St. Michael's At Union Springs To Mark 100th Anniversary

Sunday, September 30, has been set aside as the day when the parishioners of St. Michael's Church, Union Springs will commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the establishment of the parish.

His Excellency Bishop Kearney will offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass there at 10.30 a. m. Afterward, the Bishop will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to a class of children and adults of St. Michael's Parish and of St. Patrick's Parish, Aurora.

Former members of St. Michael's Parish are invited both to assist at the Mass in the morning and to take part in the social portion of the celebration in the afternoon in Hendrick Hall, according to the Rev. William J. Ayers, pastor of both parishes.

THE PARISH RECORDS tell simply that "The Mission of Springport, now called Union Springs was established in 1851 by Reverend William E. Quigley, who had been sent by Right Reverend John Timon of Buffalo to which diocese this Mission belonged to look after the spiritual interests of the scattered Catholics residing in the territory adjacent to the eastern shore of Cayuga Lake, extending from Auburn on the north to Ithaca on the south."

This event took place 17 years before the founding of the Diocese of Rochester.

Father Quigley was transferred to Lima in the fall of 1852 and was succeeded by the Rev. Nicholas Byrne. To Father Byrne fell the task of completing the construction of a church in Union Springs.

THE PRESENT St. Michael's Church is the church built during his pastorate. It is a wooden frame structure with a seating capacity of close to three hundred people. The exterior of the building is just about as it was from the beginning except that the entrance has been slightly enlarged recently. As to the interior, that was completely redecorated a few years ago due largely to the active cooperation of some of the people of the parish who were willing to do the work.

During the first ten years of its existence St. Michael's parish was served by a large succession of missionary priests. After Father Quigley came Father Byrne, and then the people of the parish were under the spiritual care of Rev. [illegible] Roberts and Fr. [illegible] Father Byrne was succeeded in 1855 by [illegible] who was succeeded by Rev. [illegible] Rev. [illegible] was the pastor [illegible] Rev. [illegible] was the pastor [illegible] Rev. [illegible] was the pastor