

# Mount Carmel Marks Golden Jubilee Sunday

Priests, Sisters and parishioners of Rochester's Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church will celebrate the golden jubilee of their parish Sunday, Oct. 18, with a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving at 11 a.m. Bishop Kearney will preside and preach the sermon. Rt. Rev. Msgr. Charles J. Azzi, pastor, has announced.

Rochester's first bishop, Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid, organized Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in the fall of 1894 to care for the Italian speaking people who had settled on the east side of the Genesee River.

Founder was the Rev. Emil J. Gefell, who was pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Church on Lyell Ave. Father Gefell celebrated the first Mass for the parish in 1908 in the basement chapel of Corpus Christi Church.

As assistant to Father Gefell, the Rev. Oreste Canalli was placed in charge of the new mission.

**CORNERSTONE FOR** a new combination church and school building was laid on Aug. 1, 1909, on property purchased on the south side of Ontario St. between Scio and Finney Sts.

Second bishop of Rochester, the newly consecrated Bishop Thomas F. Hickey presided at the ceremony.

Father Canalli was made first pastor of the new parish and Mother Mechilde of the Sisters of Mercy became first principal of the school in 1909.

Because of bad health, Father Canalli resigned his pastorate in 1911 and was succeeded by the Rev. Giovanni Robotti. A vigorous and strong-minded priest, Father Robotti exercised a great influence on his people during these early and formative years of the parish.

Assigned to Syracuse in 1914, Father Robotti was replaced by the Rev. Victor Rosal. Although his tenure at Mount Carmel was short, Father Rosal's enthusiasm and zeal led the parish out of its infancy.

He left Mount Carmel in February, 1922, to become a member of the Pleas Society of St. Charles, popularly known as the Scalabrini Fathers.

**FATHER FOERY** was the name given their new pastor by older parishioners of Mount Carmel, who had come to them in 1916 as a curate. He was the Rev. Walter A. Foery, later to be consecrated Bishop of Syracuse Diocese.

During Father Foery's administration the Mount Carmel Young Men's Club was established and today numbers some 150 members. He purchased the house next to the school as a convent for the Sisters who, until this time, had lived at the Old St. Mary's Convent on South St.

Another undertaking of this period was the purchase of the property on which the church building now stands. These lots were behind the old church and rectory and faced Woodward St.

The late Bishop John F. O'Hern, third Bishop of Rochester, broke ground for a new Mount Carmel Church on Sept. 23, 1929, and a month later presided at the laying of the cornerstone.

Solemn dedication of the new church took place on May 18, 1930.

The exterior was finished in red pressed brick and trimmed with cut cast stone. On the west side, an eight-foot tower rose with a belfry and stairs leading to the choir loft.

**ON THE INSIDE**, all woodwork was of fumed oak. Ornamental pilasters were set between the windows which were designed of various shades of amber cathedra glass.

The beloved Father Foery left Mount Carmel in June, 1932, to be pastor of Holy Rosary Church. He was succeeded by the Rev. Gerald T. Brennan, now pastor of St. Bridget's Church.

It was during these difficult depression years that Mount Carmel gave its first "boost" to the priesthood, the Rev. Joseph A. Cipriano, who was to become pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Rochester and founder of the Family Rosary for Peace radio broadcasts.

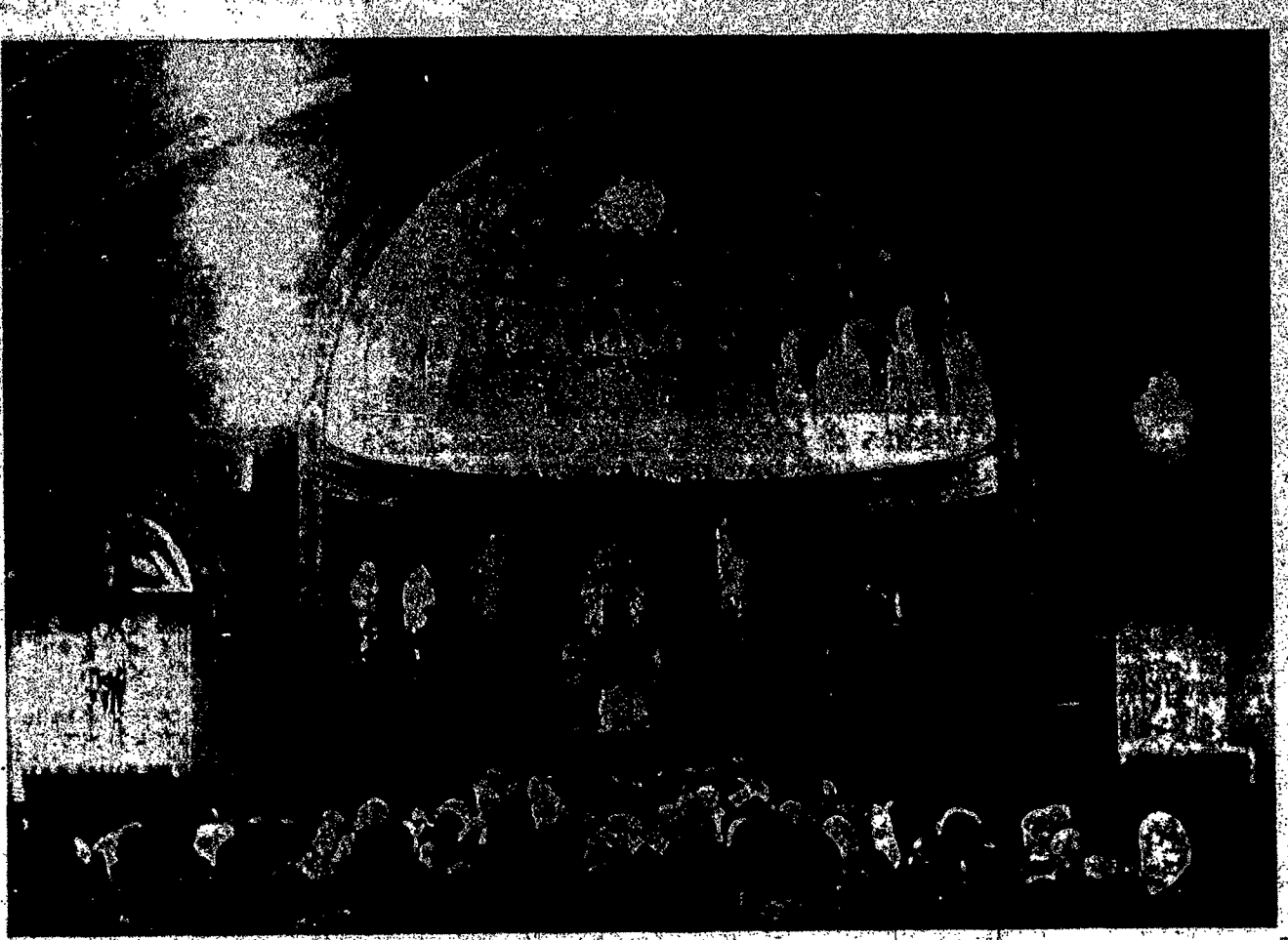
**Red Decorated Prelate Dies**

Belgrade — (RNS) — Bishop Antun Akasimovic, Administrator Apostolic of the Diocese of Srijem in Croatia, died from a heart attack at the age of 84.

The only Catholic prelate ever given a decoration by the Communist government, Bishop Akasimovic had been ill for many years.

In September, he was formally presented with the Order of Brotherhood and Unity, First Class, awarded him by Marshal Tito in recognition of his services in "strengthening brotherhood and unity among the brotherly peoples of Yugoslavia."

The bishop had been known as a protagonist of the idea of Yugoslav unity both before and after the war.



Interior of Mt. Carmel Church, Ontario Street, Rochester.

On May 26, 1937, the parishioners of Mount Carmel learned that "our Father Fiori" was to become Bishop of Syracuse.

Father Brennan received his appointment to St. Bridget's in June, 1937 and was replaced by the present pastor, St. Rev. Msgr. Charles J. Azzi.

The then Father Azzi had served, since his ordination in 1926, at St. John's Clyde, St. Perpetual Help, Rochester, Church, Elmira.

During his early administration, Father Azzi directed the redecoration of the church and improvement of the rectory and convent. He was instrumental in the founding of a parish community of the Knights of St. John and Auxiliary which would win national and state honors.

**IN THE YEARS** of World War II, over thirteen hundred parishioners served in the armed forces — the largest number from any parish in the Diocese.

On Sept. 22, 1946, a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated to mark the burning of Mount Carmel's mortgage. The church was free and clear of debt.

The following year, a carillon, at the cost of \$8,000, was installed in the church tower. The second parishioner of Mount Carmel to be ordained to the Priesthood was the Rev. Richard J. Orlando, who celebrated his first solemn Mass on June 15, 1937. Father Orlando now serves as a curate in his home parish.

Following a campaign launched the year before, Bishop Kearney rededicated the remodeled grammar school on May 8, 1952. Eighteen months later fire ravaged the school and left it a heartbreaking shell.

The Old Cathedral High School, which had also been the former home of St. Andrew's Seminary, became a substitute school for the children of Mount Carmel.

The following year, a \$150,000 school campaign led to the restoration of Mount Carmel School and in April, 1954, just about five months after it had

been swept by fire, the children returned to their classrooms.

For the second time, Bishop Kearney officiated at school dedication ceremonies on June 13, 1954.

**FATHER AZZI** immediately began plans for a new convent for the Sisters and in less than a year, Bishop Kearney returned to Mount Carmel to bless the new establishment.

In 1955, Father Azzi was appointed a Diocesan Consultor and elevated to the rank of Domestic Prelate with the title of Right Reverend Monsignor.

Third member of the parish to be ordained a priest was the Rev. Lawrence V. Palumbo who celebrated his first Mass on June 8, 1958. Ordained to and serving in the Albany Diocese, Father Palumbo authored a booklet on the history of Mount Carmel parish to celebrate the golden jubilee.

During its fifty year history, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel parish has been guided by six pastors and forty-nine assistants. Besides Bishop Foery, two other priests who served there were raised to the purple — the Rev. Edward J. Hanna, later to become the Archbishop of San Francisco, and the Rev. John Francis O'Hern, appointed third Bishop of Rochester.

Besides the vocations to the Holy Priesthood, the following parishioners from Mount Carmel have become Sisters: Sister M. Aquila Privitera is a Sister of St. Joseph of the Buffalo Diocese; Sister M. Joan Rabita is a member of the Rochester Sisters of Saint Joseph.

Sister M. Eleanor Pandina died as a Sister of Mercy. Sister M. Aida Lacognola and Sister M. Josephine Fama are now members of the community of the Sisters of Mercy. Sister Maria Giuseppe Antinora is a member of the Congregation of the Precious Blood and Sister M. Marie Cinotti is a Franciscan Missionary of Mary.

## 50 Years Of Grace

Baptisms .....	21,044
First Communions ..	4,998
Confirmations .....	3,098
Marriages .....	4,194
Graduates of Parish School .....	1,814
Deaths .....	7,972
Present Population ..	5,500
Children in Parish School .....	415

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Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Rochester

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Monsignor Anselmo Fiori preaches beneath the statue of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel at the church's main altar.

## U.S. Negro To Be Missionary

Falima — (NC) — The first Negro American missionary scheduled to go to Mozambique (Portuguese East Africa) is in Falima learning the Portuguese language.

He is Father Robert Pittman, S.S.S., who was born in Washington, D.C. A member of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, he finished his studies in Rome last June.

Father Pittman will teach philosophy at Christ the King Seminary in Lourenco Marques, the capital of Mozambique.

President of the Auxiliary is Mrs. Charles R. Harris.

Members to be interviewed are: Mrs. Joseph Izzo, Mrs. John Daly, Mrs. Chris Parrall.

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## Eighth Graders At Day's Devotions

**OUR MOTHER OF SORROWS** two eighth grades open semester with Day of Recollection in church conducted by Rev. George S. Wood, diocesan director, Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Here are pupils with their teachers, Sister Rose Margaret and Sister Jeannine. Father Wood also conducted a Day for two seventh grades.

Program moderator, Mrs. William Hoskin, and the panel will obtain interesting and enlightening information from Auxiliary board members.

Officers of the club are as follows: President, Gerard Lenahan; Vice President, Ralph Mason; Secretary, Lois Exner; Treasurer, Grace Letz; Advisor, Terry Ballast; Moderator, Rev. George Wood.

## Capri Club Sets Open House

The Capri Club will celebrate five years of operations by staging a gala Open House in the ballroom of the Columbus Club Center on Sunday, Oct. 18 at 8:30 p.m.

Admission for the Open House will be free. Mike Arnes's orchestra will play for the dance. There will be refreshments.

**THE NAME** Capri Club is a shortened version of the title, Catholic Association for the Propagation of Recreational Interests. The Club is open to all men and women of Rochester and the surrounding towns who are single Catholics and over twenty-five years of age.

Twice a month on Saturday nights dances are held in the ballroom of the Columbus building. According to the season of the year the Club sponsors picnics, boating and trips.

Officers of the club are as follows: President, Gerard Lenahan; Vice President, Ralph Mason; Secretary, Lois Exner; Treasurer, Grace Letz; Advisor, Terry Ballast; Moderator, Rev. George Wood.

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