

Preface in Local Languages

The Preface in Mass may now be in the language of the people instead of Latin.

Pope Paul in an April 21 decision, said a nation's bishops will be authorized to make the change if they wish to.

Father Frederick R. McManis, secretary of the U.S. bishops, said the change is the way for all other parts of the Mass to be changed to the local language—such as the collect, the final offertory prayer and the postcommunion.

St. Helen's 25th Jubilee

The Silver Anniversary of the establishment of St. Helen's Parish, Gates, will be observed this Sunday, June 11, when Auxiliary Bishop Lawrence E. Casey will preach and celebrate Mass at 4:30 p.m.

Monsignor Patrick J. Flynn, pastor of St. Helen's, has invited parishioners and friends to attend the Jubilee Mass.

The story of St. Helen's starts in 1900 when a frame chapel was erected on Kenosau Drive off Hinckley Road in Gates as a mission of nearby St. Augustine's Church. The move was

prompted by Father John H. O'Brien, pastor of St. Augustine's, who foresaw the population growth in the Gates area. Bishop John F. O'Brien approved purchase of the Kenosau Drive site for \$18,000 and construction of the chapel was completed at the cost of \$9,000. Bishop O'Brien dedicated it to St. Helen in honor of his mother.

By 1946 no many families had entered that area that Bishop Kearney, who had become the Bishop of Rochester in 1937, decided to make St. Helen's a full-fledged parish and he appointed Father John Beecher Sullivan the first pastor.



FATHER SULLIVAN
founding pastor

Father Sullivan and St. Helen's had humble beginnings. At first he had to take temporary residence in the church hall at the rear of the church. But within four years, aided by his small but devoted band of parishioners, Father Sullivan was able to build a rectory, enlarge the church hall, redecorate the church and organize a parish school.

By 1944 the Sunday Mass attendance had increased from less than 100 to almost 700.

St. Helen's School was launched in September 1943, in temporary quarters in the Church Hall. It included the first two grades with a total of 24 pupils and one teacher, Sister M. Corrine of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegheny, N.Y.

The present St. Helen's School including 18 classrooms, auditorium, library and principal's office, was constructed in three different stages. Father Sullivan was able to erect four permanent classrooms in 1948, and the next year four more were built to provide a full 8-room school. Bishop Kearney blessed the finished building in December, 1950.

Postwar enrollment growth called for more school expansion. The new school annex, in-

cluding 8 more school rooms, was completed by the Spring of 1956 at the cost of \$140,000. Bishop Lawrence E. Casey blessed the new school addition in June of that year.

Along with the growing school enrollment and school building expansion, steps had to be taken for the acquisition and expansion of Convent facilities to house the increased teaching staff of Sisters.

June 1st, 1946, the parish purchased a colonial style house on Lettington Drive and the parish undertook remodeling it to suit the needs of three Franciscan Sisters that Fall.

Latest major expansion of the Convent into its present status took place in 1957. Once again the men of the parish, as they had done so often, devoted their evenings and weekends to construct a major addition to the convent. This included a large new chapel, dining room, common room as well as additional bedrooms. The result was

a convent able to house 15 sisters.

In 1962, the Franciscan Sisters, who had staffed St. Helen's School from its beginning, were recalled from our Diocese. To replace them, Bishop Kearney appointed the Sisters of Mercy.

Today St. Helen's School is staffed by 12 Sisters of Mercy and seven lay teachers.

Crowning venture in the life of the young parish came in 1950, when parishioners pledged \$200,000 for the construction of a new rectory and church.

The new rectory, faced with the same light bricks chosen for the church, was completed in the Spring of 1961 and provided for the three priests on the parish staff.

The next year, the new church, accommodating 800 was also completed.

Three beautiful marble altars for the new church were consecrated by Bishop Casey in February, 1962.

Solemn dedication of the new St. Helen's Church was held on Trinity Sunday, June 17, 1962, and was honored by the presence of two Bishops. Bishop Kearney dedicated the new edifice and preached the dedication sermon. Bishop Casey celebrated the Mass.

Priests who have served as assistant pastors of St. Helen's include: Rev. Louis J. Hohman (1946-1951); Rev. James Cosgrove (1951-1956); Rev. Edward Foy (1956-1958); Rev. Leo G. Ingalls (1958-1963); Rev. James C. Lane (1963-1965) and Father James C. Lawlor (1965) who is the present assistant.

Two parish groups have been outstanding in their service to St. Helen's during its quarter-century existence. The St. Helen's Men's Club has been the pastor's strong right arm. These men volunteered time and labor to construct parish buildings and make repairs and improvements. Through their generous efforts, progress was made possible and thousands of dollars were saved.

The Ladies Altar Society, organized by Father Sullivan in the early days of the parish, has given and continues to give devoted service to the care of the Church, Sanctuary and Altar.

Last June, the parish tendered Father Sullivan with a public reception in honor of his 35th Anniversary of his ordination. Priests, people and Bishop Casey paid the veteran pastor deserving tributes. This public tribute took on the nature of a farewell, when, as it turned out, Father Sullivan, almost on the eve of rounding out 25 years of service to St. Helen's, died suddenly on October 20, 1964.

Father James Lane, assistant to Father Sullivan, was appointed acting-in-charge of St. Helen's following Father Sullivan's death.

In January of this year, Father Lane was named pastor of St. Agnes, Avon, and Monsignor Patrick J. Flynn, who had been pastor of the Avon Church, was named Father Sullivan's successor at St. Helen's.

In his first words to his new parishioners at St. Helen's, Monsignor Flynn paid tribute to Father Sullivan's outstanding accomplishments. "In a sense," he said, "St. Helen's will always be Father Sullivan's parish and my responsibility is to take good care of what he built so well, the heritage he has left us."

Through his wise financial management, Father Sullivan, before his death, made it possible for St. Helen's to pay off all its indebtedness last year and to achieve a debt-free status.

The twenty-five year old St. Helen's has made great progress since its infant days in the old wooden chapel and this growth continues. At the present time the school enrollment is 600 and rising. Sunday Mass attendance is nearly 3,000. Holy Communion are in excess of 100,000 for the year.



Prior to ordination ceremony, deacons—soon to be priests—pick up their candles to be offertory gift to the Bishop. Climax of ordination comes on day after the rite when the new priest celebrates his first solemn Mass. At Blessed Sacrament Church, Father Timothy Weider was assisted in the Mass by his brother Father Gregory Weider of the Albany diocese, Monsignor Edward McAniff, Blessed Sacrament pastor, and Monsignor Thomas Connors, pastor emeritus who baptized the new priest.



Others taking part in the ceremony at the cemetery were Joseph Malvaso, CWV commander; William Caricelli, vice commander; Joseph Carbone and Patrick Curtin, members of the altar committee.

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Drive for Cemetery Altar

Auburn—Anthony J. Colella, treasurer of the Catholic War Veterans, presented a \$1,000 check to Francis M. Gormley, chairman of the Permanent Altar Committee on Memorial Day at the conclusion of the 25th annual Field Mass at St. Joseph's Cemetery.

The check kicked off a drive to raise \$10,000 for a permanent altar to be erected this summer in the cemetery. A collection was taken this past Sunday in all the churches of the city to help the fund.

The altar will be dedicated to all living and deceased Catholics of Auburn.

Others taking part in the ceremony at the cemetery were Joseph Malvaso, CWV commander; William Caricelli, vice commander; Joseph Carbone and Patrick Curtin, members of the altar committee.

More than 600 attended the Memorial Day Mass, which was offered by Rev. C. Irving Sullivan, assistant pastor of St. Alphonse Church. Rev. John Nacca, pastor of St. Francis Church gave the sermon. Military rites were conducted by the veteran organizations of the city with the National Guard providing the firing squad.

Married Couples Retreats Slated

The Notre Dame Retreat House has contracted two priests to conduct the Married Couples Retreat in July and August, Father David Sharrack, C.S.S.R., and Father Walter Cushing.

Father Sharrack, a Redemptorist Father, will conduct the first retreat for married couples on July 9, 10 and 11. A history professor and registrar for St. Mary's College in the Erie Diocese of Pennsylvania, Father Sharrack has given retreats for the last six years to married couples in that diocese and has been active in holding Cana Conferences. In 1955, he received his Ph.D. from Catholic University of America. Father Sharrack was born in Rochester and was a parishioner at St. John the Evangelist Church.

Father Walter Cushing, of our own diocese, will conduct the Married Couples Retreat on Aug. 13, 14 and 15. He is a native of Corning. After his ordination in 1956, he became assistant pastor of Holy Cross parish. For the last eight years, Father Cushing has held the post of Associate Director of the Family Life Bureau in the diocese of Rochester.

Only 30 married couples from the whole diocese will be accepted for the July and August retreats, because of limited accommodations. Reservations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. For information and reservations, write directly to the Notre Dame Retreat House, 245 Alexander St., Rochester or telephone BR 1-6876. Married couples living out of town may call collect.

For further information please call the Catholic Family Center, 546-7220.

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