

St. Mary's of the Lake Celebrates 100th

By JAMES SWITZER

Just east of Monroe County, in Wayne County is St. Mary's of the Lake parish which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.

Until 1869, Catholics in the Ontario-Williamson area were served by priests from Fairport and Webster. In August of that year, Father P. C. McGrath organized a parish of some 40 families. The former church in Ontario hamlet was erected for \$4,000, in 1870.

About 1877, St. Mary's of the Lake was under the pastorate of its neighbor to the west, Holy Trinity, Webster. For 38 years, priests from Holy Trinity served St. Mary's parishioners who were assigned their first resident pastor, Monsignor Michael J. Kreig in 1915 by Bishop Thomas J. Hickey.

Msgr. William F. Byrnes succeeded Msgr. Kreig, serving from 1917 until 1925. In 1925, Father Thomas Lochren became pastor and served 29 years.

Father Charles Langworthy is the present pastor. He succeeded Father William J. Gay-

nor, who served from 1960 to 1970. Other pastors have been Father James O'Connell (1956 to 1959) and Father John Maloney (1959 to 1960).

The modern church structure was built in 1966 and dedicated by Bishop James E. Kearney.

As one approaches the church, whose main drive is lined on the north by outdoor stations, St. Mary's 75-foot roof, covered with hand-hewn cedar shakes, resembles hands joined in prayer. Encompassing the area between these two separate roof sections is a stained glass collage, entitled, "The Tree of Life," designed by Pike Stained Glass studios of Rochester.

A free-standing, raised altar, reflecting the latest liturgical trends, accentuates the main sanctuary, which is further complemented by a 10-foot oak half-circle wall. The church's interior is brick with laminated fir beams, shipped from Oregon especially for the structure.

There are over 30 small stained glass windows which symbolize events from the Old and New Testaments. In the left rear of the four-year-old

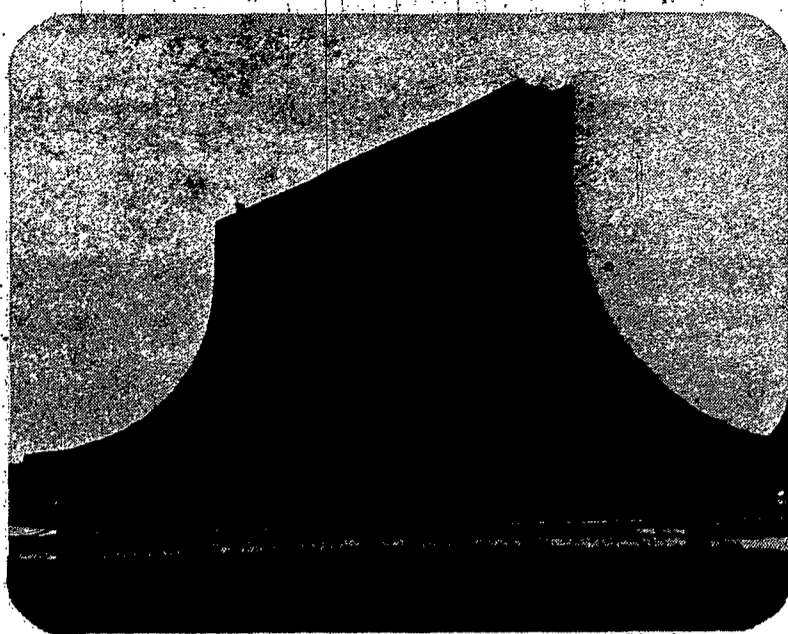
church is located a crying room, with a glass partition and a speaker, so the occupants can participate in the Mass.

Confessionals are located on both sides of the main entrance, and a spacious choir loft is directly above this rear section. A modern Allen electronic organ highlights the area.

The stations in the church were moved from the former church. Seats in the church, whose capacity is 440, are made of solid oak.

A rectory and parish offices are connected to the north of the church. In the basement of the rectory is St. Philip Neri Hall, a parish center for school programs, student activities as well as parish mens' club and Rosary Society.

The parish once had only two Sunday Masses. In 1954, the late Father Ignatius X. Cameron, added a third. Today, 100 years later, St. Mary's has a Saturday evening Mass and three Masses on Sunday. The parish encompasses an area averaging 17 miles from west to east and extends about 15 miles from the shores of Lake Ontario to



St. Mary's of the Lake Church

neighboring St. Patrick's in Macedon and St. Gregory's in Marion.

No particular celebration is planned by the parish but the inclusion of the parish in the Oct. 2 Home and Hobby Tour, is an indication of the pride which parishioners and the community have in the structure which graces the area.



FR. PAUL J. CUDDY

On The Right Side

On Monday, Aug. 23, I landed at the Montezuma rectory. A sign on the door read: "Back at 3:00 p.m." so I went in and parked in a wondrous chair, a gift to Fr. Guy which I admire so much I plan to buy one similar. It is three inches higher than most chairs. It is swivel and rocker so that a stiffening-boned man can tilt forward and eject his body with less unease. It fits the contour of my body. It costs a lot; about \$100. Now, I have a principle that what I spend on myself for pleasure I should match for charity. Since the chair is 50% need and 50% luxury I have settled conscience for only \$50.00 to charity. This seems fair enough.

Soon Housekeeper Nellie Helmer and visiting Walter Guy came in from a visit to the grave of Father John Guy in Clyde. At 4:00 p.m. Fr. Kress bounded in. "Greis Gott! (God be praised!) Well, are we ready? Have just a few things to finish up." Said I: "Have you any plans? I haven't." "No, but let's clear out! We can go to Syracuse to start." "Gosh. At this hour that seems a long way off. Why not go to Auburn and start tomorrow? I'll tell you what. We can go to Sacred Heart. I'd like to see (Fr.) Bill O'Brien, and just relax." "O.K."

I phone S. Heart. Fr. Billotte answered my query "Who'll be home for supper?" with "Just Fr. O'Brien and me, Kathleen is on vacation. We're just having a pick-up supper." "Fine! Look, Fr. Kress and I will be in before 5:30. We'll get a bucket of fried chicken and whatever goes with it, and you set the table." "Good. See you at 5:30 then." To Fr. Kress I said: "That's settled. You finish up and we'll meet at S. Heart."

Because I have scads of grand nieces and nephews in Auburn I often stop at Julian's Bakery for six dozen glazed doughnuts. So I did, and while the doughnuts were being bagged the thought came: "Haven't seen Eileen Chichello in Weedsport since her priest-uncle from Ireland was there two months ago. Mrs. C. is the wife of Architect Sam Chichello. She was Eileen O'Toole,

school nurse in Clyde when I was a novice pastor there. I am always grateful to her because she used to come in and bathe my friend, Father Curtin, during many months before he died. So I stopped; listened to Eileen, received some candid criticism of the OTRSide Column which she reads faithfully, admired her seven handsome children, left greetings for Sam — and went off to Auburn, six miles away.

Through Father Wahl, Sacred Heart Rectory continues the tradition of hospitality set by the late beloved and tempestuous Father Straub. It is a kind of diocesan cross-roads where priests meet, exchange ideas and laughter, relax; and return home strengthened by the companionship of fellow priests. One would think the cook and housekeeper and secretary would kick up a storm at the unpredictability of such a rectory. But, no! They remain cheerful and loyal and generous. And they are appreciated very much.

After supper dishes were done, we were too weary even to go out to a movie. So Fr. Kress finished his Breviary, read a while and went off to bed. I plunked into a green leather chair, stretched the legs with a happy grunt, and watched GUNSMOKE, followed by 23 PACES, a thriller with Van Johnson. At 11 p.m. there was an uproar in the kitchen and in blew Pastor Wahl, with Father Frank Pegnam of Rochester, and His Lordship, Bishop Harrison, the new auxiliary of Syracuse. They are classmates and were returning from a golf tournament up north where they nearly froze.

Some think priests should be ever busy with the Work of the Lord; that priests should not golf or follow base ball games or horses; or play cards or travel. Although I do not golf or follow base ball or horses; or even play cards or travel much any more, I think quite otherwise. "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." And a tense, joyless priest makes a difficult shepherd who is unable to do the Work of the Lord best.

Carmelite Feast Day Oct. 3

Bishop James E. Kearney will celebrate Mass at the Carmelite Monastery at 10 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 3, in honor of St. Therese of Lisieux, the Little Flower. Mercy High School girls will sing.

The Carmelite Sisters invite the public to join in this feast day observance, at 1931 West Jefferson Rd.

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