Romanesque Style St. Charles Church Dedication Set Sunday

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situated in a sanctuary with over 500 square feet of space providing ample area to accommodate the various ceremonials.

The sanctuary floor is covered with vinyl asbestos tile and Kerman Oriental rugs. Side altars are dedicated to Our Lady of Perpetual Help and to St. Joseph. All three altars were designed and constructed by the Daprato Studios of New York and Chicago. Tabernacles are bronze and of exceptional beauty.

An elaborate and striking painting of St. Charles Borromeo giving Holy Viaticum in a chapel converted into a hospital, to the victims of a plague in Milan in 1576 hangs above the main altar and was painted for the church by Louis Grell under the direction of the Daprato Studios.

Mr. Grell is one of the foremost artists in the country, having studied for two years at the Applied-Arts School in Hamburg, two years at the University of Munich and seven years at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Munich, followed by a teaching career of fourteen years at the Art Institute of Chicago, and is at present teaching painting and drawing at the Academy of Fine Arts in Chicago.

The original painting from which Mr. Grell made the copy for St. Charles Church was done by Gabriel Von Hackl toward the close of the last century and is exhibited in the Neue Pinakothek in Munich.

The stained glass windows throughout the church were fashioned by the Rost Studios of Forty Fort, Pa. Glass used is imported and is mouth blown, a type originally formed in cylinders 20 inches long by 8 inches in diameter. Both ends of the cylinder are then opened and the glass is cut lengthwise and formed into a sheet. The glass is antique in character because of its similarity to ancient glass in that it is not uniform in thickness.

It is bubbly and streaked, and the colors are of different shades because of the uneven thickness of the glass.

The painting over the high altar and the stained glass windows depict what are perhaps the three outstanding things in the life of St. Charles Borromeo. In the painting are shown his personal ministrations to the victims of the plague and his great love of Our Blessed Lady. In the windows there is an expose in stained glass of the Council of Trent Catechism, a work prepared under the personal direction of Cardinal Borromeo.

Spacious sacristy areas, located on each side of the main altar, are complete: in the west-ing sacristy, with vestment case, sacrarium, amplifier, and electric panel box controlling the lights in the entire church; and in the working sacristy, with ample storage closets, cupboards, and sink for the preparation of flowers for the altar. An additional sacristy area has been made at the rear of the main altar, beyond the wall of the sanctuary, where processional groups may be assembled.

EXTERIOR DOORS of the church are of solid oak, interior doors are of selected white birch and the trim of doors and confessionals, together with the Communion rail and choir rail is of clear maple. Wainscoting throughout the entire body of the church, entrance ways and sacristies is a vinyl coated wall fabric, harmonizing with the various wall colorings.

Selection of colors throughout the church was made by Bayer Crusade under the supervision of the architect.

All doors have been equipped with the latest approved antipanic hardware. Aisle windows are of the projected type allowing for ample ventilation. Two means of egress from the basement hall to the church comply with all requirements of fire laws and at the same time lend themselves nicely for processions to come into the front or back of the church.

Toilet facilities in the hall can be reached from the north front entrance of the church.

A baptistry and a glass enclosed infants crying room are located in the main entry way of the church. The crying room, as well as the toilet facilities in the basement, and also the kitchen in the basement are equipped with exhaust fans. Three confessionals are available, with two being equipped for use by those with hearing difficulties. Automatic lighting devices make it known to waiting penitents when the various confessionals are in use.

Aisles in the church are carpeted in Rox Lox Tweed, 100% rubber matting. The rug colors per cent all wool, over a sponge are maroon, brown and green.

Pews of quartered solid oak and form fitting, with kneelers cushioned and covered in a seafoam green plastic, were designed and executed by the W. H. Gunlocke Chair Company of Wayland. Hanging electrical fixtures in the nave and side aisles, specially designed for the church, and of bronze with cylinders of opaque glass, give direct and general illumination, with the direct light so overlapping that no shadows result in the pews.

Designed in complete simplicity and of exceptional beauty, and produced exclusively for the new church, are the several statues and the Stations of the Cross, all in natural color and hand carved in linden wood by Leopold Mozader Studios in Oberammergau, Germany.

A six foot crucifix with a three foot corpus surmounts the high altar. The life size statues are of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Infant of Prague, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, St. Joseph the Worker, St. Ann with Our Lady as a child, and St. Therese the Little Flower.

A wood carved plaque depicting the Holy Family is located in the baptistry. The Stations are unique in that they tell the story of the Passion and death of Christ solely by the display of the head and hands of Our Divine Savior.

A $12,000 pipe organ designed and constructed by the Rost Organ Co. of Elmira has been installed. The organ is the very latest in electric pneumatic action, unified to a direct electrical relay which is operated from the console. The entire organ is under complete expression, being housed in a specially constructed organ chamber from which the tone comes through a grill opening six feet by seven feet.

The console consists of two manuals or keyboards of standard length, with 61 hangover keys and a pedal board of 32 notes which is concave and radiating. It is also equipped with combination piston action, and the console has a stop prepared for chimes which will be added at a later date.

Miss Suzanne Ranlewicz is the church organist, and the adult mixed choir is directed by Mrs. Raymond Novick.

Other unique features in the church include roof trusses of prefabricated wood stained to match the interior trim of the church; and expansion points in the plaster to reduce the possibility of cracking of walls. The sound system provides six loudspeakers in the nave of the church, one in the choir and one in the infants room.

Microphones are provided for maximum efficiency; two at the altar; one for prayers at the foot of the altar; one at the pulpit; two at the Communion railing for weddings, funerals and other services; two in the front pews for guidance in congregational responses, and one in the vestibule of the church.

A hall under the entire body of the church is over ten feet high and has an area of over 5000 square feet of floor space and storage rooms. The floor is covered with vinyl asbestos tile with walls painted in bright colors. Among the features are recessed lights in an acoustical ceiling, and a complete sound system.

The hall will eventually be provided with complete kitchen facilities and will be available for all parish functions.

The structural frame of the church is made of steel beams supported on concrete-filled steel columns, with use of wood posts, fire-proofed by the use of sheet rock and mineral acoustical tile. An automatic gas fired boiler, through forced hot water heat, will supply the heating requirements of the new edifice.

Mrs. Raymond Novick, choir director, and Miss Suzanne Ranlewicz, organist, plan music for dedication Mass this Sunday.

Father Merkel shows Frederick and Mary Linberger the Holy Family plaque in baptistry of new St. Charles Borromeo Church, Elmira Heights.

Congratulations From The Dean

To the Pastor and Parishioners, St. Charles Borromeo Church:

I am very happy in offering my congratulations to the good people of the parish of St. Charles Borromeo in Elmira Heights upon the dedication of their beautiful new church.

They may be justly proud of their church and of the generous sacrifices they have made to erect it.

I am sure they will continue to support their devoted Pastor in the heavy task that remains; the paying for the edifice while also meeting the daily expenses of the parish.

I am even more happy to offer my congratulations to Father Merkel. How pleased he must be today in the realization of his dream.

I do not believe that any other church in the Diocese is the result of so much personal study and attention to every smallest detail by its Pastor.

May he live many years to enjoy it.

Sincerely in Christ,
Monsignor Leo G. Schwab,
Dean.

Parish Begun in 1904

Many parishioners of the new St. Charles Borromeo Church in Elmira Heights recall the pioneering days when their parish was launched in the difficult days of the depression in the early thirties.

Formal establishment of the parish dates from 1935 but Mass has been offered regularly in Elmira Heights since 1895.

The first church, a mission outpost of St. Mary's parish in Horseheads, was built nine years later under the direction of Rev. Michael Wall.

EARLY RECORDS show that Father William Dunn established the mission and that a Mass was first celebrated in a home owned by Albert Sadler on Prescott Avenue in Elmira Heights and then later on the third floor of Evans Hall on Oakwood Avenue at the corner of Thirteenth Street.

Prior to the first Mass some of the people used to walk to Horseheads to attend Mass and some would ride the horse car to St. Patrick's in Elmira.

The contract to build the first church was signed on October 7, 1904 and was awarded to Howell Bros. of Horseheads. Cost of the structure was $4,000 and included, "mason work, carpenter work, painting, sheet metal work and entire building to be completed on or before the 20th day of January 1905."

According to the agreement made at the signing of the contract for construction of the church, "the sum of 80% of the $4,000.00 cost is to be paid as the work progresses, the balance and remainder 20% to be paid at completion and acceptance of the work." Money for the church was borrowed at 5% from Sylvester J. Heher of Horseheads and the debt was finally liquidated in January of 1921.

Priests who served St. Charles Borromeo in the Mission days: Rev. William T. Dunn, 1897-1901; Rev. James J. Gibbons, 1901-1904; Rev. Michael C. Wall, 1904-1909; Rev. James F. Winters, 1909-1917 and Rev. John J. Killeen, 1917-1930.

In January of 1935 the late Cardinal Mooney, then Bishop of Rochester appointed Father Thomas J. Toole as the first resident Pastor, thus, St. Charles Borromeo became a parish in its own right.

Although the parish extended clear across Chemung County — from the Tioga County line on the east to the Steuben County line on the west—there were only eighty Catholic families identified with the parish.

In 1945 negotiations started by Father Toole and completed during the pastorate of Father William M. Cannan, the present property of 3½ acres was acquired and transferred to the church at a cost of $16,500. The

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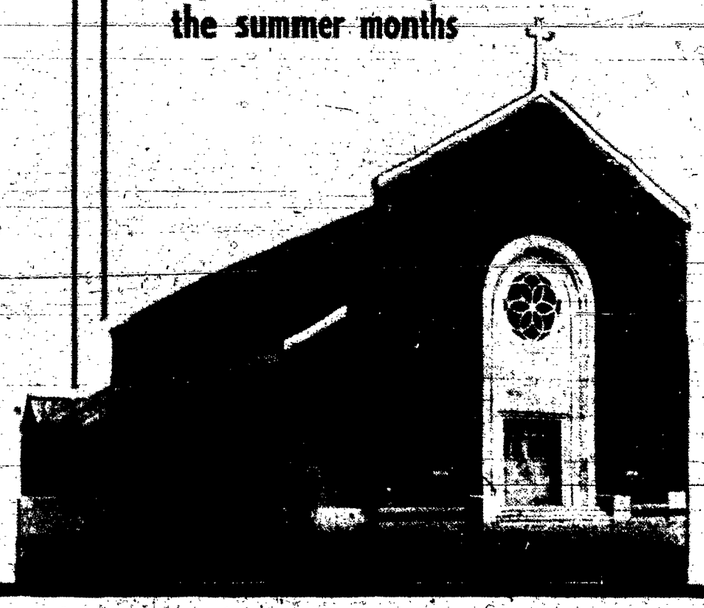
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