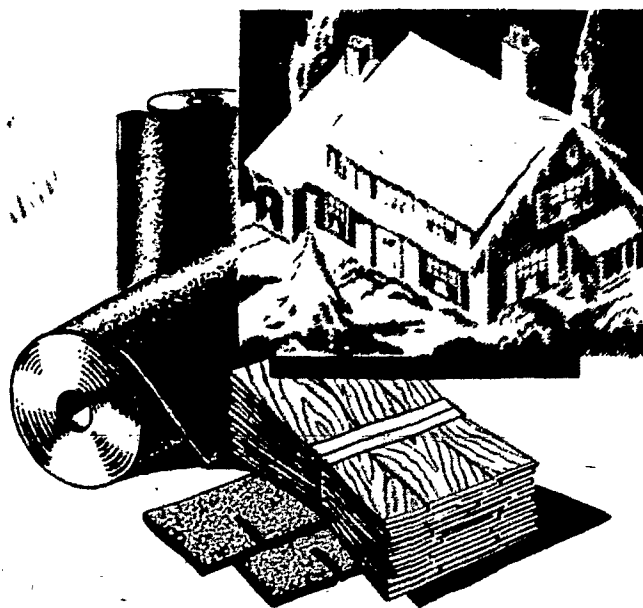
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