

St. Ignatius Loyola

Hornell Parish Marks 25 Years

By ROBERT SMETT

"We are not a big parish nor are there any millionaires among my people, but they've got the Faith and they keep it!" These were the sentiments expressed by the Rev. Joseph M. McDonnell, pastor of St. Ignatius Loyola parish, Hornell, in anticipation of Silver Jubilee celebrations beginning this Sunday.

Parishioners will celebrate the parish quarter century mark on Sunday (Oct. 21) with a Mass of Thanksgiving in their beautifully appointed church. His Excellency Bishop Kearney will preside and preach at the 11 a. m. Mass.

For the first four years of its existence, the parishioners of St. Ignatius gathered for Mass and other church functions in a ramshackle store in the old McCleary block on Hornell's Cambridge St.

FIRST MASS was offered there on Dec. 6, 1931 by the founding pastor, the Rev. Ignatius X. Cameron and two weeks later the first child was baptized Veronica Louise Donaldson in the new parish. The Donaldson infant was the first of 976 souls to receive the sacrament of Baptism at St. Ignatius during the past 25 years.

St. Ignatius Loyola parish was founded under Bishop John Francis O'Hern, Rochester's third bishop, from Hornell's mother parish St. Ann's because of increasing number of Catholics to be served in the Southern tier city.

The new parish was formally incorporated on the feast of St. Ignatius Loyola, July 31, 1931 with Father Cameron as first pastor. Starting with 250 families, St. Ignatius parish originally embraced that area of Hornell south of the Erie railroad tracks and was joined with St. Joachim Church, Canisteo, as a mission. St. Joachim's has since become attached to St. Mary Church, Roselle.

Plans were immediately inaugurated by Father Cameron, John Dick, now deceased, and Emmett Donnelly, lay trustees, to build a church.

GROUND was broken for the present St. Ignatius Church in 1934 on properties at the corner of Grand and Canisteo Streets purchased three years earlier by St. Ann's Church. Cost of the proposed church was estimated at \$32,000.

Dedication Mass was celebrated in the new church on Sept. 17, 1935 by Archbishop (now Cardinal) Edward Mooney, fourth bishop of Rochester, who also preached the sermon.

Present for the ceremonies were the Rt. Rev. Msgr. William M. Hart, P.A., V.G., the late Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph S. Cameron, brother of the pastor, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Charles F. Shay, the late Rt. Rev. Msgr. James Griffin, dean of Corning, the Very Rev. President of St. Bonaventure College, and other priests and religious of the diocese.

THE CHURCH, designed by architect Frank M. Quinn, is built of cedar block and granite stone in a contemporary gothic style roofed in russet tile. Contractor was Emmett Kiehr.

Because of ill health, Father Ignatius and the present pastor, Cameron retired as pastor of St. Ignatius in 1948. He was succeeded by Father Nolan, who served as pastor until his death in 1950. Father McDonnell was appointed in his place on Oct. 2, 1950.

Ordained in 1930, Father McDonnell had previously served as pastor of St. Gabriel Church, Hammondsport and St. Patrick's, Prattburgh. He also had served as assistant pastor at Holy Rosary Church, Rochester and as chaplain at the State Agricultural and Industrial School, Industry. A graduate of St. Andrew and St. Bernard seminaries, Father McDonnell is a native of St. Mary parish, Bath. Under Father McDonnell's leadership, funds were approxi-



Front Entrance, St. Ignatius Church.

ated for redecoration of the church interior and the installation of a new altar. His Excellency Auxiliary Bishop Lawrence E. Casey consecrated the new marble altar on March 29, 1955.

The altar is constructed of Italian and Tennessee marble with Botticelli marble used for the single slab table, the steps and predella. Golden buff Tennessee marble forms the risers and panels.

Above the altar, constructed by Neil Brothers and Kern, a painting of St. Ignatius Loyola, church patron was installed. The Canadian artist, Matthew Martineau of Montreal, was commissioned to do the oil.

The painting depicts St. Ignatius kneeling in rapt contemplation at the altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary, holding her Infant Son, surrounded by a dazzling sunburst of light. Tones of turquoise, gold and rose in the painting are repeated in the liturgical symbols of Christ, the Blessed Mother and the Blessed Sacrament which decorate the sanctuary ceiling. Four windows in the sanctuary, honoring the four Evangelists, shed a soft blue light over the marble altar.

Warm golden-buff is used for the walls, while rafters and trusses of deep toned wood are decorated with liturgical symbols carrying out the vivid color scheme of the oil painting. The entire interior was redecorated by R. Artzma and Sons.

New priests' bench, kneelers and acolyte chairs were installed in the sanctuary and statues of St. Ignatius and St. Francis Xavier placed in niches in the back of the nave.

VOCATIONS TO the priesthood and especially to the Sisterhoods have been outstanding in number for the parish's 25 year span. To the diocesan clergy have come the Reverend Fathers William Reiter, James Cosgrove and William Cosgrove.

Sisters of Mercy who are former St. Ignatius parishioners include: Sisters Mary Loyola, Mary Louis, Mary Barbara, Mary Chrysostron, Mary Ignatia, Mary Clement and Maria Goretti. Sisters of St. Francis are Sister M. Victorine, Mary Georgetta, Mary Cabrini and Sister M. Kater.

Nine assistant pastors, including the present assistant, Father Norbert Nolan, have served St. Ignatius during her quarter century history. They include the Reverend Fathers John Keefe, Doris Moreau, Francis Heater, Francis Feeney, Earl Tobin, Joseph McCarthy, William Tobin and James Slattery.

FROM HUMBLE beginnings that saw the people of St. Ignatius attending Mass in an old remodeled store, the parish now boasts a beautiful and artfully decorated church situated on attractively landscaped grounds.

Still referred to as the "new" church by Hornell's old-timers, the parish marks its twenty-five years with a well established Holy Name and Rosary Societies, Sodality of Our Lady and Confraternity of Christian Doctrine.

Almost every year, young people of St. Ignatius walk off with prizes in local sport contests, attested to by an overloaded shelf of trophies in the pastor's study.

At its first milestones, St. Ignatius Loyola parish stands as a credit to the Hornell community and to the priests and parishioners for their faith and strength.

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FATHER McDONNELL Pastor

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Drive-In 'Off Limits' For Catholics

Omaha — (RNS) — Archbishop Gerald T. Bergan of Omaha has declared the Golden Spike Drive-In Theatre here to be "off limits" to Catholics of this area. It was the fourth time he had imposed the sanction against a motion picture house in the archdiocese for exhibiting films rated "C" (Condemned) by the National Legion of Decency and the second-time he had invoked it against the Golden Spike.

The action was taken because of the theatre's showing of "Desperate Women," a film the Legion put in the "C" category last year. "The subject matter of this film is judged to be entirely objectionable and morally unacceptable for presentation in entertainment motion picture theatres," the Legion said at that time. "Moreover, it completely ignores essential and supernatural values associated with questions of this nature."

Women To Hold Chicago Convention

Chicago — (NC) — Delegates to the 28th annual convention of the National Council of Catholic Women will gather here November 7 to 10 for the largest convention of the NCCW. Theme of the meeting is "Know Christ — Live Christ."

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Sunday Closing Newark, N.J. — (RNS) — A statewide Citizens Committee for Sunday Closing was formed at a meeting here attended by some 125 merchants and Chamber of Commerce officials.

Gideon Bibles Harrisburg, Pa. — (RNS) — Distribution of Gideon Bibles in public schools is illegal under both state and federal constitutions, Deputy Attorney General Elmer J. Sells ruled.

Sermonary and Altar at Hornell Church