'Father Stemmler's Church' in Elmira Has Commendable Record of 70 Years Service

ST. JOHN'S PASTOR

REV. JOHN B. STEMMLER

Golden Jubilee of Pastor of St. John the Baptist Church, Coming in December 1940, Eagerly Awaited By Parishioners

ELMIRA.—Saint John the Baptist Church, or as it is equally as well known, "Father Stemmler's Church," has served the German Catholics of Elmira for just 70 years.

As early as 1857, a German priest occasionally visited the German peoeple here, and encouraged them to organize into a congregation. They bought property on Dickenson Street and started a little church building, the cornerstone of which was laid in 1866, and was consecrated in the Fall of 1868. The first pastor came in the person of Rev. George Schoulepnikoff. He was succeeded by eight pastors, the last of them being the Reverend John Baptist Stemmler, who was appointed in 1903.

New property was bought, and the cornerstone of the present church was laid in 1891; at the corner of Lake and Second Streets. This church was consecrated in 1892 by Bishop Ryan.

Serves Downtown Worshippers

Although this church at one time served principally needs of the German Elmirans, today it fills the added need of a conveniently situated house of worship for downtown workers and shoppers, as it is centrally located in the City Hall block, a few minutes from the shopping and hotel center.

Scores of people who daily visit the church have always lauded its devotional atmosphere. This is due, among other things, to the beautiful statuary, Innsbruck windows and other well-chosen appointments.

Although not large phyically, the parish boasts of several parish societies and activities. The Saint John Benevolent Association, founded in 1878, is reputedly the oldest church society in Elmira. Three charter members, still living, were feted a few months ago. In 1890 a group of ladies organized an Altar Society. Today this organization numbers 75 active members, who held their 48th annual supper last week. A Holy Name Society and a Sodality also hold important places in the parish calendar. Among our spiritual boasts we point to the part our men play in the Nocturnal Adoration Society. Despite the fact that this is the smallest parish in the city, the men hold second highest place in attendance at every month's Holy Hour.

Pastor's Jubilee Anticipated

Principally responsible for the remarkable spirit of good will and cooperation is Father Stemmler. To attempt to cover his activities here during the past 36 years would have to be the work of a historian. The Elmira faithful look forward to his golden anniversary in December, 1940. All the work that he did here, all the kind acts that he performed here, all the words of wisdom that he spoke here will ever stand as a monument to his memory, and this, even long after his present gift to his church has worn away.

During the past years since Father Stemmler has been in ill health, he has had an assistant. The first assistant was the Rev Jacob R. Rauber; following him came the Rev. Herbert Sturmer and the Reverend Earl Ritz. The Reverend Raymond Heisel, the present assistant, has been here since June, 1935.

CHILDREN GIVEN Special Attention At St. John's

ELMIRA.—Perhaps because St. John's Church has no school, the activities of the children and their organizations are emphasized all the more.

The seventy some grammar school children attend 8.30 o'clock Mass each Sunday and after the Mass three Sisters of Mercy instruct them, in three groups, in Christian Doctrine for forty-five minutes. On Monday afternoon they again assemble in the church hall where the assistant pastor teaches them Bible History.

A short time ago a children's choir was formed under the direction of Organist Elizabeth Bacon. At the present time the children are leading the singing of the hymns at the Sunday afternoon services.

Materials, Execution Beautify Old Church

The redecoration of the interior of the Church of St. John the Baptist in Elmira, New York, is another milestone in the career of Aloys Schneider, of Rochester, who is noted for his excellent execution of ecclesiastical art. Several Rochester Catholic churches were redecorated by Mr. Schneider during the last year, as were churches in several of the smaller communities in the Rochester Diocese.

"To execute such beautiful work, two things are needed," states George H. Wabnitz, distributor of paints, "an artist and the best of materials. One cannot stand without the other. It is the work of the artist that brings out the best in his materials and the right materials aid the artist in his execution. Aloys Schneider has, in all the above mentioned work, selected M.D.M. (Master Decorators Materials) in his church work."

"The selection of these materials by Mr. Schneider is what we consider the highest compliment that can be paid them. His confidence is also shared by the largest industrial plants and public service institutions in Rochester and vicinity.. All recognize not only the perfect color blending qualities, but also the high reflective value and the extreme durability of the materials. M.D.M. is also noted for economy in application, saving labor and wastage."

Mr. Wabnitz is president of Geo H. Wabnitz, Inc., 115 State Street Rochester, distributors of M.D.M. decorative materials, B.P.S. paints artists' materials, glas, etc. They have recently added a wall paper department featuring the most modern in wall paper art.

To strive at all involves a victory achieved over sloth, inertness and indifference.

Want 'Catholic Hour' Restored By Station

SALT LAKE CITY — Radio Station KDYL, which discontinued the "Catholic Hour" broadcasts because of a conflict in time with another program is being importuned by listeners to restore it.

Owners of the station, it was stated in The Register, Salt Lake Edition, expressed regret at having to discontinue the program. The paper suggested that listeners write to the station requesting that the "Catholic Hour," which is produced by the National Council of Catholic Men and sent out over a nationwide hook-up of the National Broadcasting Company, be restored.

HOLY NAME BOWLERS Roll Each Sunday At K. of C. Alleys

ELMIRA. — Over a year and a half ago 24 members of the Holy Name Society organized a bowling league of four teams, sanctioned by the American Bowling Congress.

The teams, captained by Joseph Schiefen, Anthony Buckholts, Frank Schwarze and Joseph Fischer, meet every Sunday afternoon on the Knights of Columbus' alleys.

On each Tuesday morning the bowlers receive in the mail a copy of SAINT JOHN'S BOWLING NEWS, a mimeographed sheet giving them their individual averages, team standings, the previous Sunday's scores and Big Five. The only requisite for membership on the team is membership in good standing in the Holy Name Society.

The "Bowling News" issued this week gives the following standings:

AVERAGES

F. Schwarze	178	C. Bixby	148
R. Prechtl	173	J. Fisher	148
A. Buckholts	170	Fr. Heisel	148
F. Buckholts	165	J. Schiefen	148
C. Ruhmel	164	P. Rhode Jr.	147
Art Lutz	162	Lou Lutz	144
Si Rohde	161	P. Rhode Sr.	141
Tom Rohde	156	Dr. Mark	133
S. DeRenzo	155	J. Buckholts	126
Ettenberger	150	E. Riesbeck	125
J. Backes	148	C. Prechtl	103

NEXT WEEK

Alleys 1 & 2: Yanks vs. Dodgers.
Alleys 3 & 4: Giants vs. Senators.

TEAM STANDINGS

	Won	Lost	Pct.
Senators	[illegible]	[illegible]	.533
Giants	[illegible]	[illegible]	.517
Dodgers	[illegible]	[illegible]	.458
Yanks	[illegible]	[illegible]	.450

BIG FIVE

P. Rhode Jr.	211	187	166—564
Fr. Heisel	180	184	170—534
J. Fischer	209	183	110—502
F. Schwarze	172	140	189—501
R. Prechtl	170	165	156—491

Whenever there is a question of a tie (e. g. all 148 averages and team standings) alphabetical order is resorted to.

DODGERS 2—GIANTS 1

Dodgers

Lou Lutz	196	163	131—490
P. Rhode Sr.	102	136	143—381
C. Bixby	168	159	145—472
J. Fischer	209	183	110—502
S. Rohde	172	147	146—465
Handicap	178	178	178
TOTALS	1020	961	888

Giants

Art Lutz	137	149	166—452
F. Buckholts	186	165	143—494
R. Prechtl	170	165	156—491
Manager	150	150	150
A. Buckholts	156	169	139—464
Handicap	76	76	76
TOTALS	845	874	850

High Single and Three: Joe Fischer 209 and 502.

SENATORS 2—YANKS 1

Senators

P. Rhode Jr.	211	187	166—564
E. Riesbeck	142	—	112—254
Fr Heisel	180	184	170—534
C. Ruhmel	161	136	145—472
F. Schwarze	172	140	189—501
Handicap	163	177	163
C. Prechtl		100	— —100
TOTALS	1049	924	915

Yanks

J. Backes	150	167	137—454
J. Buckholts	144	147	144—435
J. Schiefen	131	137	147—465
T. Rhode	208	126	145—474
S. DeRenzo	142	193	150—485
Handicap	175	175	175
TOTALS	936	945	898

High Single and Three: Paul Rhode Jr., 211 and 564.

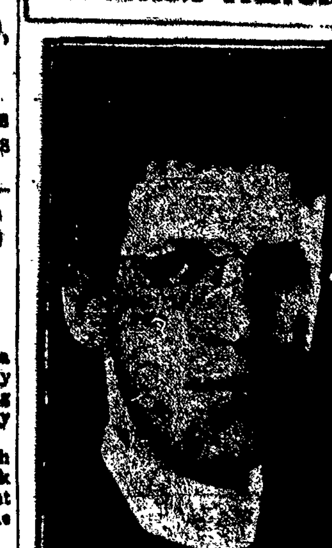
Both Scout Troops Are Flourishing

ELMIRA.—For several years Boy Scout Troop No. 40 and Girl Scout Troop No. 31, have flourished at Saint John's.

The boys, numbering 16, meet each Wednesday night under the leadership of Scoutmaster Lawrence Mark and Assistant Scoutmaster John Loop.

The girls have an outstanding troop in the city, owing to the exceptionally fine training given them by their leader Grace Miller. A few weeks ago the troop entertained their mothers with play and a tea. On this occasion several of the 18 girls received their merit badges.

ASSISTANT PASTOR



REV. RAYMOND G. HEISEL

Parish Issues Own Newspaper To Supplement Pulpit

ELMIRA.—On each Sunday since October 4, 1936, a parish paper, The Vigilite, has been distributed gratis to the parishioners of St. John's Church after the Masses.

The paper is a mimeographed sheet, edited and printed by Father Raymond Heisel, and contains all the parish announcements that do not lend themselves to the pulpit, plus details of announcements that have already been made in church. Its purpose, as outlined in the first issue, reads: "The Vigilite of Saint John's Church is a Sunday morning sheet to acquaint you with the doings and goings-on of our parish and parishioners. 'Vigil' because we are on the WATCH for events; 'Lite' (light) because we hope to light your way to these happenings."

On various special occasions de luxe editions of several pages are issued. The paper has met with exceptional acclaim in the parish.

History of Baseball Shown in Elmira

ELMIRA.—A sound movie of the history of baseball with emphasis on modern technic was shown at a father-son dinner at Columbus Center Wednesday at 6:30 P. M. under auspices of Elmira Council, Knights of Columbus.

Al Todd supplemented the picture with a talk on his experiences as a big league catcher.

The film, sponsored by the National Baseball League, re-enacts memorable events in the 100 years of baseball.

Members of Elmira Council and their friends attended the supper with their sons.

The committee was:

Joseph FitzPatrick, chairman; Robert Pauts, James E. Casey, John T. Nugent, John L. Wilmot, Maurice L. Dickson, Jack French, Frederick L. O'Herron, James O'Dea, Daniel J. Bermingham Jr.; Harry J. Lagonegro, Earl Costello, Daniel Kennedy, William McCarthy.

Thomas V. O'Leary, William Osborne, Charles Curtin, Henry P. Farrell, Marvin Johnson, Thomas J. McCarthy, George Griffis, George Turner, Thomas Conley, Richard Prechtl, William Burns, James W. McGill, Thomas Flynn, Francis O'Brien, H. Ring, Patrick Dwyer, Charles O'Hara, Dr. Walter Ervin, Michael Grady, Joseph Guth, Leo Hourihan, Richard Moxley, William Kelly, Lawrence Mark, John J. Sullivan, Charles Kromer, Faustin Clune, Allie Quatrano, Carl Sutter, Vincent McCornell, William Maloney and Thomas Burns.

The desire of loving God, and the practice of this love sweetens everything.

Congratulations and Best Wishes to FATHER STEMMLER and HIS PARISH on the Completion of Redecorations

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