



EXTERIOR VIEW of new Our Lady of Lourdes School in West Elmira is shown here. School was built and opened this year.

Dedication is slated for Sunday, Oct. 13 at 3 p.m. with His Excellency, Auxiliary Bishop Lawrence B. Casey officiating. The Rev. Leo G. Schwab, pastor is directing arrangements.

## Bishop Casey To Bless Newly Opened School In Lourdes Parish, Elmira

Solemn dedication ceremonies for the new Our Lady of Lourdes School, Elmira will take place Sunday afternoon, Oct. 13 at 3 p.m. with Auxiliary Bishop Lawrence B. Casey officiating, conducting the ritual.

The Rev. Leo G. Schwab, pastor announced that following the school dedication the members of the clergy will return in procession to the church for Solemn Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

The school opened last month with the kindergarten and the first four grades in operation, represents a \$300,000.00 investment including construction costs, sewer connections, grad-

ing, sidewalks, paving and furnishings for the class rooms.

THE BUILDING is of cinder block construction with Finger Lakes stone facing and includes 8 class rooms, two Kindergarten rooms, audio visual room, health and library rooms, principal's office and a book rental room.

Staffed by four Sisters of Mercy and one lay teacher, the school has a registration of 193 pupils. It is planned to add one grade each year until all eight grades are in operation.

Following Benediction in the church on Sunday the public is invited to inspect the new building located at the corner of Demarest Parkway and W. First St.



OPENING DAY PLANS at the new Lourdes School in Elmira are discussed by Father Schwab and Sister Mary Jonatha, who is taking over as principal.

## Lourdes Parish Progress Opened In 1940

Long considered as a possible parish site the territory west of the City of Elmira and north of Chemung River was adjudged suitable by His Excellency Bishop Kearney in March 1940 and he decided to erect a parish there.

Organization of the new parish was offered to the Rev. Leo G. Schwab, then pastor of St. Thomas Church, Rochester and his mission in Elmira as an assistant at St. Patrick Church, from Dec. 1918 to July 1934.

The first name suggested for the new parish was that of St. James. His Excellency Bishop Kearney, however, on receiving the suggestion of Father Schwab named it Our Lady of Lourdes.

FATHER SCHWAB with the cooperation of the late J. John

Hassett, secured options on property on West Church St. at the head of Morningside Drive. First announcement of the new parish appeared in the newspaper but instead of the original property being purchased, the site at the corner of West Church and Demarest Parkway was bought.

The new pastor took up residence with the Rev. William J. Brann, pastor, at St. Patrick Church on June 8, 1940. Leo G. Schwab and Constidine was asked to draw plans for a new church building. M. E. Kennedy and L. W. Hastings were named architects.

Plans for a church to seat 600 persons were approved by the Diocesan Building Commission on Sept. 16, 1940.

Contract for the concrete foundations was awarded to Mitchell Bros. for \$3,830.00. First earth was turned to mark the start of construction on Oct. 17 with Father Brann and Father Schwab officiating. By Dec. 19, 1940, the foundations were finished.

Bids on the building proper were opened in Rochester on Nov. 26, 1940. Low bidder on the general contract was Welliver Construction Co. with \$42,841. Electrical and wiring bid went to G. H. and J. T. Kelly, \$1,467.65; heating, Van Patten Plumbing and Heating Co., \$3,765.00 and plumbing, same firm, \$2,345.00.

Cold weather at that time caused postponement of the stone masonry work until the following Spring. Welliver subcontracted this portion of the work to DeLuva Construction Co. of Albany.



PUPILS NUMBERING 193 are being taught in the new Our Lady of Lourdes School, Elmira. Here Sister Jonatha, principal, with boys and girls posing for their pictures.

## Father Schwab's Service Known In Elmira Area

The Rev. Leo George Schwab, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Elmira was born in Rochester, N. Y., June 9, 1891, son of John Schwab and Mary Knapp.

After attending Blessed Sacrament School and St. Andrew Seminary, he completed his studies for the Holy Priesthood at St. Bernard Seminary. He was ordained on June 8, 1918 by Bishop Guines of Syracuse.

THE NEWLY ordained priest sang his first Solemn Mass in Blessed Sacrament Church on June 9, 1918. The Rev. Thomas F. Connors, pastor, was assistant priest. The Rev. Florian Reichert, C.S.S.R., rector of St. Joseph Church, Rochester, a cousin of the new priest, delivered the sermon.

First assignment of Father Schwab as assistant pastor of the Immaculate Conception, Rochester was July 28, 1918. He was transferred by His Excellency Bishop Hickey to be assistant pastor of St. Patrick Church, Elmira. Father Schwab served as assistant to the Rev. James J. Bloomer, pastor until the death of the latter on Nov. 10, 1931 at the age of 90 years in the 63rd year of his priesthood.

In May 1932, the Rev. William J. Brann was appointed second pastor of St. Patrick Church, Elmira. On July 3, 1934, Archbishop Edward J. Mooney transferred Father Schwab to the pastorate of St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Rochester. St. Lucy Church, Retsof and St. Raphael, Pittard.

FATHER SCHWAB was appointed by His Excellency Bishop

Kearney to be the first pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Elmira. Father Schwab was installed as pastor by Father Brann, dean of the Chemung-Schuyler deanery in the presence of M. E. Kennedy and L. W. Hastings, lay trustees of the parish.

During the past 17 years Father Schwab has administered the parish now numbering 270 families, built a church in the first year of his pastorate and is now looking forward to opening of the young parish's first school.

**945 Baptised At Lourdes**

Statistics of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Elmira from the parish's beginning in 1940 to August 25, 1957 follows:

Baptisms	945
Converts	108
First Communions	675
Confirmations	560
Marriages	205
Deaths	193

**SODALITY DANCE SET**

The Sodality of St. Casimir parish will sponsor a high school dance this Friday evening at the school auditorium, Oct. 11, from 8:00 until 12:00. All local members of high schools are invited. William Dominikowski, president of the Sodality, will be assisted by the other officers of the Sodality.

## Parish's Progress Highlighted

Some of the highlights of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Elmira, first parish established by His Excellency Bishop Kearney as Ordinary of this diocese, follows:

**1942**  
Jan. 11—First Holy Name Society Communion held, officers elected, Jan. 15.

Feb. 8—Bishop Kearney preached first Tridium for the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.  
May 31—First First Holy Communion.

**1943**  
June 8—Father Schwab's Silver Jubilee marked in parish hall after Solemn High Mass in morning. Father Clarence Gardner preached. Dr. John Lynch was reception chairman.  
June—Paid off \$11,000 on church debt, this year.

**1944**  
July 3—Lois Basler received habit of Sisters of Mercy in Rochester, first girl of parish. Dominican Sisters opened Monastery on West Church St. with eight sisters.

**1945**  
May 26—Dom Barnabas Stowell, O.S.B., ordained in Toronto. Celebrated First Mass May 27, first priest of parish.

**1946**  
Week of May 26, the big flood. Collection was taken to help St. Joseph Hospital.

**1947**  
April 22—Mary Katherine McInerney, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. L. McInerney, received into Religious of Sacred Heart of Mary at Marymount.

**1948**  
Rev. Winfred Guenther, C.P., obtained a relic of the True Cross for Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. Mary Katherine McInerney took first vows, April 24 and received the name of Mother Marie Christopher.  
John Bush, son of Mrs. Regina Bush and the late Thomas Bush took his first vows in the Order of Friars Minor Conventuals at Cohoes.

**1949**  
The church was painted by James Botcher in August.  
Sept. 7—Father Schwab with Monsignors Brien and Lane and Rev. Michael Hynes of Owego sailed for Europe. Lourdes and is chairman of the dance. He will be assisted by the other officers of the Sodality.

**1950**  
June 3—Rev. William Thomas,

formerly of this parish, ordained in Rochester.

August 6—Father Schwab announced the parish was no longer in debt, the indebtedness of \$85,946.30 as of Jan. 1, 1942 had been paid off in small sums over eight and one half years along with \$15,347.33 interest. Saving for school was started.

Week of Aug. 5—The stained glass windows installed over choir loft.

Sunday, Oct. 28—Tenth Anniversary celebrated with Solemn High Mass at 11. Father Ermet Davls preached. At dinner in hall, the Rev. DeSales Standerwyck, S.A. talked.

Dec. 15—Public address system installed in church.

**1952**  
In February, the Louridan Club was established for men and women between 18 and 28.

May 18—First Solemn Novena in honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal opened by the Rev. Raymond E. Reichert, C.M. Weekly novena opened June 2.

Sisters of Mercy bought property on lower Maple Ave. for high school.

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**1-A**

McLane Construction Co.

General Contractors

Commercial-Residential-Industrial

## Breakfast Listed By Third Order

Third Order of St. Francis of Elmira will hold its annual Communion Breakfast on Sunday at 10:00 a.m. at the Hotel Jefferson in Watkins Glen. Members of the fraternity will attend solemn High Mass at 9 p.m. in the main chapel of St. John's Atonement Seminary, Montour Falls and concelebrate a body to the hotel following the Mass.

Principal speaker at the breakfast will be John B. Lawless, prominent Elmira attorney. The breakfast is open to all Tertians and friends of the Order.

## Dryden Mission Lists Fashion Show, Cards

Dryden A Fashion Show and Card Party will be conducted at Dryden Village Hall, Tuesday, Oct. 23. Proceeds will go to the Dryden Catholic Mission.

Fashions for '58' will start at 8 p.m. Clothes will be modeled from Fifth Grains, furs from Louis Herman, children's clothes from The Jack and Jill Shop and make up from Beauty Counselor. Refreshments will be served followed by the card party.

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