

25 Years At St. Stanislaus

Msgr. Balcerak Marks Anniversary

Mass Of Thanksgiving Stated On Sunday

By FRANK KELLY

"Hard work, but it has been pleasant." This is how Rt. Rev. Monsignor Joseph A. Balcerak describes his 25 years as pastor of St. Stanislaus Church, Rochester.

Msgr. Balcerak will celebrate his silver anniversary as pastor of this Polish parish tomorrow, Dec. 13 and will say a solemn high Mass of thanksgiving at 11 a.m. Sunday, assisted by his two assistants, Rev. Matthew Studara and Rev. Chester M. Klocik.

Bishop Kearney will preside and preach at the Mass.

IN THE 25 YEARS of his pastorate, Monsignor Balcerak has done a tremendous amount of work, chief of which was to clear a \$400,000 debt that saddled the parish on his arrival, Dec. 13, 1933.

But he refuses to take credit for the seemingly insurmountable task that confronted him.

"It was the people who did it," he said. "They are not rich, but they gave simply out of love for their parish and their love for God. This is how the debt was cleared."

It was on Dec. 10, 1950 that the mortgage on the church was paid, on the 60th anniversary of the founding of the parish.

UP TO THAT time the approximately 1,000 families had given almost one million dollars to the church since the arrival of Msgr. Balcerak.

In addition to clearing the debt, Msgr. Balcerak also redecorated the church and school many times and bought adjoining property to the church as the need was foreseen.

Up until 1950, in fact, he spent almost \$90,000 on necessary improvements.

AT THIS TIME, the Monsignor is constructing a \$200,000 convent for the school sisters.

"The old convent was built in 1915 and although it still is in excellent shape, it is too small for our sisters," he said.

He also mentioned that there will be little or no debt on the new building when it is finished next May.

"We started with about \$100,000 in the church treasury, and a fund drive that was started on Father's Day this year has netted over \$50,000 this far. We hope to have the additional \$50,000 when the building is opened on Mother's Day next year."

THERE IS NO parish celebration contemplated at this time for Msgr. Balcerak, but the church's societies will honor his at their December meetings.

In his 25 years at St. Stanislaus, Msgr. Balcerak was also responsible for the reorganization of the Holy Name Society, and the founding of the Holy Name of

Mary Society, the Sodality and the Boy and Girl Scout troops there. He was born in Wloszyca, Poland on Sept. 14, 1888 and came over to this country with an older brother and a sister in 1900. His sister, Joanna, joined the Felician Sisters and is now living in retirement at New York Mills, N. Y.

He was educated in St. Stanislaus School, St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's Seminaries and was ordained by Bishop Thomas F. Hickey on June 12, 1915.

BISHOP HICKEY, the second Bishop of Rochester, appointed the new priest as an assistant at his home parish of St. Stanislaus.

Three years later, on Aug. 9, 1918, the Bishop named him pastor of St. Casimir's Church, Elmira, where his work was also outstanding.

Among the things he accomplished at the Elmira parish were the addition of six acres of land for future parish development and the construction of a convent and a parish school that included a gymnasium and auditorium.

RECOGNIZING THE tremendous amount of work done by the then Father Balcerak, Cardinal Mooney, fourth Bishop of Rochester, named him pastor of St. Stanislaus, Rochester on Dec. 13, 1933.

One of the Monsignor's proud boasts in his years at St. Stanislaus is the number of young men who have entered the priesthood. "Nine of our boys have become priests, including three from one family," he said. The three from the same family are the Reverend Fathers Leo, Stanley and Eugene Matusewaki.

In addition, about 12 young women have entered the convent. The late Pope Pius XII honored Father Balcerak by elevating him to the rank of domestic prelate with the title of Rt. Rev. Monsignor in Sept. 1947. Bishop Kearney invested him with his robes at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Nov. 1947.

Breakfast Set By Notre Dame Men

The Notre Dame Club of Rochester will hold its annual Communion breakfast at McQuillan Jesuit High School on Sunday, Dec. 14 at 9 a.m.

Rev. Joseph Tierney, C.S.C., will celebrate the Mass and speak. Reservations can be made with Don Booth at BU. 82873.



MSGR. JOSEPH A. BALCERAK, pastor of St. Stanislaus Church, Rochester, celebrates his 25th anniversary at that post tomorrow, Saturday.

Christmas Comes Early At Nazareth

Christmas will come early at Nazareth College. Since the students will be home for the Christmas holidays, a special yuletide program has been scheduled at the East Avenue campus for Wednesday, Dec. 17.

Bishop Kearney will celebrate Mass at 4 p.m. to open the festivities, at which the members of the faculty and the student body will participate.

Following the Mass a holiday dinner will be served in the college dining room.

THE EVENING PROGRAM will begin with a songfest of Christmas Carols. The college septet will sing several songs, including "Tu Scendi dalle Stelle," an "Italian Folk Song." A group of Juniors, known as the Bernadettes, will sing Warner's "Mary's Lullaby to the Infant King" and Oerottovitch's "Carol of the Bells."

Feature of the evening will be the presentation of Henri Gheon's "Christmas in the Village Square" by the college dramatic club. Ruth Ann Selner will play the role of Josephine, Kathleen LePrieux will be Melba, Carol St. Helwell has been promoted Muldoon as Sara, Linda Casey as first lieutenant in the Reserve Mercedes and Gail Place as Brune. Officers Training Corps at N. will complete the cast. The play is by Agara University.

Fourth Degree Rite Set In Auburn

Friday, Dec. 12, 1958 1-A

Fourth Degree Rite Set In Auburn

Raymond L. Nary, master of the Fifth New York District, Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, announced that arrangements have now been completed for an exemplification of the fourth degree to be held in Auburn on Sunday, May 3, 1959.

This class of candidates has been named in memory of the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Frederick G. Straub, former pastor of St. Alphonsus Church in Auburn and Dean of Cayuga County, until his death Oct. 26. Msgr. Straub was a fourth degree member of the Knights of Columbus for 30 years.

Following the degree, Bishop Kearney will address the Sir Knights and their ladies at a formal banquet to be held in the ballroom of the Auburn Inn. Sir Knight James J. Rooney, vice-supreme master of the Father Isaac Jogues S.J. province will attend the degree as will the masters from Buffalo, Utica and Albany.

Fourth degree assemblies which comprise the Fifth New York District are Auburn, Corning, Canandaigua, Dansville, Elmira, Geneva, Hornell, Ithaca, Newark, Rochester, Seneca Falls, Waterloo and Waverly.

Workers Will Be Entertained

The faculty and students of Nazareth College will entertain the men who are working on the new dormitory, Thursday, Dec. 18.

Students will sing carols and two choral groups will render special numbers. Refreshments will be served to the workers and gifts will be distributed.

On the same day, the regular Nazareth College employees will be guests of the college at a Christmas dinner in the college dining room. Student groups will sing carols during the dinner and the faculty will serve the dinner.

Sisters At Cancer Meet

Sister Marie Gregory and Sister Paul Marie of nursing supervisory staff at St. Joseph's Hospital are participating in a cancer institute being held at Russell Park Memorial Hospital, Buffalo, from Dec. 1 to Dec. 12.

Receives Promotion Richard M. Gray, of St. Paul LePrieux will be Melba, Carol St. Helwell has been promoted Muldoon as Sara, Linda Casey as first lieutenant in the Reserve Mercedes and Gail Place as Brune. Officers Training Corps at N. will complete the cast. The play is by Agara University.



Auburn — The Red Star Express Lines Inc. of Auburn hauled three tractor trailer loads of clothing, which was collected in the American Bishops' Thanksgiving Clothing Collection for overseas relief, in the Cayuga Deanery, to New York City, at no cost. Shown loading clothing collected at St. Alphonsus Church are left to right in front: Michael Bowden, Karl Schreck and Rev. Francis Waterstraat, pastor. On the truck are Red Star employees, Stuart Mackay and Clifton Blaisdelle. (A. G. Tarby Photo.)

Clothing Collection

Near Record Seen In Annual Drive

The American Bishops' Thanksgiving Clothing Collection may equal last year's near-record total of 311,684 pounds, Rev. E. Leo McManus said today after receiving reports from 63 parishes.

Father McManus said that 178,897 pounds of clothing, an increase of four percent over the amount the same parishes contributed last year, has already been shipped to the Bronx warehouse of the Catholic Relief Services, N.Y.C.

THIRTY OF THE 63 parishes reporting registered increases over last year, Father McManus said.

He reported that Sacred Heart Cathedral parish again led the list with 29,865 pounds shipped to the N.Y.C. collection point. It was the largest amount ever received in such a collection.

Parishes which have more than doubled their totals are St. Alphonsus, Auburn, 7,778 lbs.; St. Patrick, Aurora, and St. Michael, Union Springs, 1,410 lbs.

Large donations of clothing came from St. Charles Borromeo, Greece, 8,335 lbs.; Holy Rosary, Rochester, 7,300 lbs.; St. John the Evangelist, Greece, 6,460 lbs.; St. Francis de Sales, Geneva, 6,143 lbs.; St. Andrew's, Rochester, 6,117 lbs.; St. Thomas the Apostle, Rochester, 6,018 lbs.; St. Monica's, Rochester, 5,334 lbs.; Good Counsel, Rochester, 4,300 lbs.; and Holy Family, Rochester, 4,101 lbs.

Other parishes registering increases are Annunciation, 1,280 lbs.; St. Anthony, Rochester, 1,256 lbs.; St. Boniface, 3,393 lbs.; St. John Evangelist, Rochester, 3,273 lbs.; Mount Carmel, 3,000 lbs.; St. Philip Neri, 2,450 lbs.;



FATHER MCMANUS

Dansville KC Sets Party

The Dansville Council No. 785 reports that plans have been completed for the annual New Year's Eve party for members and guests to be held Dec. 31 in the Knights of Columbus hall.

Music will be provided by "The Stardusters" with dancing from 9 p.m. till 3 a.m. William Applin, chairman of the committee, requests that members make reservations early.

Tickets may be obtained at the club rooms or from any of the following members: Jack Vogt, George Roberts, Edward Goodell, Frank Rudman, Harry Conley, Nick Hemmer, Fred Beckwith, Richard Applin, Robert Hemmer. Wayland members are requested to contact Clarence Gessner for tickets.

Deadlines Advanced

Christmas and New Year's week issues of the Catholic Courier-Journal will be printed on Tuesday of those weeks, the issues of Dec. 26 and Jan. 2. News copy should be in this office, 36 Seneca St., by Saturday preceding the issue to appear, if at all possible.

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