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Improvements Cost \$133,685 At St. Mary's

The Diamond Jubilee of St. Mary's Church, Elmira, finds extensive improvements, totaling \$133,685 in cost, have been made during the pastorate of the Rev. Thomas J. Toole, which began on Jan. 15, 1944.

The spiritual and physical welfare of his parishioners, young and old, have been the consideration of St. Mary's present pastor.

In the spring of 1944, St. Mary's Church was completely renovated under his direction at a cost of \$10,125. All rooms were carpeted, new furniture, curtains and drapes were installed. A new music room with a baby grand piano was provided. A completely new chapel was constructed in which were furnished a new floor, new pews, new ceiling, new windows, new altar with canopy and drapes.

All the bedrooms were refurnished and individual lockers replaced old wardrobes. A new glass-enclosed porch was constructed on the upstairs rear of the convent building. New lighting fixtures were installed.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL was completely rebuilt in 1944. Included were new rest rooms, showers, wiring, floors, lighting, blackboards, stairways, painting. A new public address system was installed in the principal's office and all the school rooms.

The hall attached to the school had been condemned so it was demolished and completely rebuilt and made into a gymnasium. Completed in March, 1945, the hall made available one of the largest basketball courts in the city of Elmira. This hall is in use practically every night for various athletic functions.

Costing \$31,700, it was opened Sept. 24, 1945, for inspection. Directing activities is the full time Director of Physical Education, Alle P. Quatrano.

All books, supplies, pencils, ink, erasers are supplied to the 410 children in St. Mary's school. Complete renovation of St. Mary's Church was begun in the fall of 1944 when the church was redecorated throughout. All remaining of the original church are the sidewalk, foundation, roof and boiler. Everything else is new including pews, sanctuary, altars, 12 new stained glass windows, baptistry, lighting system. Stations of the Cross were cleaned and reframed.

Installed was a new heating system, enlarged sacristies, side exits and water service was extended to the Church. Improvements included a new front entrance with wrought iron railings. The organ was rebuilt and electrified. Three new statues, one of the Immaculate Conception, one of Mary, Queen of Heaven and one of St. Joseph and The Child were installed.

Church improvements cost \$91,850, bringing the total expenditure to \$133,685.00 to date over a period of four years. All of this has been paid out of current revenues and work was set for as completed.

After four years of intensive effort, Father Toole feels there is still a vast amount of work to be done to complete the parish.

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4-Chaplains



The design of the Four Chaplains U. S. commemorative postage stamp to be issued on May 28. The stamp will honor the heroic Army chaplains who sacrificed their lives in the sinking of the U. S. transport ship the North Atlantic in February, 1945, and will have as its central motif the sinking of the transport ship with the four chaplains, Rev. George L. Fox, Rev. Clark V. Poling, Father John P. Washington and Rabbi Alexander D. Goode grouped above in that order from left to right. Across the top of the stamp will be the inscription, "These Immortal Chaplains... Interfaith in Action." (NC Photos.)

ish plans, and so much needed to place the parish properties in suitable condition.

Lay Groups Back Pastors Down Through Years

Active lay organizations have had their share in the development of St. Mary's parish down through the years.

The parish has an active Holy Name Society which has been in existence for 20 years.

Present officers are: Spiritual Director, Rev. Thomas J. Toole, President, Cornelius L. Sullivan, Vice Presidents, Frank Kessing and Thomas A. Cowley, Recording Secretary, John Pint, Financial Secretary, Walter Farrell, Treasurer, John Roth.

Communion Breakfasts at which His Excellency, Bishop Kearney and other outstanding speakers have been heard have highlighted the history of the men's organization. Distribution of Catholic literature has been a commendable activity of the Society.

First officers of the society in 1928 were President, Walter D. Sullivan; Vice Presidents, Edward J. Reilly and Thomas G. Dean; Secretary, John J. Richardson, and Treasurer Jerome C. O'Connell.

WITH A LONG record of service in the parish is St. Mary's Altar Society. Present officers are: Spiritual Director, the Rev. Leo C. Lynch; President, Mrs. James A. Mallon; Vice President, Mrs. Clarence Woodhouse; Recording Secretary, Miss Patricia Crowley; Financial Secretary, Mrs. Alvin J. Fransley; Treasurer, Mrs. Fred Yetsley.

The Altar Society has down through the years since its formation in 1908 recorded a long list of spiritual and charitable achievements. Among other things the group aided St. Joseph's Hospital during the flood emergency, sent relief to Europe and has been foremost in spiritual work.

Miss Mary Burke was the first president of the society and died with her in April, 1938. She was Vice President, Mrs. Daniel Mulcahy; Secretary, Miss Margaret Newcomb; and Treasurer, Mrs. Anna Mahon.

Boy Scout activity in which St. Mary's parish was a pioneer is carried on by an active committee headed by the Rev. James C. Lane as Troop Chairman. Francis Loop is scoutmaster and other members of the committee are T. C. Styles, Raymond Schultz, Francis X. Moser, Alle P. Quatrano and John Roth.

Another youth activity in St. Mary's parish that has done much for the teenagers is the High School Sodality. Officers are: Father Lane, director; President, Kathleen Yetsley; Vice President, R. Jerome Kane; Secretary, Jean Titus; and Treasurer, James Burdick.

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500 Ithacans At Farewell To Father Hedges

Ithaca — The Rev. L. John Hedges, transferred April 5 to the Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Brockport, greeted more than 500 parishioners of the Church of the Immaculate Conception at a reception in his honor in Parish Hall Sunday night.

Through William M. Egan, the parishioners presented Father Hedges with a purse. Other gifts were a spiritual bouquet from the children of the Parochial School, presented by Jane Kendrick of the third grade and Robert Moore of the second grade; cuff links from the altar boys, presented by David Sprague, and a desk set in his honor in Parish Hall Sunday night.

The Rev. William Byrne, pastor, under whom Father Hedges served as assistant pastor for nearly five years, praised his priestly qualities, mentioning particularly his work in setting up the Catholic Youth Organization and acting as its spiritual adviser, his visits to the sick of the parish, and his teaching of religion to Catholic students in Ithaca High School.

Father Hedges expressed heartfelt thanks and recalled some incidents of his stay in Ithaca. Guests at the reception included the Reverend Fathers Donald M. Cleary and Fred Daly of the Newman Oratory at Cornell University, Joseph Maloney of King Ferry, Leonard Kelly of Trumansburg, Joseph McNamara of Elmira Heights, and Hubert Blaky of Penn Yan, a former assistant pastor here.

The program included vocal solos by Mrs. Mary Bell Deeley and John Carpenter, accompanied by Mrs. George Fahey; prayers by the Revs. Vincent P. Collins and John T. Walsh, and refreshments. William J. Waters was chairman.

The committee was made up

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Sodality Plans Mother's Day

The Sodality of Our Lady of St. John the Baptist Church, Elmira, will hold its annual breakfast on Mother's Day, May 9, in the Mark Twain Hotel.

Mrs. Mary Karl and Mrs. Marjorie Benjamin are co-chairmen and the following are assisting them: Mesdames Helen Rennie, Edward Jadowski, Charles Kruckow, Edward Rehwinkel, John Blume and the Misses Mary Mathew and Frieda Henry.

The Sodality will sponsor the fourth in its series of card parties on Wednesday evening, April 28. Euchre, Bridge and Five Hundred will be played and refreshments will be served. The parties are open to the public and those playing Bridge and Five Hundred are asked to make up their own tables.

There will be a meeting of the Sodality in the Church Hall on Monday evening, April 26, at 8 o'clock. Mrs. Edward Rehwinkel and Mrs. John Blume will be in charge of the social hour which will follow the meeting.

Rail Workers Pilgrimage Paris — (RNS) — Four hundred Paris rail workers took part in a pilgrimage to Rome, marking the 50th anniversary of the Union of Catholic Rail Workers in France.

of officers and members of Court Santa Maria 240, Catholic Daughters of America: The Parent Teacher Association of the Parochial School; the Sodality of Mary; Ithaca Council 277, Knights of Columbus; the Holy Name Society; and the Catholic Youth Organization.

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