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Yule Party at St. Casimir's

The annual Christmas party of the Rosary and Sacred Heart Society of St. Casimir's Church will be held Sunday, December 13 in Elmira.

Following Rosary and Benediction at 5:30 p.m. in Church members will adjourn to the School Hall for a turkey dinner.

Chairman of the decoration committee is Mrs. Richard Stamp. Boys and girls of the Sodality will serve.

Entertainment will be provided by Joey Augustine and students of the seventh and eighth grades. There will also be a visit from Santa Claus.

Members are reminded to bring a present to exchange and a new T-shirt for the missions.

Wanda Circle Holiday Party

Wanda Circle Ladies of St. Casimir's Church, Elmira, will hold their Christmas party Sunday, Dec. 20 at 6 p.m. in the school hall. Gifts will be exchanged, and a contribution to the retarded children fund will be given.

Cochairmen are Mrs. Tillie Melos, Mrs. Lena Kamas and Mrs. Theresa Jasiak. They are assisted by Mesdames: Lucy Collins, Theresa Hurley, Bertha Miller, Veronica Sadonick, Mary Painton, Marie Sincok, Genevieve Twardeski, Mary Rohde, Dorothy Raniewicz, Ida Wienski.

Dining room set up and decoration: Mrs. Helen Cloke, Mrs. Kathleen Augustine and Mrs. Martha Przygoda.

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 for Monsignor Eckl, Solemn Mass at 4 p.m. with Bishop Kearney presiding.

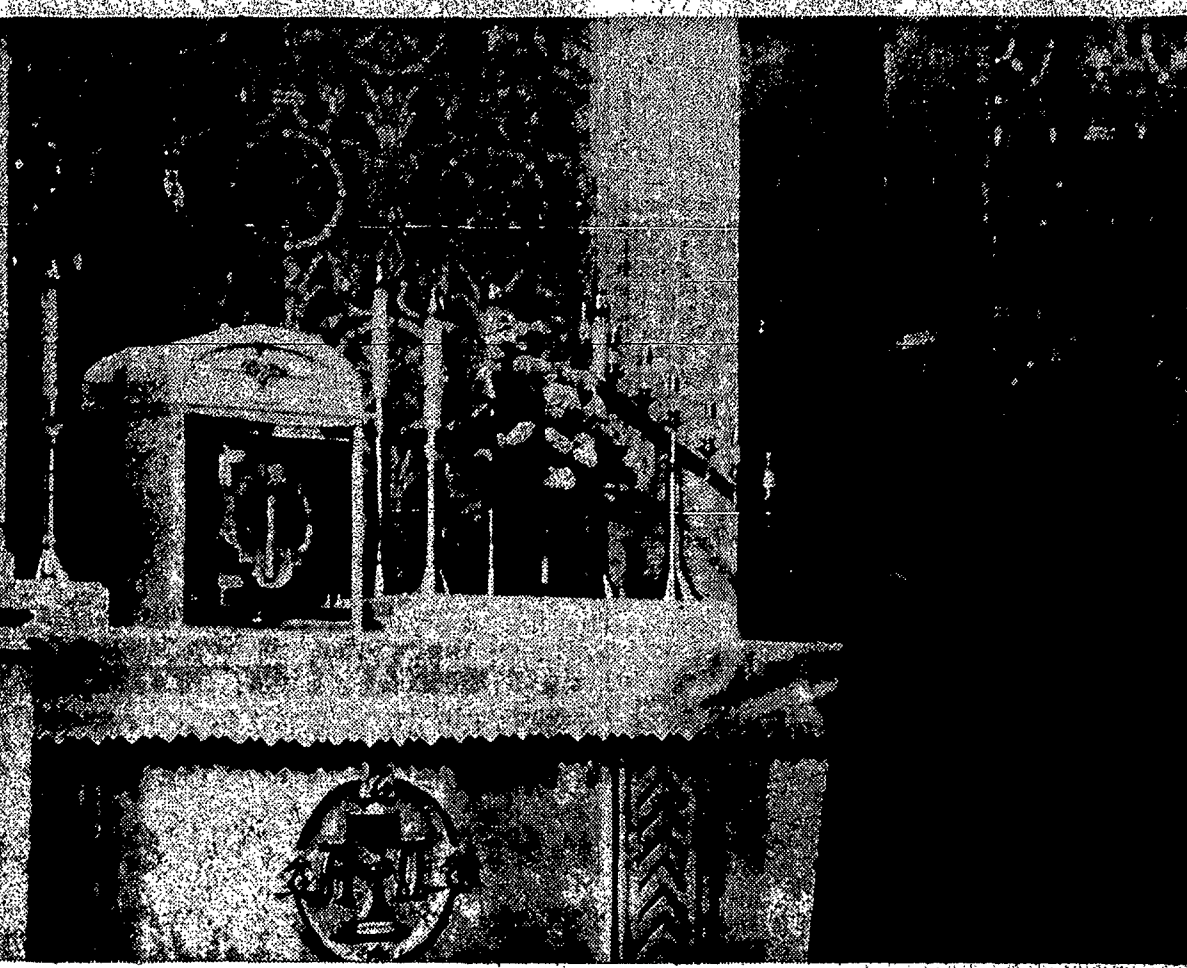
Monday, Dec. 14: School Children's Day; Solemn Mass at 9 a.m. Free day for the children. Tuesday, Dec. 15: Sisters Day, Mass for the Sisters who have taught at St. Andrew's School and who have entered the convent from St. Andrew's at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 16: Solemn Requiem Mass for deceased members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



Monsignor George W. Eckl and Father Paul G. Wohlrad 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.

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.

The school was organized in September, 1915, with the Sisters of Mercy in charge. The first enrollment showed an attendance of 205 pupils. Today there are 850.

A new rectory was completed in October, 1916, a few months after St. Andrew's received its first assistant pastor, Father Arthur F. Florack. On May 30, 1920, Father Francis Lane, the first boy of the parish to be ordained to the priesthood, celebrated his first Solemn High Mass.

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 became 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.

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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 to 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 dog, a few 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. Virgilius 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," the pastor commented.

Father Florack's Irish Minstrels were recalled by Msgr. Eckl. "George McGrath and Ed Wirley 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 cuts 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 census for the Cathedral parish in 1912, while still pastor in Greece. Bishop

New Era Emerges In Latin America

Washington—(NC)—"Latin America is changing so rapidly into a society so different that leaders of authority do not hesitate to label it a new society," Father John J. Considine, M.M., director of the Latin American Bureau, National Catholic Welfare Conference, said here.

Father Considine spoke at the annual Pan American Mass, celebrated at St. Patrick's Church on Thanksgiving Day. Diplomats, government officials and other dignitaries attended the Mass.

Reminding his hearers that North and South America together constitute only one-eighth of the world's population, Father Considine said people and nations should have greater concern and respect for one another in "this new day of elbow-to-elbow living on our globe."

It was in Latin America that considerations of the race problem originated to give the West a clear vision of Christian social teaching on race, the Marikoll priest said. He referred to the preaching of a Spanish friar, Padre Antonio de Montesinos, who 19 years after the discovery of America gave European consciences food for thought by defending the human dignity of the American Indian.

Social problems are more central than religious considerations in Latin America, Father Considine said. "In this new day we must rid ourselves of past notions about the Church in Latin America. She is no longer to be identified with an exclusive landed aristocracy with bygone political oligarchies, with an oppressive status quo."

As early as 1932, he said, the bishops of Chile urged Catholics to announce the socio-economic doctrines that stem from the Gospel. He cited the 1963 statement of the Archbish-

Women Slate Social Worker

Owego—Ronald Wyckoff, a Social Worker associated with Catholic Charities, of Broome County, will be the guest speaker, at the annual Christmas Party and dinner of Court St. Rose of Lima, Catholic Daughters of America on Thursday, Dec. 10.

The dinner will be served at the Deep Well Restaurant at 6:30 p.m. Mrs. Beatrice Cleveland will act as general chairman for the dinner. The Catholic Daughter of the Year will be announced at this time.

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