

Flood Damaged St. Peter and Paul's Interior Beautifully Transformed

Reframing and decorating of the interior of St. Peter and Paul's Church, Elmira has been completed according to the Rev. William J. Naughton, pastor.

For more than six months the parishioners have patiently endured the inconveniences of scaffolding, ladders and all other hindrances to a devout visit to the church, which are a part of a complete job of decoration.

As near as it can be ascertained from the parish records more than 40 years have elapsed since the interior of the church was completely redecorated. About 1917 there was a minor fire in the altar boy's vestry, causing smoke and straggle to the decorating job that had been done in 1917.

The sanctuary which suffered most from the fire was redecorated at that time but the rest of the church was only cleaned and touched up wherever required.

THE PRESENT PAINTING and decorating job marks the completion of the program of reconstruction begun in 1946. On May 28th, 1946 the worst flood in the history of the city wrought considerable damage to the church property.

Many structural repairs were made necessary as a result of the flood. Masonry supports for the high altar and the marble sanctuary railing were installed and floors were rebuilt. A new roof for the church was installed last year.

The last step in restoring the Mother Church of the city to its former beauty was the redecoration of its interior.

On March 1st of this year under the supervision of Leo Conditte of the firm of Haskell Conditte and Haskell, local architects, the work was begun. Contracts had been awarded to Fred M. Bottecher and Son for the painting and decorating; The John Cunningham Estate for the carpentry and masonry; the American Warming and Ventilating Co. for the plumbing and heating; G. H. & J. T. Kelly Co. for the electrical work; Elmira Coal for the stoker; J. P. & M. Sullivan for the carpeting and drapery work. All these are Elmira concerns.

Considerable plastering had to be done on the walls of the church. The principal structural changes at this time were in the vestibule of the church where the new confessionals were built, with entrance from the body of the church. These confessionals are equipped with a lighting arrangement above the kneeler, and also one to show when the confessional is occupied.

The doorframes of the entrances in to the church proper were altered to conform with the confessionals. Also in the vestibule new masonry arches were constructed, separating the center from the side vestibules.

THE COLOR MOTIF of the decorations is a soft pastel green. The side walls are plain in color with no design or decoration. The ceilings of the body of the church are richly decorated, considerably gold leaf highly emphasizing the design. The mural paintings in the arches of the ceiling remain as before, having been renewed and restored.

In the Sanctuary, the side walls are also plain as in the body of the church. The ceiling of the Sanctuary, which immediately attracts the attention of everyone is highly decorated with gold leaf. The effect of the plain walls of the Sanctuary accents to a considerable degree the beauty of the High Altar, which is constructed of Carrara marble and is one of the most beautiful altars in the diocese. It was the gift of Thomas B. Fitzgerald, given in 1923 in memory of his wife — Mary Madden Fitzgerald.

Also in the Sanctuary are many new appurtenances, the gifts of parishioners. Among which are the Ambray, a pulpit designed in wrought-iron with the parish coat-of-arms inscribed in brass on the front; an ornamental rug valued at over \$1,000.

At the celebration of the Centenary of the church on October 30th this year, a solemn set of white vestments, also a donation, will be used. Four new marble holy water fountains, the gifts of different families, adorn the entrances of the church.

IN THE SIDE CHAPELS of Our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph, the walls are plain with the same design on the ceilings as in the body of the church. The altars in the chapels are done in an egg-shell white to correspond with the finish of the High Altar. The surfaces in the side altars



Here is a view of the recently remodeled and redecorated interior of St. Peter and Paul's Church, Elmira which will be the scene of impressive liturgical observance of the parish's coming 100th Anniversary. The sanctuary was transformed under direction of the Rev. William J. Naughton, pastor.

as well as the other statues in the church were all finished in an egg-shell white and then glazed in a soft antique finish.

The pews of the church are of solid oak. During the Flood of 1946 the water completely covered them because of their solid construction. The pews were stripped of their old stain and varnish. They were then restained and varnished. The effect now is that of new pews.

The vestries were also part of the redecoration program. New rubber tile floors were laid in both before they were painted. In the priest's vestry the vestment case was refinished and adorned with new hardware. The baptistry, in the same room, was enclosed with a railing similar to the altar railing.

Last but not least in the renovation program, the heating system was completely revamped. New radiators of the motor driven air circulating type were installed in the church. A motor stoker has been installed in the boiler to insure a constant and even heat in the church.

It is expected that in time for the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the parish, which will be celebrated on the Feast of Christ the King Oct. 30, that the altars of the church will be carpeted. The cost will be paid by a donation of a parishioner.

Doctor Sheehan School Fund Bazaar Slated Returns To Teach By St. Francis Xavier Units

Dr. Catherine A. Sheehan has returned to her teaching duties in Rochester this Fall, after a leave of absence for three years. During the last two of these, she was a member of the faculty of the Graduate School of English of Fordham University.

Miss Sheehan will teach in the English Department of Edison Tech.

Dr. Sheehan is a graduate of the University of Rochester where she obtained both her bachelor's and her master's degree. She studied at Fordham University where she obtained her doctor's degree and was then appointed a member of the Graduate School of English.

Dr. Sheehan received national recognition in English, when in 1936 she received the National Award for a competitive essay on the Constitution. At the 1947 meeting of the Modern Language Association she read a paper on the Ossianic Controversy.

Previously Dr. Sheehan taught at the Old Washington High School and at Benjamin Franklin High School in the English Department. Her former students have welcomed her back to Rochester.

The Bazaar Committee of St. Francis Xavier Church will stage this year's parish party outdoors on the grounds behind the church hall on the evenings of Sept. 29, 30 and October 1. All proceeds will go to the Building Fund of St. Francis Xavier School.

The move from the indoor hall was required because of capacity crowds last year, according to the committee. For several weeks they have been building new booths and installing a new outdoor lighting system for the largest bazaar in parish history. New and different attractions have been planned to entertain parishioners and friends.

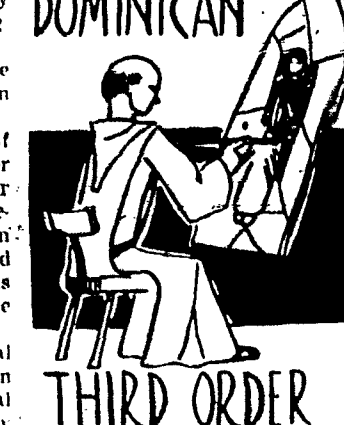
Besides the evening activities there will be a children's bazaar on Saturday afternoon, Oct. 1.

GENERAL CHAIRMAN for the Bazaar is Salvatore Faso. He is being assisted in the booth building and lighting by: Walter Guido, Charles Pollizzi, Philip Suter, Angelo Nicheita, Don Provenzano, Joe Sapientza and others.

The ad committee is headed by Frank Michel. This committee includes Frank Masuzo, Don Cimino, Salvatore Faso, Joseph Mortillaro, Patsy Casino, Thomas Pina, John Floda and Alex Turchetti.

Salvatore Faso, head of the ticket committee is being assisted by: Lilla Angelella, Frances D'Amore, Millie Bonaffine, Carolyn Civitelli, Connie Bertella, Mary Sconitell, Margaret Schlicher, Dominic Duchiani, Sam Turnelli, Josephine Liberti, Patsy Casino, Sam Lauri, Peter Drago Jr., Rose Marciano and Mae D'Amore.

Also Rose Spinosa, Vincent Rallo, Evelyn Muto, Grace Prinz, Marie Leone, William Yoergler, Lenora Pulcinno, James Morrillaro, Joe Filata, Jean Falcone, Connie Tarte, Anthony Belli, Frank Plassa, Carmela Vinel, Thomas Coughlin, Fanny Gaglio, Rosario Palarmo, Phil Suter, Shirley Lockhart, Anna Comfort, Anthony Camaratta, Gloria Marciano, Sara Marciano, June Walker.



THIRD ORDER

The Third Order of St. Dominic will resume its monthly schedule of spiritual exercises in common on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 25, at 4 p.m. in the Chapel of St. Andrew's Seminary, 444 Plymouth Ave. N.

At the monthly meetings the tertians read Voguera and Compline from the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary. They are instructed in various aspects of Dominican life and are at present giving particular time and effort to a consideration of the beauties of the Divine Office.

The Law of Charity, which is the Perfect Love of God, guides the associates of all Third Orders. Consequently every tertian is given a specific external work of charity which he or she is required to perform each month.

Every year new members seek admission into the various Third Orders. If there are any persons interested in learning more about the Third Order of St. Dominic, they are invited to attend the monthly meetings.

For any further information write: Rev. Joseph A. Natale, Spiritual Director, 20 East Ave. Fairport, N. Y. or contact Mrs. Eleanor Russer, Prioress, 88 Lexington Ave., Rochester 11.

Mrs. McShea Named Altar Society Head

Mrs. Nan McShea was unanimously elected president of the Altar and Rosary Society of Our Mother of Sorrows Church at a meeting, Tuesday, Sept. 13.

Other new officers are Mrs. Marian Hugelmaier, vice president; Mrs. Elma Garvin, secretary; and Mrs. Helen Grundick, treasurer.

Outgoing officers are Mrs. Lavina Michaud, Mrs. Rhea Steve and Mrs. Bernadine Begley. Fall and winter activities will be discussed at a meeting October 11, which all members are urged to attend.

Forty Hours

Friday, Sept. 23 — St. Michael, Rochester.
 Sunday, Sept. 25 — St. Vincent, Corning; St. Anthony, Elmira; St. Francis, Geneva; Greece; King Ferry; Nunda; Scottsville.
 Friday, Sept. 30 — Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rochester, 8 a.m.

Freedom of Dublin (RNS) — Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston, head of a group of 550 pilgrims from the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston, was given the Freedom of Dublin, a rarely-accorded honor, on his arrival here.

Orleans Aid Orleans — Responding to the appeal of Archbishop Joseph F. Rummel, of New Orleans, a collection was taken up in all churches of the diocese of New Orleans for the clergy of the Diocese of Orleans, France.

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