



School kids watch cranes erect main beams of their new parish home.

*Pius Tenth's New Church*

# They Build Their Own



Heavy crowds in the old church forced construction of a new one, although "old" edifice, below, still stood well.

Parishioners of Pius Tenth on Chili Avenue have made a tradition of building their own churches.

The parish, which last Sunday dedicated its second new church in recent years, can trace its early beginnings to Irish settlers who began construction of the old St. Feehan's church on Chestnut Ridge without the aid of an architect or contractor.

These early settlers put down the foundation in November, 1854 and completed their church a year later.

This time it took a little longer, but only because the parish had to wait for stained glass windows from France.

In its early years, the parish now known as St. Pius Tenth, had the part-time service of priests who came by train from Buffalo.

In 1873 Chili was placed under the care of the pastor of Churchville, Father William Mulheron, first resident pastor in that area.

In 1882, Father Dennis J. Curran, pastor of Churchville and Chili had the church building moved to another plot.

When Father J. J. Bresnihan became pastor in 1899 he supervised the building of vestries, remaking the ceilings and walls, and putting side walk and pews in place.

Father Philip Golding, who came as pastor in 1914 served as pastor to the Churchville-Chili parishes for 18 years.

Under Father Joseph E. Guilfoil, the parish continued the church's renovation by redecorating, which was finished in 1944 by Father John J. Burke.

