



Donald Bertsch raises point at St. Charles Mass.

Photo by Lawrence E. Keefe

St. Charles Parish Donates \$5,000

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said that it was agreed upon "in view of our own needs. We did have the alternative of pledging the money if other parishes could raise the rest of it, but we decided that this is not a time for hesitation, but for action."

He also emphasized that this decision was not made by any particular individual, but that the donation was a "total parish gift."

In response to another question, Schwartz said that the gift was a commitment and that it "does not jeopardize our own school." He explained that the council felt that "If one school fails, we will all fail."

When asked if there was any pressure on the parish council to make the decision, he said, "There was none whatsoever."

Father John Hedges, pastor of St. Charles, praised the action of the parish council. "The people of this parish are very concerned with the problems facing their schools," he said. "The bishop has issued a challenge to the people of the diocese, and we are the people. It was necessary for us to respond. At the parish council meeting there was much discussion about this, and there were some adverse opinions. But in the end it turned out to be unanimous."

Father Hedges made it clear that action such as this does not "let the state off the hook." He said, "We're not trying to supersede their responsibilities."

The check for \$5,000 was presented to Bishop Hogan on Monday, June 12, by Father Hedges and George Pfeifer, parish council president.

Kearney Students Open Campaign

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non-Catholic children from the neighborhood, are "really breaking the circle of poverty," said Father Shamon. "The parents themselves desperately want them," he remarked.

"It would break your heart to see these schools go down the drain," Father Shamon said about the dedication of teachers and administrators in the six schools. The possibility of closing has been the cause of bitter controversy.

Brother Edward Tracey, CFC, of Bishop Kearney will act as treasurer of the fund. Brother Tracey is a member of the interim diocesan education committee.

Primary purpose of the fund, said Father Shamon is to help schools like Immaculate Conception, which don't want to cut

back their programs, to overcome their deficit. Immaculate Conception will have a deficit of \$14,000, however, he said, unless some aid is given, and this is typical of all six schools.

PARISH COUNCIL

Horseheads — Sixty-six parishioners of St. Mary Our Mother Church here have volunteered to serve on the steering committee of the parish's Year of Renewal in preparation for the formation of a Parish Council in July of next year.

Correction

Father Richard J. Orlando is pastor of St. Michael's Church, Lyons, not of St. Michael's Newark, as reported last week. Father Joseph McDonnell is pastor of St. Michael's Newark.

Notre Dame Nuns Celebrate 50 Years

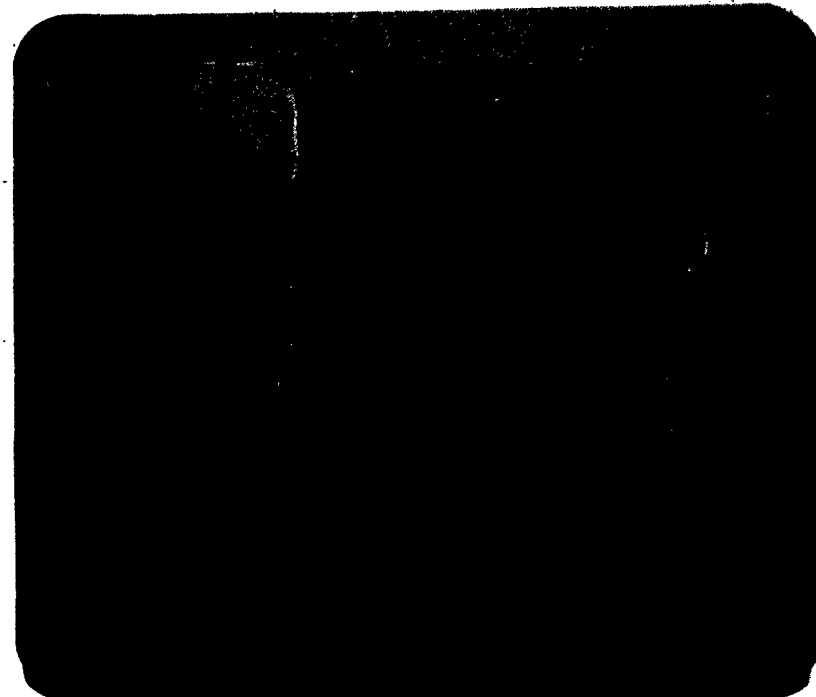
On Saturday, June 3, Sisters Mary Alphonsa and Mary Bilhildis, SSND, celebrated their golden jubilees in the Congregation of the School Sisters of Notre Dame at Holy Ghost Church. Joined by two other jubilarians, Sister Mary Julia of St. Leo, Hilton, and Sister Mary Leonita of Holy Family, the sisters renewed their vows in a celebrated Mass.

Sister Alphonsa has taught grade school in Long Island, Brooklyn, Philadelphia, and

Rochester. Now retired, she serves as secretarial assistant at Holy Ghost School.

Sister Bilhildis has worked with sisters in Baltimore, and has taught in New York City, Brooklyn, Rochester, and Connecticut. At Holy Ghost, Sister teaches music part-time and works in the school library.

Principal celebrant at the Mass was Father Edward Steinkirchner. A dinner and reception followed during which the sisters greeted relatives and friends.



Sister Alphonsa and Sister Bilhildis

Pope John Remembered

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope Paul VI joined members of the Roncalli family on June 3 in observing the ninth anniversary of the death of his predecessor, Pope John XXIII.

The 74-year-old pontiff descended into the area below St. Peter's Basilica where he placed flowers at the plain white marble tomb of Pope John.

Pope Paul then celebrated Mass for the 35 members of the family.

Throughout the day, long lines

of men, women and children filed past the tomb of the late Pope, some pausing to offer a silent prayer for one of the most beloved Popes of all time. On any given day hundreds of people move through the cavernous area below the Basilica where the tombs of many Popes are located. But, guides said, the most popular of the tombs is that of Pope John. "Usually the first thing a person says when he or she enters here is 'Where is John's tomb?'" a guide remarked. "And there are more flowers placed at the tomb than at the tomb of any other Pope."

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