

# St. Andrew's Parish Marks Golden Jubilee

A Golden Jubilee program has been announced in St. Andrew's Parish during the coming week to mark a double anniversary — St. Andrew's has reached the half-century point and Monsignor George W. Eckl marks his 50th year as pastor.

The week-long schedule of celebration includes: Saturday, Dec. 12: Golden Jubilee Banquet at Bishop Kearney High School, Sunday, Dec. 13: Golden Jubilee Day, General Parish Communion, Sunday, Dec. 14: Monsignor Eckl, Solemn Mass at 4 p.m. with Bishop Kearney presiding.

Monday, Dec. 14: School Children's Day; Solemn Mass at 9 a.m. Free day for the children. Tuesday, Dec. 15: Sisters Day, Mass for the Sisters who have taught at St. Andrew's School and who have entered the convent from St. Andrew's at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 16: Solemn Requiem Mass for deceased members of the parish at 9 a.m. Friday, Dec. 18: Mass for members of St. Andrew's Parish at 8:30 p.m.

Fifty years ago an urgent need was realized for a place of worship and a school in the rapidly growing northeast section of the city now occupied by St. Andrew's parish.

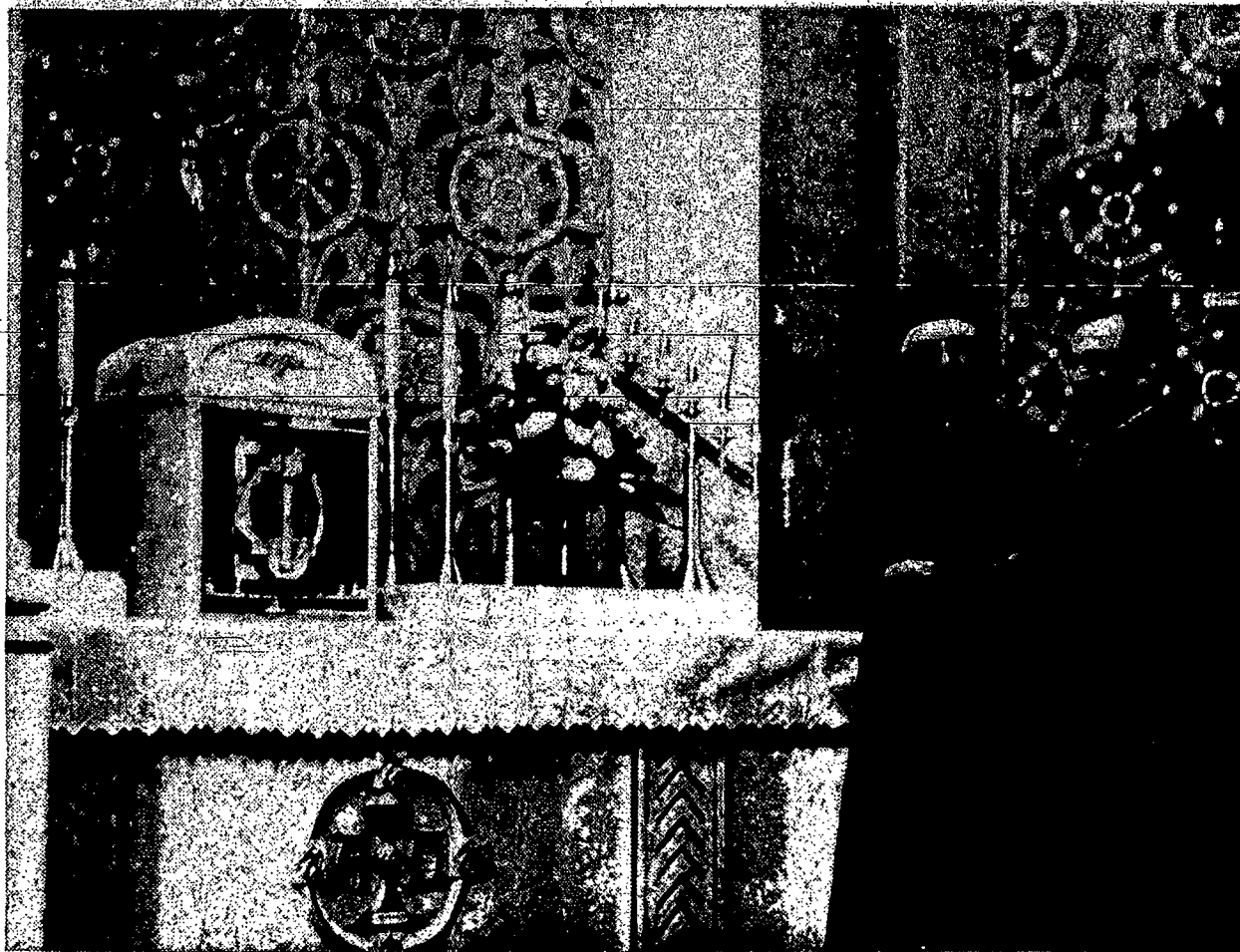
A group of would-be parishioners appealed to Father Jacob F. Staub, pastor of Holy Redeemer Church, the "Mother Church." Consequently, property was purchased on Portland Avenue, extending back between Duran and Barbary Streets and comprising better than two acres.

The project was sanctioned by Bishop Thomas F. Hickey, Rochester's second Bishop, and a meeting was held in the fall of 1913 to organize the new parish.

Father Joseph A. Miller, pastor of Holy Trinity Church, Webster, was appointed to head this work. A census of the area showed about two hundred families in the area.

During the following year, while a World War broke out in Europe, the parishioners of St. Andrew's struggled to raise the money to build a new church.

In November 1914, Father George W. Eckl was named first resident pastor of the new parish. The following month, December 13, Bishop Hickey blessed and dedicated the new St. Andrew's Church and the first Mass was celebrated.



Monsignor George W. Eckl and Father Paul G. Wohlrab admire the new altar at St. Andrew's Church, erected as a memorial to Monsignor Eckl's fifty years as pastor. A painting depicting the Martyrdom of St. Andrew will be installed this week behind the altar in time for the Jubilee Celebration.

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In August 1920, the house at 42 Oneida Street, was purchased and converted into a suitable convent for the Sisters.

As the one floor school building was inadequate, the need of a separate church and school building became evident.

Ground was broken for a new church on April 13, 1926. The cornerstone was laid on June 6, also marking the twenty-fifth anniversary of priesthood for Father Eckl.

On Sunday, June 12, 1927 the church building was completed and dedicated by Bishop Hickey.

A campaign was launched in November 1945 for a new convent and on April 5, 1948 ground was broken for the colonial, red brick building on Barbary Terrace. Bishop Kearney blessed the new convent and offered the first Mass in its chapel on November 9, 1948.

A signal honor had come to Saint Andrew's and its pastor, November 11, 1947, when Father Eckl was invested as a Domestic Prelate with the title Right Reverend Monsignor.

With the increase in children of school age, St. Andrew's school became inadequate. To take care of current needs and with an eye to the future, Monsignor Eckl planned for an addition to the school. Ground was broken on August 13, 1952 and the new school rooms were first used in September 1953.

In order to provide funds for enlarging and renovating the rectory, a Financial Needs Campaign was conducted in 1956. It resulted in pledges amounting to \$230,000. A new part was added to the rear of the old rectory, almost doubling its size, and fifty year pastorate of Monsignor Eckl.

Work was completed in September 1957.

As a remote preparation for the Golden Jubilee, an old gold and silver collection was held in October of last year. As a result, in both sanctuary and rectory, a diamond was given to the church and twelve hundred dollars for the beautifying of the sanctuary.

In the late spring of this year, work of renovating the church began. New lighting fixtures and wiring were installed, the walls below the clerestory windows were painted; new furniture was placed in the sanctuary; new carpeting was laid.

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## Retreat Drive Soars To \$715,333.49 Total

Pledges totaling \$715,333.49 reported and confirmed solicitation activity among the Catholic are still being processed at the build a new Notre Dame Retreat House for the Diocese of Rochester, campaign leaders have expressed the hope that the annual meeting of the officers and parish leaders of the League held last Sunday.

"We are overcome with feelings of joy and gratitude to report on campaign results," stated Very Rev. Michael G. Downing, C.S.S.R., retreat center, last Sunday.

The generosity of the many thousands of retreatants and friends of the retreat movement throughout the diocese as indicated in their pledged support for a new retreat center, should serve as an inspiration to all of us.

Successful conclusion of the intensive phase of our campaign for funds, permits us to proceed with building plans as speedily as possible.

Highlighting the pledge report of campaign results was the announcement of a gift of \$10,000 from the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, New York Province. The Redeemerist Fathers have staffed the Notre Dame Retreat House since 1942.

Over 4,000 individual pledges were made in support of the appeal for funds which had established as a minimum objective \$500,000 and a challenge goal of \$750,000. With approximately 14 percent of the cards still un-

Solicitation of the retreatants and friends of the retreat movement in the twelve county diocese was conducted by a committee of over 1,500 men headed by Frank F. Wolfe as General Chairman. Diocesan Special Gifts Chairman was Harold J. Coleman and Louis A. Lange Jr. served as Diocesan General Solicitation Chairman. Serving as Associate General Chairmen for the four regions of the diocese were B. Edward Shlesing, Rochester Region, Francis Gormley, Auburn Region, Donald Sanders, Genesee Region and Stephen Bednarek, Elmira Region.

Solicitation results by campaign regions is as follows: Rochester Region: Monroe County, \$386,743.99

Auburn Region: Wayne, Cayuga and Seneca Counties \$33,331.50

Genesee Region: Livingston, Ontario, Yates Counties and the Western half of Steuben County, \$108,147.

Elmira Region: Chemung, Schuyler, Tompkins, Tioga and Yates Counties, and the Eastern half of Steuben County, \$57,331.

### Family Unit Makes Appeal

Hundreds of Elmira area families face a bleak Christmas unless you help them. Poverty, often compounded by sickness, haunts many homes at a time supposedly filled with joy and happiness. Your contribution to the Elmira Catholic Family Service, Elmira, N.Y. will provide poor families with a share of the Christmas spirit the rest of us enjoy in abundance.

### 25 Years Ago

From files of Catholic Courier, Dec. 11, 1939: One of six Elmira families to file a petition for relief from the mission of St. Mary's, Holy Family, St. Mary's, St. Joseph's, St. Michael's, St. Patrick's, St. Peter's, St. Vincent's, St. James' and St. John's.

## Pastor Shares Parish Jubilee

To serve fifty years in the priesthood is a privilege not accorded many priests, but to serve fifty years as pastor of the same parish is an almost unbelievable accomplishment.

This is the distinction that Monsignor George W. Eckl will enjoy this week as he celebrates his golden jubilee as pastor of a golden jubilee parish.

MONSIGNOR ECKL, born Sept. 26, 1877 in Rochester, attended Holy Family School, St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's Seminary, and was ordained by Bishop McQuaid in 1901.

Father Eckl served briefly in Spencerport and St. Mary's, Rochester, but his first permanent appointment was in Immaculate Conception Church, Rochester, in 1902. In 1909 he was appointed pastor of St. John the Evangelist parish in Greece and in 1914 became the pastor of the newly formed St. Andrew parish on Portland Avenue.

From that date the story of Father Eckl is the story of St. Andrew's and vice versa.

Last week Monsignor Eckl reminisced about the last half century. Gentle simplicity is the mark of this man and it characterized all his words and observations.

Recalling his appointment to St. Andrew's, he said: "I was sent to St. Andrew's from my little town of Greece, where I had a cow, a dog, chickens and 10 acres of land. St. Andrew's parish was then a sparsely populated area on the edge of the city."

"The combination church and school building on Portland Avenue were almost completed by the time I arrived in November of 1914. All I had to do was put on the finishing touches

in time for the dedication December 13, 1914."

The congregation then numbered 200 families, half of them of German descent from Holy Redeemer parish. The first Sunday collection, Monsignor recalled, was \$29.00.

"Last Sunday's collection was \$2550.00," he added with pride in his voice.

"Where the church stands today I planted a garden of corn, and there was also a ball field where Father Florack, the first assistant, hit many home runs," remarked the pastor.

The school was opened in 1916 with about 200 children with Sister Mary Borgia of the Mercy Sisters as principal. Monsignor Eckl had words of great praise for Sister Dorothea who spent forty years as teacher, then principal at St. Andrew's.

Among his most vivid recollections, he listed the first mission held in the parish shortly after its founding, conducted by Rev. Virgilus Krull, C.P.P.S. At that time the societies were founded: the Holy Name, Rosary, and Sodality, which have been the backbone of the parish ever since.

The lawn festivals were another happy memory for Monsignor Eckl. "We started them in 1915 and have had one every year since. They have now become famous and draw people from all over the city. Already I'm looking forward to next year's," the pastor commented.

Father Florack's Irish Minstrels were recalled by Msgr. Eckl. "George McGrath and Ed Wiryly of the original casts are still parishioners."

"For forty years," said the pastor, "we've sponsored Field Day for children of the school. It began as a day of gymnastics but soon became a picnic

day. Every June the whole school takes off for Genesee Valley Park and we wouldn't miss it for the world."

Monsignor Eckl is so active, and such a fine figure of health and enthusiasm, one would hardly guess he is 87 years old.

Asked to comment on his secret for good health, he answered:

"Exercise. I've always been very fond of walking and throughout my priestly years I've made it a rule to walk a mile or so at least each day usually after supper. Also I've always been a busy man. I keep my time occupied with work and don't give myself time to get sick. I still drive my Falcon every day on parish or hospital calls."

(Monsignor Eckl admitted he still enjoys swimming and has been known to dive from the high board on occasions—even at 87.)

It was Monsignor Eckl who took the original bus for the Cathedral parade in 1912 while still pastor of St. Andrew's. Bishop Hickey gave the honor of naming it the Sacred Heart. He named the same task for St. Cecilia's parish in Irondequoit. And finally, it was Msgr. Eckl who suggested the new high school in Irondequoit be named after Bishop Kearney.

While enjoying the distinction of being a diocesan consultant to the Bishop, Monsignor Eckl cherishes with equal delight his position as chaplain to the Alamo Nursing Home on Norlon St. where last Friday he had twenty Communion calls.

Asked about his thoughts on the changing times and liturgy, he remarked, "Some of the modern church architecture is some-

what shocking at first, until we realize that it is but following the train of modern progress. In another fifty years it will be the common thing, not unusual at all. In regard to the liturgy we see the people taking to the changes, responding and approving, and the next generation will love them."

Monsignor Eckl feels the faith of the people is stronger today than ever, especially the devotion to the Eucharist and the increase in lay apostles, work days, the Legion of Mary and the Sodality especially, and these cannot help but benefit the Church, he said.

As to the future, Monsignor Eckl had this to say: "I want to be active in my parish work up to the very last moment of my ability."

As the interview ended, the jubilee pastor pointed to a slogan attached to the clock on his wall, which he said had been his motto through the years, and it certainly seemed to sum up his priesthood very well. It read: "We shall have all eternity in which to rest—now let us work."

Father Robert Miller

### Triduum Set At St. Lucy's

A triduum honoring St. Lucy, patron of the blind and those with eye afflictions, will be held at St. Lucy's Church, Rochester, beginning Friday, Dec. 11.

Services will include Mass, veneration and blessing with a relic of St. Lucy, Friday and today then, especially the Saturday evening at 7:30 pm. The three day devotion will conclude with solemn Mass Sunday, Dec. 13, the feast of St. Lucy, at 5 p.m.

Father Ignatius St. George pastor, invites the public to the triduum services.

### Books and Games Sought For Poor

Students of Nazareth and St. John Fisher Colleges are joining in a drive to collect books and games to be given to the various settlement houses throughout the city.

The collection is being brought to the public attention. Anyone wanting to participate can call CE 6-8122 and ask for Randy Nicholson of David Reilly Donations; will then be picked up.

## Church Drive Set For Naples Parish

A campaign for funds to provide a new church building for St. Januarius parish in Naples, was announced by the Rev. Bernard V. Kuchman, pastor and Honorary General Chairman for the campaign.

The outcome of the drive will determine the actual size and style of the new building. The present building, nearly ninety years old, is in need of costly repair as well as having inadequate space.

The Executive Committee is presently enlisting a quota of parishioners to help with the General Solicitation on Sunday Dec. 20. It is anticipated that some sixty men will be on hand for this climax of campaign activities.

Mr. Philip Bader is General Chairman, while the Team Leaders are Donald Bouchard, Robert Cornish, Robert Cullinan, Carl C. Dingler, Julian Fox, Leo Rosenfeld, Nicholas Konz, Dr. William Lyon, William Musnicki, Raymond Polimantore, Edward Reutenwald, George Rosenberger, Nicholas Riesenberger, Richard Riesenberger, Charles Shepard, Euclide St. Pierre, John Vierhile, Donald Warren and Charles Wixom.



FATHER KUCHMAN  
Naples Pastor

These men will be heading the committee seeking one-year pledges from the balance of the parishioners on Dec. 20.

## Rome Ordination for Father Mulligan

Rev. Charles F. Mulligan Jr., of Sacred Heart Cathedral parish, will be ordained in St. Peter's at the Vatican Wednesday, Dec. 16.

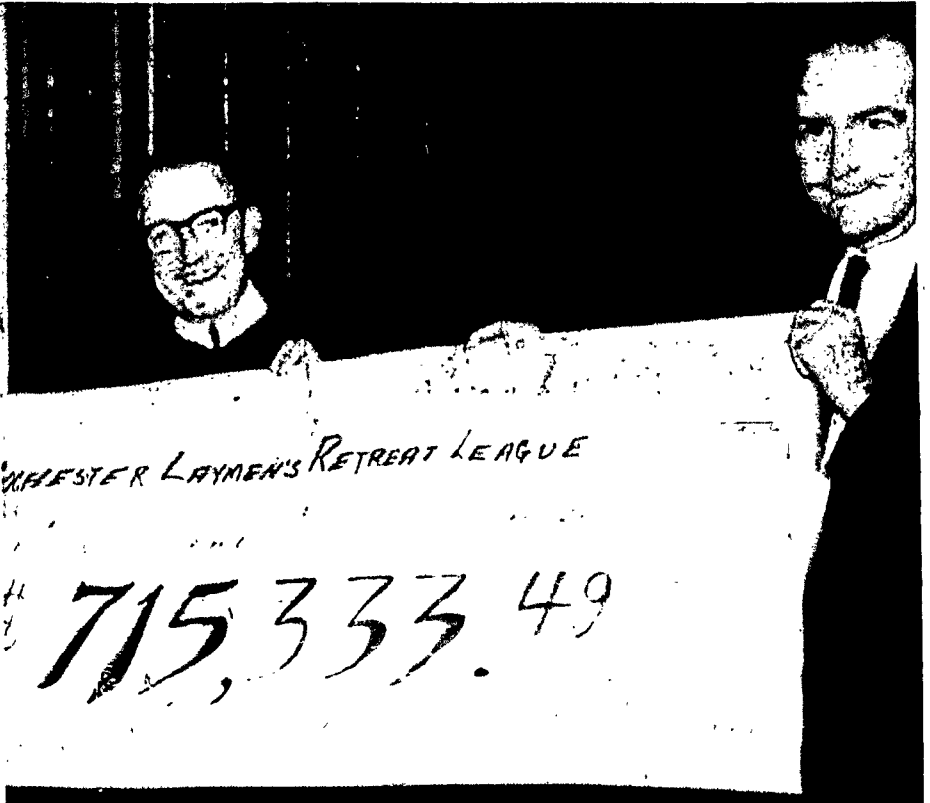
He will return to Rochester to begin his priestly duties in this Diocese next summer after he completes his theological studies at the North American College in Rome.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Mulligan of 565 Seneca Parkway. His brother is Rev. John M. Mulligan, assistant pastor at Immaculate Conception Church, Ithaca.

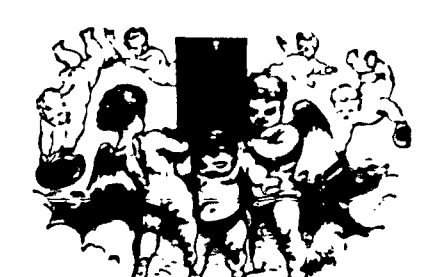
His parents, Father Mulligan, his brother Jeremiah, a student at St. Bernard's Seminary, his sister, Mary Irene, and his brother, Thomas, will attend the ordination rite at the Vatican.



FATHER MULLIGAN



Thomas Hughes, Rochester Laymen's Retreat League president, and Redeemptorist Father William Jamison view \$715,333 check for new Notre Dame Retreat House to be built on site at Canandaigua Lake.



## celebrate at the Top of the Plaza! NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Come! Join the best party in town, from the room with the panoramic view! Continuous music and entertainment by the Ken Purcell Trio and Kenny Uwins dance band. Reservations only, so call BA 5-9200 now! Don't miss out!

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- \$50 per couple plus tax from 12 p.m. - 1:30 a.m. Includes complimentary drinks, dancing, music, entertainment, etc.



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