

Fire Razes Church—St. Mathieu, Que.—(NC)—The parish church and rectory were destroyed by a fire which swept through this small village de-

stroying some 20 homes and business establishments. The Rev. Leonce Panamin, pastor, who razed by a fire which swept through this small village de-

50-Year-Old Parish History Recounted

By ARTHUR F. FARRIN

Fifty years of religious and material progress, from mission chapel to one of Rochester's leading parishes, will be reviewed by parishioners and friends of St. Augustine's Church next Sunday, Oct. 24.

Particularly honored in the long story of struggle toward success that marks the half century are the Rev. John H. O'Brien, who died in 1945 after 39 years as pastor, and the Rt. Rev. Msgr. John M. Duffy, who succeeded Father O'Brien.

MILESTONES in the parish history are described in a booklet to be distributed Sunday, outlining in detail the erection through the years of three church buildings, a school, convent and rectory. The booklet was compiled by the Rev. Edward J. Tolster, assistant pastor.

Significant testimony that continued advancement lies ahead is contained in an announcement in the booklet which states: "Plans are now in the making for the erection of a new convent, since the Sisters have for many years been crowded in their present quarters. Funds have been invested for this purpose and an additional house has been purchased on Lorzier Street next to the Rectory to protect the interests of the property, and to serve as a temporary dwelling for the Sisters during the building of the new convent."

Highlighting the account of recent years is the description of the "Installation of St. Augustine's Bells" by Bishop Kearney on Sept. 4, 1938, which His Excellency termed an act by which the parishioners were "issuing the challenge of the voice of God to the strident tones of the twentieth century."

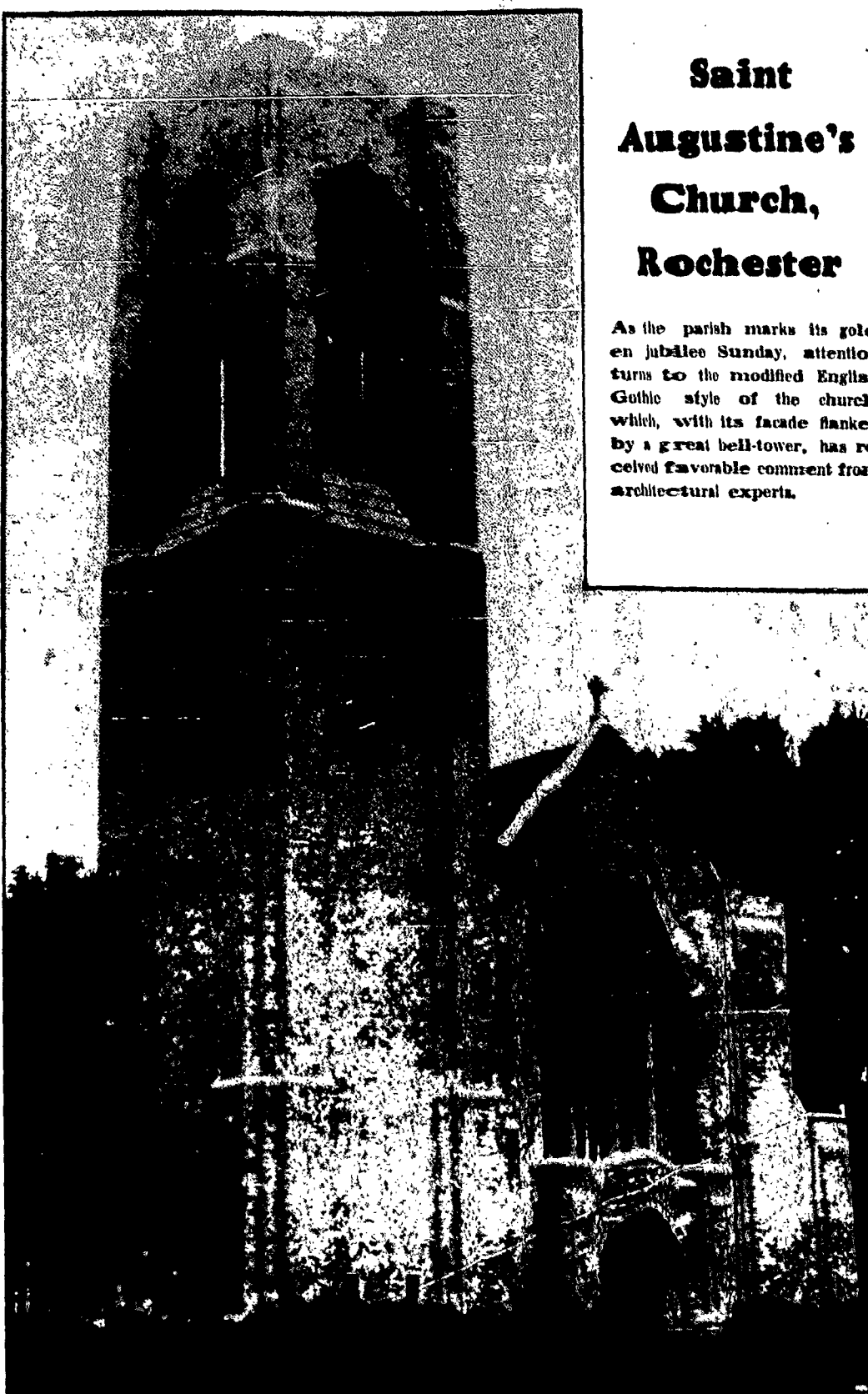
"IN THE LAST decade of the nineteenth century the booklet's chronology begins, "Rochester was growing rapidly. Growth was particularly fast in the western part of the city, and among those who settled in the new development there were many Catholics.

"These Catholics continued to attend the older parishes farther east—St. Patrick's Cathedral, St. Peter and Paul's, Holy Family and Immaculate Conception; and to send many of their children to school at Cathedral, Holy Apostles and St. Mary's Orphanage.

"The Bishop of Rochester, the Rt. Rev. Bernard J. McQuaid, observing the problem, concluded that these people needed a parish of their own. Consequently, in 1898, he caused the erection of a mission chapel on Hill Avenue.

"It was dedicated to St. Augustine, and Father Thomas F. Hickey, rector of the Cathedral and later to become the second Bishop of Rochester, formally opened St. Augustine's by reading the first Mass. From that time on until 1906 the Mission Chapel was attended from the Cathedral, and the Reverend Fathers George V. Burns, Philip Goiding, Arthur Hughes and John F. O'Hern took their turns coming out to offer Mass."

A FOUR-GRADE parochial school was inaugurated during the period. It was located in the chapel itself, the 25 students using movable benches which were taken out when Mass was



Saint Augustine's Church, Rochester

As the parish marks its golden jubilee Sunday, attention turns to the modified English Gothic style of the church, which, with its facade flanked by a great bell-tower, has received favorable comment from architectural experts.

to be celebrated.

In 1906 Bishop McQuaid named Father O'Brien first resident pastor. Shortly afterward the small wooden church was severely damaged by fire and the new pastor decided to erect a new church building. Bishop Hickey laid the cornerstone in 1906 and dedicated the \$35,000 church-school structure in 1907.

Two years later a \$7,300 rectory was raised, and in 1911 the \$100 convent, which has been enlarged and still serves the nuns today, was erected.

By 1921 the 700 families in the parish had outgrown the duplex church and school and Father O'Brien began raising a fund for a new church building. The present structure was dedicated in 1925 by Bishop Hickey.

IT WAS IN 1929 that the parish itself had grown so large that a mission chapel was estab-

lished. Land for St. Helen's Chapel was purchased for \$10,000 in Gates township, and a frame building completed in 1930 for \$9,000. For 10 years the mission was under the care of St. Augustine's, in 1940 it, too, became a parish, and the Rev. J. Beecher Sullivan was named pastor.

During the last years of his life, Father O'Brien's health was poor. He entered St. Mary's Hospital in October 1944 and died Jan. 5, 1945. Bishop Kearney celebrated the Pontifical Requiem Mass, at which the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Charles F. Shay, delivering the eulogy of the pastor under whom he once had served as assistant, spoke in particular of Father O'Brien's parish achievements and his charity to the poor.

On February 6, 1945, Bishop Kearney chose the Rev. John M. Duffy to succeed Father O'Brien. At the time of his appointment he was superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Rochester.

BECAUSE THE war had curtailed usual repairs and improvements, the new pastor proceeded where his predecessor had had to stop. Considerable alterations were made under Father Duffy in the church, school and rectory. Latest addition has been a new 2,092 pipe organ, to be dedicated Sunday.

On May 6 this year Bishop Kearney announced that His Holiness Pope Pius XII had named Father Duffy a Domestic Prelate, a rank which entitled him to be called "Right Reverend Monsignor." On June 5 he was invested in the prelatical robes, and on the following day celebrated the silver jubilee of his ordination.

Among assistant pastors in the history of St. Augustine's have been the Reverends Joseph V. Curtin, Daniel E. O'Rourke, Charles F. Shay, Edward M. Lyons, Thomas Brennan, Edward J. Walters and Robert H. Fennessy. Present assistants are the Reverends Daniel R. Sullivan, Edward J. Tolster and John S. Hayes.

The parish now has six Sunday Masses. Nearly 500 pupils are in the parochial school, which is staffed by 14 Sisters of St. Joseph.

TWENTY-EIGHT parishioners have entered the priesthood, and 25 have become nuns. They are as follows:

Rt. Rev. Msgr. E. R. Kirk, Very Rev. Msgr. James McAniff, the Reverends D'Arcy Bolger, John Burke, Francis Courteen, S.J.; James Courteen, M.M.; Emmet Doherty; Leo Dunn, C. SS. R.; Orrin Feller; Maurice Fitzgerald, O.F.M.; John Hayes, Boniface Jones, Leonard Kelly, Arthur Kreckel, Wilshire Lockwood, John Malley; Michael Kavanaugh, S.J.; Edward McAniff; Robert Meng; John Merklinger; Nicholas Mosier, C.S.V.; William

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